

to date."

Seek Expert Assistance  
According to Mr. Edgerton,  
most of North Royalton's zoning

(continued on page 2)

## Garden Study Club Prexy Maps Program for 1947

In announcing plans for the ensuing year's work Andrew C. Kost, newly-elected President of Garden Study Club of Independence, stated that his organization would follow closely the program laid

## RICHFIELD RESIDENT

# Uncovers John Brown's Tannery

By Robert Bordner

This account of John Brown's Richfield industry is reprinted by the courtesy of The Cleveland Press.

Buried now a hundred years, the relics of the Richfield tannery built and run by that bearded fanatic, John "Osawatomic" Brown, before he went off to fight the Border Ruffians and, in the end, to climb a gallows at Harper's Ferry, have been located north of here.



John Brown—Richfield tanner and shepherd.

Big George Wilkinson, born and raised within a few hundred feet of the place, discovered the relics while grading for his new home and market a quarter-mile north of Ohio Route 303 on U. S. Route 21.

### Stones and Vats Uncovered

Eight foundation stones for the building, and six of the stone-lined vats that were part of the tannery, were uncovered. Most of the foundation stones have been pushed up along the edge of the new driveway and parking apron Wilson built for his customers.

Ray Sapsford from West Richfield, and Roy Davis, from over on Hametown road, who were helping with the grading, cut through more than a foot of the tanbark, still in good condition after a century underground.

Horns of buffalo and cattle, skulls, bones and other refuse were

uncovered in profusion in opening the Wilkinson's leaching bed.

Ox shoes, a bed of charcoal, and the remains of an old dam (probably for water supply rather than power, were found, according to Wilkinson.

"Folks always called this "the tannery lot" and there was a story that John Brown ran it, but nobody alive knew for sure any more," he said.

"Mother (she was Inez Mould Wilkinson) always said there used to be a house here in the old days

"I think I have found the cellar but can't tell without excavating."

CHARLES BROWN.

Died Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> 1813.

Aged 6 years.

AUSTIN BROWN.

Died Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> 1813.

Aged 1 year.

PETER BROWN.

Died Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1813.

Aged 3 years.

SARAH BROWN.

Died Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1813.

Aged 9 years.

Children of

JOHN & MARY A.

BROWN.

*[Faint, illegible text on the stone, likely a transcription of the inscription above.]*

This stone in Richfield Cemetery marks the graves of four of John Brown's twenty children.

### Underground Railway Station

If the mad abolitionist had his cellar there it is certain it

(Continued on page 2)

# Uncovers John Brown's Tannery

(continued from page 1)

ed as a station in the Under-  
round Railway, for Brown, where  
er he was, in Summit County,  
udson, Kent, Akron, was always  
ctive in spiriting escaped slaves  
orthward to Canada.

Wilkinson had the vats filled in  
gain in smoothing up his side  
ard.

"Some of those vats run right  
out under U. S. 21," he said.  
'When State Highway widened

Brecksville Rd., they must have  
filled in over the top of the front  
ones."

The vats, either six or eight in  
number, were in two rows run-  
ning east and west between the  
foundation stones. About five feet  
wide, they were used for pickling  
the raw hides in tanbark.

## Children Lie In Cemetery

In Richfield Cemetery, which ad-  
joins Wilkinson's place on the  
north, lie the bones of four of  
John Brown's 20 children. These  
four died in 12 days of September

hatred for slavery he still had  
time to become a phenomenal shep-  
herd for Oviatt, knowing at a  
glance the state of his flocks, and  
taking prizes with both sheep and  
cattle at the Summit County fairs  
in Akron.

But the tannery he built became  
so busy by 1844 that it could not  
handle all the business that came  
to it.

This was great grazing country  
then and Richfield exported wool  
and butter to New York, London,  
and the markets of the world.

Brown was a restless wanderer,  
dragging his wives and children  
back and forth from place to place,

## The Mail Box

Brecksville, Ohio  
January 6, 1947.

To the Editor:

As a resident of Brecksville,  
may I through the NEWS express  
my accord with the resolution  
passed by the Brecksville Garden  
Club (appearing in the November  
15th issue) in regard to the land-  
scaping of Route 21. Concerning  
this desirable improvement, I  
should like information from you  
or your readers on the following:

1—Where is there a record of  
the promise of the highway author-  
ities to replace the trees destroyed  
when Route 21 was widened?

2—What legal assurance is there  
that such landscaping as the Gar-  
den Club urges will be maintained;  
that it will be safe from destruc-  
tion as so called progress takes  
over in this locality?

As matters stand now what's the  
use of those young trees which  
lie sprawling on 21, ruthlessly  
felled to make way for water  
pipes; why plant trees in the  
school yard just to be smothered  
by a covering of black top; why  
establish a park-like triangle in  
a residential section of our vil-  
lage only to have the fifteen year's  
growth yanked out in half an hour  
and tossed aside?

To my way of thinking the land-  
scaping of Route 21 through In-  
dependence and Brecksville is an  
improvement which these villages  
should urge through all their chan-  
nels of influence. From the prac-  
tise of other communities it can  
be safely done, too. I wish to be  
assured that here in Ohio we have  
those safeguards. I am confident  
that as a village we do not.

Yours respectfully,  
Elisabeth K. Wilson,

oil meetings than ever before. I  
hope they will continue to come.  
Council meets on the first and  
third Wednesdays of each month.  
I'd like to have everybody come  
and help us work out the many  
problems with which we must  
deal."

