



AN INTRIGUING FAMILY HISTORY MYSTERY...

According to the Horace and Alice Brown two-page genealogical record, Benjamin Brown "was a full cousin of the famous John Brown ... who made raid on Harper's Ferry in 1859." But we have few facts about Benjamin.

We don't know Benjamin's birthplace, other than he was "English-Amer. born". No information about his parents' names. Only "...served as Private of Capt. John F Wood's Company (K), 58th Regiment of Infantry, Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Civil War, from Sept. 22, 1864 to June 12, 1865, being honorably discharged at Manchester, Virginia, by reason of an order from War Dept. May 29, 1865. W. J. Ladd, Brvt. Capt., Hans Hanson, 1st Lt. Co. K, 58 P.V."

Dave Brown's 2005 search of Fed. Census data for Pennsylvania showed his son Wm. Jonathan and family living in Spring City, PA, but disclosed no Benjamin Brown that fit (1870, 1880, 1900; no 1890 available for PA).

So Dave Brown in 2005 explored John Brown's history and family tree to see about possible links. In the process, Dave learned a lot about John Brown's background and doings, as well as modern-day "takes" on his actions. Some sources used were:

- Ray's Place for New England History and Genealogy, www.rays-place.com
- Kansas Collection Articles, Genealogy of (Abolitionist) John Brown's Relatives, www.kancoll.org
- RootsWeb, <http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com>
- Frequently Asked Questions about John Brown, and other pages, www.johnbrownsbody.net
- David S. Reynolds, "John Brown, Abolitionist: The Man who Killed Slavery, Sparked the Civil War, and Seeded Civil Rights" (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005, E451.R49 2005 in Newport Public Library).
- Stephen H. Holbrook, "The Yankee Exodus" (New York: MacMillan, 1950, E179.5.H65 1950 in the Redwood Library).

Descendants of Peter BROWN

17 Mar 2007

Peter BROWN; b: 1632, Duxbury, Plymouth Co.,MA; d: 9 Mar 1692, Windsor, Hartford Co., CT

+Mary GILLET

— John BROWN; b: 8 Jan 1668, Windsor, Hartford Co., CT; d: 2 Feb 1728, Windsor, Hartford Co., CT

+Elizabeth LOOMIS

— John BROWN; b: 11 Mar 1700, Windsor, Hartford Co., CT

+Mary EGGLESTON

— Capt. John BROWN; b: 4 Nov 1728, Wintonbury, Windsor, Hartford Co., CT; d: 3 Sep 1776, a Continental Army camp north of New York City

+Hannah OWEN

— Owen BROWN; b: 16 Feb 1771, West Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT; d: 8 May 1800, Hudson OH

+Ruth MILLS; d: 9 Dec 1808, Hudson OH



— John BROWN; b: 9 May 1800, Torrington, Litchfield Co., CT; d: 2 Dec 1859, Charlestown WV

+Dianthe LUSK; d: 10 Aug 1832, Hudson OH

— John BROWN Jr.

— Jason BROWN

— Owen BROWN

— Ruth BROWN

— Frederick BROWN

+Mary DAY; b: abt 1817

— Salmon BROWN; b: 1794, Norfolk CT; d: abt 1796

— Anna BROWN; b: Jul 1798, Norfolk CT

— Ruth BROWN; b: abt 1798

— Oliver BROWN; b: abt 1804

— Salmon BROWN; b: abt 1802

+Sallie ROOT

— Jonathan BROWN; b: 30 Mar 1670, Windsor, Hartford Co., CT; d: 26 Aug 1747, Windsor, Hartford Co., CT

+Mindwell LOOMIS

— Jonathan BROWN; b: 10 May 1718, Windsor, Hartford Co., CT

— Benjamin BROWN; b: 14 Jul 1721

— Peter BROWN Jr.; b: 8 Jan 1668, Windsor, Hartford Co., CT

+Mary BARBER

— Benjamin BROWN; b: 11 Aug 1711, Windsor, Hartford Co., CT

+Hanna GRANT

— Benjamin BROWN; b: 20 Dec 1748, Wintonbury, Windsor, Hartford Co., CT

+Abigail

— Benjamin BROWN; b: 1776, Wintonbury, Windsor, Hartford Co., CT

+Theda CURTIS

— William BROWN; b: 1802, Bloomington, Hartford Co., CT; d: 24 Oct 1825

+Thirza GRISWOLD

Possibly our Benjamin Brown stems from either the Jonathan Brown or the Peter Brown Jr. line?

