



The Wives and Children of John Brown

John Brown's Wives

John Brown married twice and had a total of twenty children, nine of whom died in childhood. In 1820, at the age of twenty, Brown married his housekeeper's daughter, Dianthe Lusk. His bride was amiable and quiet, deeply religious and, according to Brown had "a most powerful and good influence over him." He cared for her with great gentleness during bouts of mental illness that came more often as she grew older. Tragedy struck in 1831 with the death of 4-year-old Frederick. Hardships continued as Brown, himself, fought sickness and fever for months on end. A little over a year after Frederick's death, Brown dug two more graves, this time for his wife and their newborn son. Dianthe was 31 when she died shortly after the birth of her seventh child. She was buried near their home in New Richmond, Pennsylvania.



Mary Brown

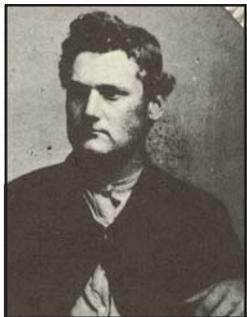
Brown hired a new housekeeper after his wife's death. He was attracted to the sister, Mary Ann Day, who came along to help. They were married in 1833 when Mary was 17. Mary had great physical stamina, was devoted to her responsibilities and managed the household

effectively. She and Brown had 13 children, but only six survived to adulthood, and just four survived their father.

Following Brown's capture, trial and sentencing, his wife, Mary, visited him at the jail in Charles Town. On December 1, 1859, they shared a final meal together and Mary returned to her lodgings in Harpers Ferry where she waited for her husband's body. She obviously supported Brown's political views for she once asked, "Does it seem as freedom were to gain or lose this? I have had thirteen children, and only 4 are left; but if I am to see the ruin of my house, I cannot but hope that Providence may bring out of it some benefit to the poor slaves."

Mary died on February 19, 1884, at age sixty-seven, following a long illness. She was buried in Madronia Cemetery in Saratoga, California. Her headstone reads: "wife of John Brown of Harpers Ferry."

The Children of Dianthe (Lusk) and John Brown



John Brown, Jr. was born July 25, 1821, in Hudson, Ohio. He attended the Grand River Institute in Austinburg, Ohio, and married Wealthy Hotchkiss in 1847. He organized a free-

state militia unit in the Kansas territory and, as a captain of Kansas cavalry, was the only child of Brown to serve in the Civil War. He died May 3, 1895, of a heart attack and was buried at Put-in-Bay, Ohio.



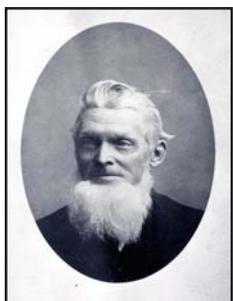
Owen Brown was born November 4, 1824, in Hudson, Ohio. He participated in the Kansas battles and stayed at the Kennedy Farm during the raid. He fled when failure became apparent.

Owen died of pneumonia on January 9, 1889, and was buried on his property near Pasadena, California.



Ruth Brown was born February 18, 1829, in New Richmond, Pennsylvania. She attended the Grand River Institute and accidentally caused the scalding death of her sister, Amelia.

Ruth married Henry Thompson on September 26, 1850. She died January 18, 1904, and was buried in Mountain View Cemetery, Pasadena, California.



Jason Brown was born January 19, 1823, in Hudson, Ohio. He married Ellen Sherbondy in 1847. Jason objected to some of his father's violent actions in Kansas and refused to join him at Harpers

Ferry. He died December 24, 1912, and was buried in Akron, Ohio.

Frederick Brown (1) was born January 9, 1827, in New Richmond, Pennsylvania. He died of unknown causes at age 4 and was buried on family property in New Richmond, Pennsylvania.

"Brown ruled his growing household with a rod in one hand and the Bible in the other. He insisted that his small sons learn 'good order and religious habits' and refused to let them play or have visitors on the Sabbath."

"There was a paternalistic tenderness about him, brought on by hardships suffered together. Ruth remembered that he showed her 'a great deal of tenderness,' and when the children were ill he stayed up at night caring for them."