SAGAMORE HILLS



George Wilkinson stands by some foundation stones from John Brown's Richfield tannery. The site of the historic building was uncovered during excavation for the Wilkinson home and market on Route 21.

1843, of "a black plague."

One of the boys who was to die  
in Kansas where his father led the  
guerrilla war on the Missouri raid-  
ers, and two more sons who were  
to die with him at Harper's Ferry,  
lived there then.

John Brown moved here from  
Hudson, O., in the spring of 1841  
to take charge of the flocks of  
Heman Oviatt, a pioneer who had  
grown rich in trade with the In-  
dians.

Brown had just gone through  
bankruptcy at Kent, O., and his  
family was stripped of everything

and his next move, from Rich-  
field was to Akron, O., where he  
took charge of the flocks of Simon  
Perkins. That was in 1844.

Since then his tannery has  
mouldered to ruin. The slab  
marking the graves of the four  
children weathers thin atop the  
cemetery hill. And even the  
legend that he once lived there is  
largely forgotten today.

George Wilkinson has uncovered  
part of the story in grading his  
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tells the history in his JOHN  
BROWN

lie sprawling on 21, ruthlessly felled to make way for water pipes; why plant trees in the school yard just to be smothered by a covering of black top; why establish a park-like triangle in a residential section of our village only to have the fifteen year's growth yanked out in half an hour and tossed aside?

To my way of thinking the landscaping of Route 21 through Independence and Brecksville is an improvement which these villages should urge through all their channels of influence. From the practice of other communities it can be safely done, too. I wish to be assured that here in Ohio we have those safeguards. I am confident that as a village we do not.

Yours respectfully,  
Elisabeth K. Wilson,

oil meetings than ever before. I hope they will continue to come. Council meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. I'd like to have everybody come and help us work out the many problems with which we must deal."

## SAGAMORE HILLS

(continued from page 1)

of the first projects along these lines will be completion of the widening of Chaffee Road. This was begun last summer and will be completed as soon as the weather permits."

In addition, the Mayor looks for considerable roadside beautification, including grading and planting. He also hopes that the long discussed painting and marking of culverts in the village will be carried through in the next few months.

### New Police Chief Named

Recent appointment of Kenneth English as police chief to succeed William F. Hyde, recently resigned, will, Mr. Assmus believes, result in some reorganization of the force. "Mr. English will have four police deputies to assist him," the Mayor said, "and we expect the group to function smoothly and efficiently. Mr. English is a young man and a hard worker. I think people will be more than satisfied with Council's choice in naming him to this important post."

### Discusses Tax Rate

Commenting on the tax increase which will become effective in Sagamore Hills this year, Mayor Assmus pointed out that the rate rise is a direct result of the school bond issue voted in the last election. "Our rate is substantially the same," the Mayor explained, "but the school district tax will, of course, be higher." The rate for 1947 will be 2.04 above the 1946 rate.

### Seeks Citizen's Aid



George Wilkinson stands by some foundation stones from John Brown's Richfield tannery. The site of the historic building was uncovered during excavation for the Wilkinson home and market on Route 21.

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One of the boys who was to die in Kansas where his father led the guerrilla war on the Missouri raiders, and two more sons who were to die with him at Harper's Ferry, lived there then.

John Brown moved here from Hudson, O., in the spring of 1841 to take charge of the flocks of Heman Oviatt, a pioneer who had grown rich in trade with the Indians.

Brown had just gone through bankruptcy at Kent, O., and his family was stripped of everything except a few religious books, three jack-knives, several hens, and two each of cattle, sheep, and horses. He had returned the winter before from Virginia where Oberlin College had sent him to settle some of its wild lands.

Obsessed as he was with his

and his next move, from Richfield was to Akron, O., where he took charge of the flocks of Simon Perkins. That was in 1844.

Since then his tannery has mouldered to ruin. The slab marking the graves of the four children weathers thin atop the cemetery hill. And even the legend that he once lived there is largely forgotten today.

George Wilkinson has uncovered part of the story in grading his place. Oswald Garrison Villard tells the history in his JOHN BROWN: A BIOGRAPHY.

The Peninsula Library and Historical Society, the Richfield Garden Club, and others, plan to ask the State Highway Department to make a little roadside feature of the spot so it will not be forgotten again.

## "THE TELLER"

BRECKSVILLE G

EAST RICHFIELD  
PENINSULA  
NORTH ROYALTON  
MACEDONIA

To the memory of the following boys we dedicate this first column of the New Year:

- Robert Banfer
- Everett L. Keister, Jr.
- James Kelleher
- Richard Wenham
- Chas. J. Wozniak

Whenever we drive to Akron and pass the Fairview Cemetery on Route 21, my husband invariably says, "John Brown's family is buried there" (How he ever learned of it remains a mystery.) However, it was only recently that we decided to stop and see for ourselves if it was true.

Why is it that old cemeteries were always built on a hill where the wind sweeps in cold blasts straight from the Arctic? The road winds around the hill whose growth of old trees and rhododendron has a comfortable look. We found the graves almost at the crest of the hill. Charles, age 6, Austin, age 1; Peter age 3; and Sarah, age 9. Four dearly beloved children, lost within three weeks of each other. What epidemic passed through this family in 1813?