Where to look next?

AND IF THERE IS A LINK, WHAT SHOULD WE THINK?

John Brown was born in West Torrington CT on May 9, 1800. His parents were Owen and Ruth (Mills) Brown. Owen was a tanner by trade and an abolitionist by disposition. He served as a stationmaster on the underground railroad, hiding slaves seeking freedom in the North. Undoubtedly, he taught his son John that slavery was a great evil. When John grew to manhood, he took up the tannery business but failed to make a success of it. Then he tried land speculation, sheep herding, and opened up a wholesale wool business in Springfield MA. All these endeavors failed, leaving John and his family impoverished. But John and his family always managed to get back on their feet and start new projects.... John Brown married twice and had in all 20 children, but only 11 lived to adulthood... Was John Brown a saint, as some insist, because he played an integral role in destroying chattel slavery in the U.S.? Or was he a demon whose 'righteous violence' caused a backlash of white anger and prejudice against African Americans?

Robert Willis Allen 2002 www.johnbrownsbody.net/JBFAQ.htm

At one point he moved his family to North Elba, NY, to live with a community of escaped and redeemed slaves, to teach reading and farming. [When the Kansas and Nebraska Act was passed by Congress] it was the common thinking of the time that actually what would happen was Nebraska would become a free state and Kansas a slave state; thus, the balance would be maintained. In response, John Brown and family members moved to Kansas in 1855 to oppose the expansion of slavery into the western territories. The city of Lawrence, attracted many Eastern anti-slavery people and became a target for destruction by the Border Ruffians. [They] terrorized Kansan free state settlers with beatings, shootings, looting, and ballot stuffing. [John Brown] orchestrated offensives against the Border Ruffians, and helped to liberate dozens of enslaved African-Americans by force from Missouri farms. Sadly, he participated, tacitly or overtly, in the killing of 5 men at Pottawatomie Creek in a shameful event which still haunts his legacy today. [This was] followed by his attempt to incite a slave insurrection at Harper's Ferry VA on October 16, 1859. [This] forced a renewed examination of the institution of slavery and strengthened the resolve of the North to resist further expansion.

Sen. Brownback, The 200th anniversary of the birth of John Brown, May 9, 2000, Congressional Record, gov/us/fed/congress/record/2000/senate.gov

After the destructive events of September 11, 2001, some writers and thinkers are again making comparisons between John Brown and modern-day terrorists, in particular Osama Bin Laden ... the similarities between the two men run very deep. John Brown was the man who believed that God had given him a sword to fight against the enslavement of his fellowmen, just as Osama Bin Laden believes that God has given him a sword to fight against what he believes to be a decadent and godless Western society. Both have attempted to use force against what he perceives to be a decadent and godless Western society. Both are motivated by hatred.... Both expected other like-minded individuals to come to their aid, only to discover that those people that might have helped them were, instead, so horrified by the bloody violence unleashed that they fought against them.... Both had also forgotten the examples set by the Founders of the Faiths they followed. Jesus Christ and Muhammad both relied more on moral suasion than they did on acts of violence.

Robert Willis Allen 2002 www.johnbrownsbody.net/terrorism.htm

...it is misleading to identify Brown with modern terrorists ... many of the social ills that later bred radical violence plagued the nation in his time, but he went to war only over the issue of slavery.

David S. Reynolds, *John Brown, Abolitionist*, 2005.