- Oates, *To Purge This Land With Blood*

Frederick Brown (2) was born December 21 or 31, 1830, in New Richmond, Pennsylvania. He was shot and killed by Rev. White at Osawatimie, Kansas, on August 30, 1856, and was buried there.

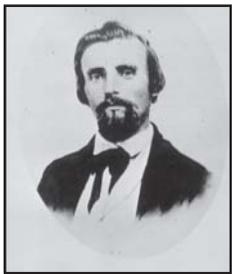
Infant son, unnamed, was born August 7, 1832, and died 3 days later. His mother, Dianthe Lusk, also died on August 10. The infant was buried in his mother's arms at New Richmond, Pennsylvania.

Children of Mary Ann (Day) and John Brown



Mary Ann Day with Annie (left) and Sarah (right), circa 1851.

Sarah Brown (1) was born on May 11, 1834, in New Richmond, Pennsylvania. She died of dysentery at age 9 at Richfield, Ohio, on September 23, 1843, and was buried there.



Watson Brown was born October 7, 1835, in Franklin Mills, Ohio. He married Isabella Thompson in 1856 and died of his wounds at Harpers Ferry on October 19, 1859. His

skeleton was displayed at Winchester Medical College. The remains were eventually returned to the family in 1882 and buried at the Brown farm in North Elba, New York.



Salmon Brown was born October 2, 1836, in Hudson, Ohio. He took part in the Kansas fighting, but refused to participate in the Harpers Ferry raid. He married

Abbie C. Hinckley in September, 1858. Severe pain, illness and paraplegia caused by a fall from a horse led to Salmon's suicide on May 10, 1919, in Portland, Oregon. He was buried there.

Charles Brown was born November 3, 1837, in Hudson, Ohio. He died of dysentery at age 5 on September 11, 1843, in Richfield, Ohio, and was buried there.



Oliver Brown was born March 9, 1839, in Franklin Mills, Ohio. He married Martha Brewster on April 7, 1858. Oliver died in great pain from wounds received during the raid on October, 18,

1859. He was hastily buried along the banks of the Shenandoah River. His remains were reburied in North Elba, New York, in 1899.

Peter Brown was born December 7, 1840, in Hudson, Ohio. He died of dysentery on Sept. 22, 1843, at age 2 and was buried in Richfield.

Austin Brown was born September 14, 1842, in Richfield, Ohio. He died of dysentery on Sept. 27, 1843, at age 1 and was buried in Richfield.



Anne (Annie) Brown was born December 23, 1843, in Richfield, Ohio. Months before the raid, she joined her father at the Kennedy Farm. Her job was to remain watchful for neighbors and to alleviate their

suspensions. She married Samuel Adams in 1869 and died October 5, 1926. She was buried in Shively, California.

Amelia Brown was born June 22, 1845, in Akron, Ohio. She was accidentally scalded to death by Ruth on October 30, 1846, and was buried in Akron.



Sarah Brown (2) was born September 11, 1846, in Akron, Ohio. She never married and died of unknown causes in 1916. She was buried in Saratoga, California.

Ellen Brown (1) was born April 26, 1848, in Springfield, Massachusetts. She died of consumption in her father's arms on April 30, 1849 and was buried in Springfield.

Infant son, unnamed, was born April 26, 1852, in Akron, Ohio, and died of whooping cough twenty-one days later. He was buried in Akron.

Ellen Brown (2) was born September 25, 1854, in Akron, Ohio. She married James Fablinger in 1876 and had eleven children. She died of unknown causes on July 16, 1916, and was buried in Saratoga, California.

Jason, Ruth, Salmon, Annie and Ellen (2) are the only Brown children with descendants.

For Further Information:

John Brown "The Thundering Voice of Jehovah" by Stan Cohen

John Brown - Fifty Years After by Oswald Garrison Villard

To Purge This Land with Blood by Stephen B. Oates

Mary Brown, From Harpers Ferry to California by Daniel Rosenberg

The Life and Letters of John Brown by F. B. Sanborn

Photographs: Library of Congress and Boyd B. Stutler