# John Brown

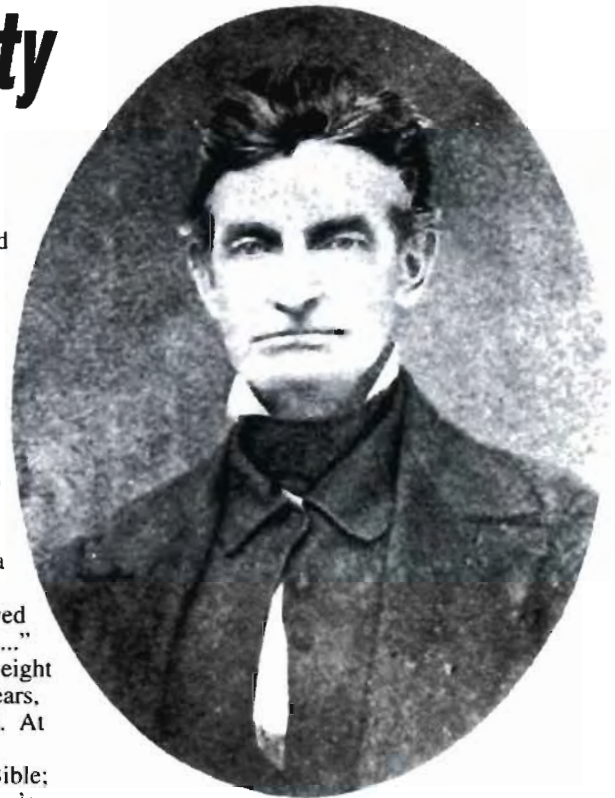
## Resident Of Summit County

**J**ohn Brown was born at Torrington, in Western Connecticut on May 9, 1800. He was the son of Owen and Ruth Brown. He was a direct descendant of Peter Brown, an English Puritan carpenter, who was one of the Mayflower company. His ancestors were part of the colony which founded Windsor, Connecticut. He was born of "poor but respectable parents." His father was a tanner and shoemaker who provided the basic necessities of life for his family. His grandfather was Captain John Brown, of the Revolutionary Army. His mother was Ruth Mills, whose father fought "with great credit" in the Revolutionary War. His mother was of Dutch descent; her first American ancestor was Peter Mills who emigrated from Holland in about 1700.

In 1805, Owen Brown emigrated with his wife and children to Hudson, Ohio, which was only a clearing at the time. During John's early life, he

was accustomed to "intimate association with the Indians; his early playmates were Indians and from them he learned much woodcraft and some of their language." Soon after settling in Hudson, his father was made a trustee of Oberlin College. In spite of his father's position, young John received very little formal schooling. Dressed in buckskin clothes, he preferred to tend the cattle and sheep, and roamed on long trips in the forest. At age twelve, he drove a herd of cattle one hundred miles on his own. He reportedly enjoyed "the hardest and roughest sports...."

His mother died when he was eight years old, and he mourned for years, though his father soon remarried. At age ten, John began reading; his favorite books were: The Holy Bible; Baxter's Saints' Rest; The Pilgrim's Progress; Josephus' Works; Plutarch's Lives; The Life of Oliver Cromwell; Rollin's Ancient History;



Napoleon and His Marshals; and Henry on Meekness.

At age sixteen, he joined the

## Kent Quality Care Nursing Center

*Richard Chasko - Administrator*

The Kent Quality Care Nursing Center is located at 1290 Fairchild Avenue in Kent, Ohio, phone 678-4912. They offer complete care of the aged, sick and convalescent. This nursing facility is well located and has plenty of sunshine and is near enough to town so friends and relatives of the residents can call and stop by without inconvenience. Heating, ventilation and sanitary arrangements are most complete. All steps are taken for the comfort of the patient, and all methods are approved by the supervising authorities. The rooms are well lighted and cheerfully decorated and have a homelike atmosphere. Their food is prepared by specialists under the most sanitary conditions to give the residents well balanced nourishing meals. This is so necessary in rebuilding the health and strength of the inactive person. The community of Kent is very fortunate to have a Quality Care Nursing Center like this. In Chardon, a Quality Care Nursing Center is located at 620 Water, phone 285-9400.

**\* Medicare & Medicaid Approved \***

## BARBERTON ANTIQUE MALL & FLEA MARKET



*Valette Beal - Proprietress*



If you've been searching for antiques and haven't quite found what your looking for, then stop in at Barberton Antique Mall & Flea Market and go over their fine selection offered. Conveniently located at 135 Snyder Avenue (off State Route 619) in Barberton, Ohio, phone (216) 848-1549, this antique mall offers a wide variety from which to choose and with multiple dealers, you're sure to find what you're looking for. Stop in, take your time and just browse or let the management of Barberton Antique Mall & Flea Market help your find what you're searching for.

People of this section are fortunate to have Barberton Antique Mall & Flea Market in their midst with whom they can deal with confidence on all their antique needs. Their reputation will prove they are a real find to many in this area. Give them a call at (216) 848-1549 if there's something in particular you're looking for. Chances are if they don't have it, they can get it.

**Monday - Sunday 10am - 5pm**

Congregational Church at Hudson. At about this time, he decided to study for the ministry and entered the Hallock School, in Plainfield, Massachusetts, and also Morris Academy in Connecticut. Inflammation of the eyes compelled him to leave his studies, and he returned to his tanning business in Hudson. He was foreman in his father's tannery and also became a surveyor.

On June 21, 1820, he married, in Hudson, Dianthe Lusk, a resident of Hudson. He described her as "a remarkably plain, but neat, industrious and economical girl, of excellent character, earnest piety and good, practical common-sense.... She maintained a most powerful and good influence over him...." The couple had seven children: John Brown, Jr.; Jason Brown; Owen Brown; Frederick Brown; Ruth Brown, who married Henry Thompson; Frederick Brown, murdered in "the Kansas trouble" by Rev. Martin White; and an infant son who died three days after birth.

In 1826, John Brown moved to Richmond, Crawford County, Pennsylvania, where he was a tanner until 1835. His wife died on August, 1832, and he soon remarried. His

second wife was Mary A. Day. This union resulted in thirteen children: Sarah Brown; Watson Brown; Salmon Brown; Charles Brown; Oliver Brown; Peter Brown; Austin Brown; Anne Brown; Amelia Brown; Sarah Brown (2nd); Ellen Brown; an infant son who died less than a month after his birth; and Ellen Brown (2nd).

In 1835, John Brown moved back to Ohio and settled at Franklin Mills (now Kent), where he had no luck in the real estate business. In 1840, he returned to Hudson and formed a partnership with Herman Oviatt, of Richfield, in the wool business. In 1842, he moved to Richfield where he lived two years, and four of his children died. In 1844, he moved his family to Akron and formed a

partnership with Col. Simon Perkins in the wool business. Under the firm name Perkins & Brown, they sold large quantities of wool on commission. John Brown was considered an expert judge of wool. A Massachusetts friend related this



*John Brown's Home before it was reconstructed.*

## KLABEN FORD INC. AUTO BODY

*Dayton Parkins - Body Shop Manager*

Klaben Ford Inc. Auto Body specializes in body and fender work on most makes and models of cars and trucks, as well as auto painting.

They are conveniently located at 2100 E. Main Street in Kent, phone 678-0555, 1-800-686-3139 or in Akron call 836-1943. This is the place to go if you want to fix that small dent, a rusted out spot or even a complete major collision repair job. You can be assured that the management will perform only top quality work. They understand their field, and strive for and achieve only professional work.

Because of the workmanship and excellent service, Klaben Ford Inc. has become one of the best known shops in our entire area.

Insurance policies now allow you to choose the repair shop you want to use. When the need arises, call Klaben Ford Inc. for an estimate before you go anywhere else. The body work and painting done here is among the best that can be found in this area.

## BOB'S SPORTS

*Mike King - Owner & Operator*

Collecting and trading of sports cards was once considered a mere children's past time, but this is no longer true. Adults around the nation have begun to realize that it can be a very profitable investment.

If you are a seasoned professional or are just beginning your collection you will find one of the area's largest selection of sports cards at Bob's Sports, located at 2400 Romig Road (Rolling Acres Mall) in Akron, phone (216) 848-1887.

They keep a large stock at all times, and you are sure to find just what you are looking for.

You will enjoy the friendly atmosphere here, and you will find they are always willing to assist you or feel free to browse as long as you wish. For all sports cards needs visit Bob's Sports. Phone 848-1887 for further information.

# Perkins and Brown

by Valerie L. Uhall

One of the most successful and highly regarded wool production partnerships during the 1840's and 1850's was the business relationship of Simon Perkins, Jr. and John Brown. While many people are aware of John Brown's involvement with the abolition movement, many are unaware of his reputation as a shepherd. Brown was highly regarded across Ohio and the mid-west for his knowledge and expertise regarding sheep and wool production.

The wool industry in Summit County began with the opening of John and Samuel Preston's wool factory in Middlebury in 1810. By 1840 Akron became well known for its woolen mills. With four woolen mills in operation by the mid-1840's Akron was considered to be one of the leading wool centers in the state. During these years many area farmers recognized that wool production could be a good source of income. In 1844 Simon Perkins, Jr. began to raise sheep on his farm just west of Akron. Perkins soon realized that a great amount of skill and knowledge was needed to succeed in the wool business and on January 9, 1844 he entered into a partnership with John Brown to manage his flocks.

Prior to forming the partnership with Perkins, Brown had already established his reputation as an expert shepherd. Brown tended the flocks of area farmers and was working as an independent sheep farmer when he went into business with Perkins. As a frequent contributor to the *Ohio Cultivator* and other farm journals, Brown earned the respect of area farmers by

demonstrating his skill in all areas of sheep farming.

Despite his success as a sheep farmer, Brown continued to be plagued with financial difficulties, and he hoped the arrangement with Perkins would also enable him to succeed financially. In a letter to his son about the partnership, Brown wrote "I think it is the most comfortable and the most favorable arrangement of my worldly concerns that I ever had, and calculated to afford us more leisure for improvement, by day & by Night, than any other I do hope that God has enabled us to make it in mercy to us & not that he should send leanness into our soul."

Working primarily with Saxony and Merino sheep, Perkins and Brown quickly established themselves as leaders in the wool industry both locally and regionally. Farm journals, including the *Ohio Cultivator*, strongly endorsed the exceptional quality of wool produced on Mutton Hill in Akron, Ohio. One writer noted upon visiting the farm that "the flocks were one of the finest of woolled sheep, this side of Saxony."

Brown's reputation as an outstanding wool grader was not limited to the Ohio region. According to Samuel Lawrence of Lowell, Massachusetts, a wool purchaser and manufacturer, "Mr. Brown's wool has ever been of the highest character since he first



John Brown



Simon Perkins' barn at the Stone House stood on the northwest corner of the property (behind the Carriage House). Although the barns are gone, the foundations can still be seen.

*continued on page 3*

## Perkins & Brown

continued from page 2

brought it here; but this year it has amazed us. The show in our wool house, of this parcel of wool, I never saw equalled. If he will go on a few years more, he will have a better breed of sheep than are now in existence." Samples of the wool were sent to the American Institute in New York and the Massachusetts Mechanics Association in Boston and the samples were awarded gold medals for their quality.



Simon Perkins, Jr.

Although Perkins & Brown formally dissolved their business relationship in 1854, Perkins remained active in the wool industry. According to an article in the Akron Beacon Journal June 6th, 1849 edition, the Perkins Company's Woolen Factory was considered "... one of the best conducted establishments of the kind in this section of the country. The quality of its goods has given it a wide reputation and secured to it a high state of prosperity. In the adjoining and southern markets, especially at Cincinnati, its goods command better prices and a more ready sale than eastern goods of the same kinds. They are heavier, better finished and entirely free from injury in the coloring and manufacturing."

Following the dissolution of his wool partnership with Simon Perkins, John Brown focused his full attention on the anti-slavery movement. While historians tend to focus on his abolitionist activities, John Brown made significant contributions to the wool production industry during the 1840's and 1850's. Through their combined skills, the business relationship of Simon Perkins, Jr. and John Brown was one of the most successful and highly regarded wool production partnerships during the 1840's and 1850's.



This view of the exhibit at the Brown House shows samples of raw wool, a spinning wheel and a piece of clothing made from wool.

Visit the John Brown House to learn more about the partnership between Simon Perkins, Jr. and John Brown. The exhibit, curated by Society Curator Daniel Rice and Valerie Uhall, covers the life of John Brown from his early years in Hudson to his abolitionist activities in the 1850's.

## Speaking Directly

by Stephen H. Paschen

You may have noticed a new sign on the Society's Carriage House, identifying the structure as the home of the Greater Akron Baseball Hall of Fame. The Hall, which doubles as the Society's meeting room, includes a permanent display honoring Akron's best ballplayers. Each year, a new class of honorees is selected by vote of the Baseball Hall's Board of Trustees.

Amateur sports, and in particular, baseball, have played a big part in the social history of Akron. From the early days of industrial employee welfare programs to the present day company-sponsored baseball leagues, there is a continuity in local baseball history that traces across the years.

Some of the members of the Hall of Fame made it as far as the major leagues, but mostly these players are part of the fabric of the community, playing all or most of their games in the Akron area. These ballplayers shared common experiences on and off the baseball field, spanning all of the twentieth century.

Each season adds another year to the continuity of baseball and local history, connecting us with all the previous seasons and maintaining our contact with our own past. This is reinforced by the fact that some families have two generations of Hall of Famers – sons following in their father's footsteps. As we honored this year's class in May, I was impressed by the fact that although the world and the country have changed so much in this century, baseball is one of the threads that ties our heritage together.

## Service League

by Betty Rolenz

I had conveniently forgotten that I was supposed to have written this column. When I was reminded I obligingly went in and turned on the computer. For the next half hour I stared at a blank screen with a mind even blanker.

At this low point in my day I was happily interrupted by the phone. It was a Service League member who was concerned. Although she had been a member for some time, and had worked on several projects, no one had ever collected her dues. And this took me right back to my first dues.

I had been summoned to a meeting with the lady who at that time was president. And when I arrived, she was tied up in a meeting. But since there was another group of ladies who were folding and labelling a newsletter, and since I wasn't doing anything, I decided I might as well help. And although I did not know it at the time, I was paying my first dues.

As I continued to return to the Society, I found myself included in all the Service League activities, and was always referred to as a member of the Service League. But like my caller, I didn't know what I had done to deserve this honor.

And then another member explained to me that dues are not paid in money. If you contribute one hour of work, if you donate one batch of cookies, or perform any service for the Historical Society, you are a member of the Service League. Your dues are paid. You do not have to be a member of the League to volunteer, but if you do volunteer, you automatically become a member. Isn't that simple?

And the amount of dues you pay is entirely up to you. We gratefully accept any contribution. Five hours or five hundred. Because without your contribution of time and effort, the Society would not be the organization that it is today.



**JOHN BROWN'S NOT FORGOTTEN**—A recent Beacon Journal story on Richfield's Fairview Cemetery brought a response from the Rev. Clarence S. Gee of Lockport, N. Y., who became interested in the story of abolitionist John Brown when he was pastor of Hudson Congregational Church in 1921.



**Brown**

Now retired, Rev. Mr. Gee contends that Brown's four children, buried in the East Richfield burial plot, died of dysentery rather than diphtheria.

"I spent the Winter in California where I found the original of the Owen Brown autobiographical letter which Sanborn in his 'John Brown—Life and Letters' edited until it resembled the work of a Harvard professor. I have hunted for this for more than 30 years," further explained the Rev. Mr. Gee. Owen Brown, John's father, is buried in Hudson where a street has been named for him.

Rev. Mr. Gee is the author of an article on "The Stone On John Brown's Grave" in the New York Historical Association's 1961 history of New York. Where is Brown buried? North Elba near Lake Placid in the Adirondacks of New York.



# Early John Brown photo discovered, exhibited

By **CARL HARTMAN**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — About a dozen years before he was hanged, abolitionist John Brown visited the photo studio of a former slave's son and had his first known picture taken in a glowering swearing-in pose without his unruly white beard.

The original, only 4 inches by 3¼ inches, was done about 1847 and disappeared a century ago. Recovered, it was to go on view yesterday at the National Portrait Gallery.

The picture turned up last spring in its original padded brown case at a small auction in the Pittsburgh area. Later, it brought \$115,000 at Sotheby's. Mary Panzer, curator of the National Portrait Gallery show, said Wednesday she did not know who had owned it over the years.

Part of the money for the purchase was contributed by Betty Adler Schermer and her husband, Lloyd G. Schermer. Her great-grandfather, August M. Bondi, was among Brown's "Free-Staters" battling proslavery "Border Ruffians" in Kansas and Missouri.

In all, the National Portrait Gallery has nine photographs and pictures and one bust of John Brown. Two of the others are on display with the first sitting, including one with the beard.

Photographer Augustus Washington, son of an Asian mother and a black former slave, learned to make daguerreotypes — a primitive photo process that had recently been brought to the United States from France. He wanted to earn his way through Dartmouth College. Parents, friends and the president of the college disapproved, but Washington did a thriving business in his studio at Hartford, Conn. — apparently the first in the city.

He never got through Dartmouth.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abolitionist John Brown is shown in a daguerreotype taken in about 1847. The portrait has been acquired by the National Portrait Gallery.

Washington's customers included prominent abolitionists, and Brown, running a wool brokerage at nearby Springfield, Mass., came over to pose. The picture shows him cleanshaven at 47, with one hand raised as if taking an oath, the other on an unidentified flag.

In the late 1850s, Brown and 21 others occupied the arsenal at Harper's Ferry in what is now West Virginia to start a "war of emancipation." The next day, a company of Marines under Col. Robert E. Lee took Brown's last stronghold by assault. Ten people were killed or mortally wounded, including two of Brown's 20 children.

Brown was convicted of treason to the Virginia commonwealth and conspiracy to murder.

When the Civil War began in 1861, Lee put his loyalty to Virginia first and took command of Confederate forces.

Washington went to Liberia, where freed American slaves set up a black government. But for daguerreotypes, he needed copper plates, silver halide, mercury and other chemicals, and after a year his supplies ran out. He went into farming and writing for American newspapers. He also earned \$260 a year teaching Latin and Greek for an hour a day at Monrovia's high school.

## TELEVISION

# PBS documentary cuts through myths about John Brown

By MARK DAWIDZIAK

PLAIN DEALER TV AND RADIO CRITIC

When abolitionist John Brown led a small force that seized the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, he believed his actions would ignite a spontaneous holy war against slavery. Instead, he was taken prisoner and sentenced to death by hanging.

But Brown's 1859 raid did set off a spark. His bold raid intensified sectional differences, and, less than two years later, the Civil War broke out. It was, in many ways, the holy war he knew was inevitable.

From the moment of his capture, however, this fiery figure has been obscured by extreme reactions. To some, he was a saintly hero who gave his life for a just cause. To others, he was little more than a bloodthirsty lunatic.

The debate rages on, with descriptions of Brown ranging from "the father of American terrorism" to "an inspiration for the civil rights movement." Was he madman or martyr — messiah or murderer?

Leave it to "The American Experience" to tackle this perplexing question and, by doing so, bring John Brown into sharp focus for us. That's precisely what the outstanding PBS series manages to accomplish with tonight's ambitious entry, "John Brown's Holy War," which will air at 9 tonight on WVIZ Channel 25 and WEAO Channel 49.

Such fascinating and insightful documentaries have almost become routine for "The American Experience," one of the finest shows on PBS and, for that matter, all of television. We've come to expect nothing less from the program that regularly tosses open a window of perspective on a pivotal slice of United States history.

"John Brown's Holy War" may hit close to home for some Northeast Ohio viewers. In 1805, 5-year-old John Brown moved with his family to the small Western Reserve town of Hudson. In 1835, after failing as a tanner in Pennsylvania, Brown returned to Hudson, already a center for aboli-

## TV PREVIEW

### The American Experience

Focuses on a famous abolitionist with "John Brown's Holy War," airing at 9 tonight on WVIZ Channel 25 and WEAO Channel 49.



This portrait of abolitionist John Brown, by Augustus Washington, hangs in the National Gallery in Washington, D.C.

Washington, James O. Horton, Paul Finkleman and Dennis Frye.

Brown certainly was an intense bundle of incredible contradictions — a man capable of great compassion and horrific brutality. He was strict and funny, brutal and tender.

Most agree that Brown was fanatical. He even might have been psychologically unbalanced. All of that, though, does not necessarily add up to madness.

Horton makes the most compelling point: "We should be very careful about assuming that a white man who is willing to put his life on the line for black people is of necessity crazy."

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The Akron home where he lived for two years (1844-46) is maintained as the John Brown House Museum by the Summit County Historical Society.

Convinced that he was God's messenger, Brown impressed such abolitionist leaders as former slave Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison. Still, as "American Experience" host David McCullough makes clear in his introduction to "John Brown's Holy War," here was an unlikely choice to become the very symbol of the anti-slavery forces.

A rather minor figure in the movement, Brown was "a red-faced, threadbare scarecrow of a man with wild reddish-brown hair and sky-blue eyes with a look in them that, to many, bespoke madness." Was he mad? The question is discussed by authors Russell Banks and Bruce Olds and it's put into the context of the times by historians Margaret



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Narrated by actor Joe Morton ("Miss Evers' Boys"), the "American Experience" documentary ultimately succeeds because it brings alive the man behind the symbol. Gone is the wild-eyed madman of some history books and the Moses-like prophet of others. Here instead is a flawed individual who realized with stunning clarity what his death would mean to the anti-slavery cause.

"I wish to say that you had better, all you people of the South, prepare yourselves for a settlement of this question," Brown said from his jail cell in 1859. "You may dispose of me very easily. I'm nearly disposed of now. But this question is still to be settled."

Indeed, Brown predicted from prison that what looked like a total defeat for him would turn into a victory for his cause. It was a sentiment echoed by another abolitionist leader.

"His zeal in the cause of my race was far greater than mine," Douglass said of Brown. "I could live for the slave, but he could die for him."

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Phone: (216) 999-4249



John Brown's children.

School Children

RECEIVED  
MAY 1974

IN 1843, 4 OF  
JOHN BROWN'S  
CHILDREN DIED  
WHILE LIVING IN  
RICHFIELD

774

included Brushwood area and was centered around a manor now the Danish Smorgasbord.

**FAIRVIEW**, sometimes labeled East Richfield Cemetery, is noted as the resting place of four of John Brown's children.

Brown went to his own death a little over a century ago at Harper's Ferry. It was in Richfield that the abolitionist and his second wife, Mary, lost four of their 13 children. A white slab carries the names of Sarah, 9; Charles, 6; Peter, 3, and Austin, 1, who died within 12 days in a diphtheria epidemic that struck Richfield in September, 1843.

Only eight of Brown's 20 children from two marriages survived him. The last, Jason, died in Akron in 1912.

**THE BROWN** marker stands under a beech tree considered one of the largest in the state. It towers over the hillside cemetery.

The reactivated cemetery association not only will check the condition of the ancient beech but will replace and care for rhododendron, azaleas, lilac, Japanese cherries and magnolias.

A cut stone wall built in 1911 by Burt Thompson of Macedonia will be repointed and its headstones repaired.



A single headstone in Richfield Twp.'s Fairview Cemetery carries the names of four children of abolitionist John Brown. The youngsters died in 1843 during a diphtheria epidemic. Stand-

ing beneath a giant beech tree in the older section of the hilltop cemetery on Rt. 21 is Kathy Gossett, 2-year-old daughter of Fairview's sexton, Herbert Gossett.

### John Brown Children Lie There

# Memorial Day Resolution: Save Richfield Cemetery

By **FRANCES B. MURPHEY**

**RICHFIELD**—New Year's Day brings many resolutions but here a determined group of residents has a Memorial Day resolution.

The Fairview Cemetery Association is being revitalized with one aim: To help preserve the original character of the historic burial plot on Rt. 1, north of Rt. 303.

Fairview was decided to the township more than 100 years ago by Everett Farnam, squire of a vast acreage that once

view group. Warren Lightfoot is vice president and Walter Wood, secretary-treasurer.

Everett Farnam, a strong-minded, controversial figure during his lifetime, is still the center of a controversy: How to spell the family name.

A huge memorial stone,

placed by Farnam in the East Richfield burial ground, reads "Farnam" but in the older section are headstones using "Farnham." The late Homer Carter produced deeds signed in 1866 by Everett and his wife, Emily. Both clearly signed "Farnam."

Developer William Malm has perpetuated the name in a road in his Richfield allotment. His spelling is as the present survivors use—"Farnham."



(OHS Archives/Library photo)

**VIGILANTE VISIT**—On October 16, 1859, a group of abolitionists led by John Brown—born in Connecticut, raised in Ohio—attacked Harpers Ferry, Virginia, in hopes of establishing a mountain base from which slaves, free blacks, and abolitionists could wage an insurrection against slavery. After a battle with federal troops in which ten of his followers were killed and he himself was wounded, Brown was captured and charged with treason. He was hanged December 2, 1859.

Jan 11: "ECHCES" on the 1st S  
Feb, 1994

## John Brown, A Richfield Neighbor

By MARION WILCOX



Miss Wilcox

For some time I have entertained the thought of writing something on the life of John Brown—THE John Brown made famous in history, whose "soul goes marching on." He lived in Richfield several years, the second door east of the village store at the east center, and had a tannery in the hollow just south of the cemetery on the hill.

Like Abraham Lincoln, John Brown seemed born to sorrow, but, strong in the conviction for which Lincoln, too, later gave his life, the emancipation of the enslaved, he stood by the cause, meeting defeat at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, where he undertook to commandeer the government arsenal. Robert E. Lee, who was then a major in the United States Army, was the man detailed by the government to take him into custody.

In 1805, when he was five years old the family moved to Hudson, Ohio. Seven years later the War of 1812 had broken out, during which time the father was engaged in furnishing beef cattle to our forces on the northern frontier. John, a boy of twelve to fourteen years, accompanied his father as a cattle driver, during which time abuse of an orphan slave boy, of whom young John was fond, made him a confirmed abolitionist. That was John Brown's own explanation of the position he took with respect to slavery.

For a while after marriage, the family lived in Crawford County, Pennsylvania. at a later date they were at Kent, Ohio and still later, 1840, we find John Brown in Richfield, in the sheep and wool business with Capt. Heman Oviatt of Hudson.

While living in Richfield the children took sick with black diphtheria. Sophia Sheldon, an unmarried woman in town,

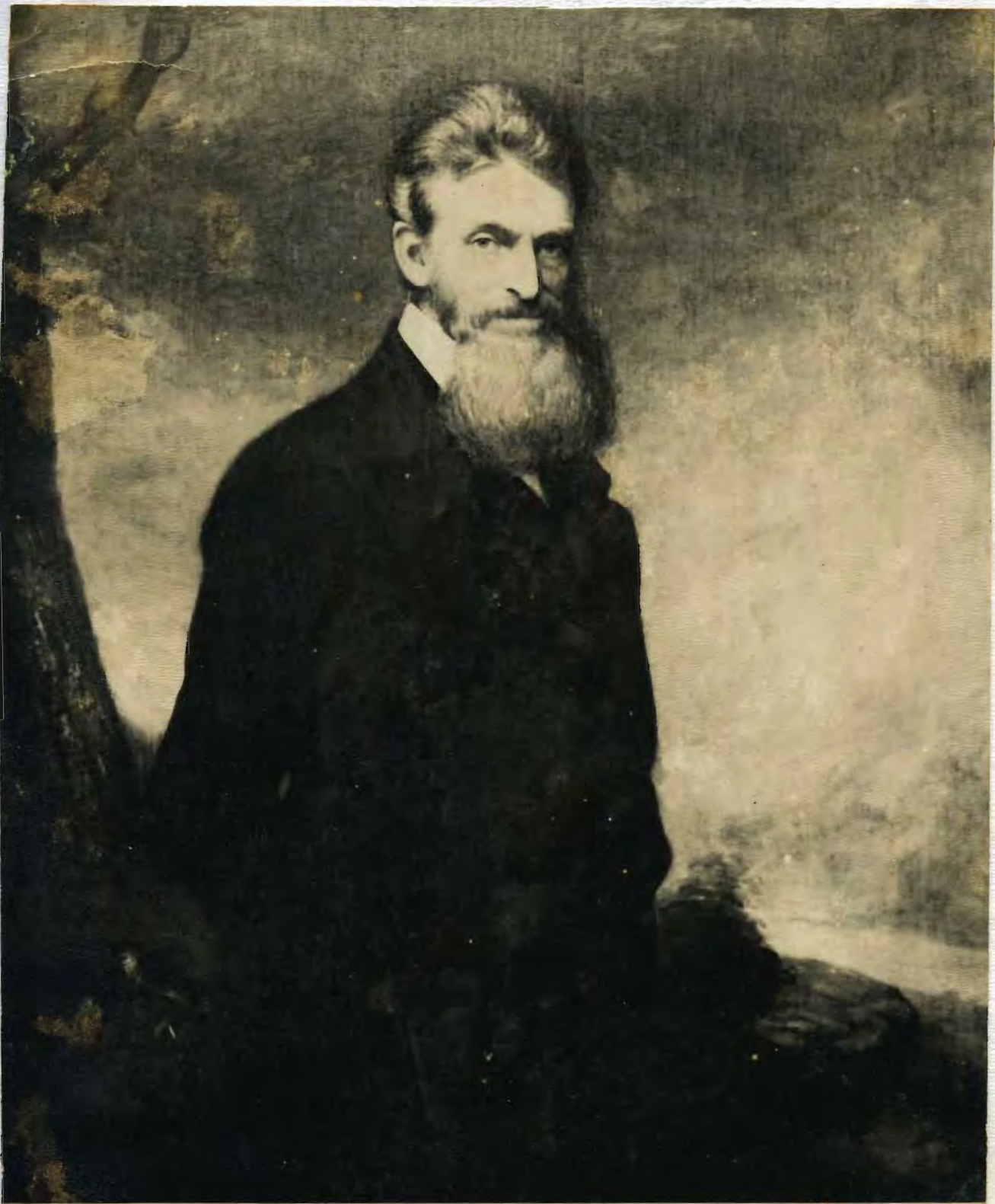
helped in the care of the family. There were not many women in town "hand-free" to care for the sick, and she, being unattached, was frequently called upon. She cared for them until her strength was exhausted and then "Aunt Fanny" Oviatt, grandmother of Jennie Oviatt of Richfield, was called in to help in the emergency. She tells me that when her grandmother went to the home one child had died and been buried, and two children lay dead in the house. One died later and all three were buried in the same grave. Small headstones mark the burial plots in the cemetery on the hill in East Richfield.

I remember hearing Dr. Wm. A. Knowlton tell of visiting the Browns when they lived on Perkins' Hill outside of Akron about 1844 where John Brown was in the sheep and wool business with Col. Simon Perkins. Dr. Knowlton was only a little boy of six or eight years old then, living at the time in the home of Lemon Farnham in Richfield. The old squire was always proud of the precocious little boy in his household, it is my conjecture, and he had him with him on this trip to visit the Browns. They stayed all night with the family and Dr. Knowlton, at the age of ninety-two, remembered well sleeping with the Brown boys that night. He remembered particularly that two of the boys, tall and gangling, got into a fracas in the morning when they were dressing, and that their father, a tall and forbidding looking man, came downstairs and settled them.

Of John Brown's trip to Kansas in 1855 on behalf of the slave and for the establishment of a free state, his later apprehension and execution in connection with the daring attack at Harper's Ferry in 1859 — all that is history.

The fact that interests us particularly is that he was our neighbor.

ALLAN KELLER  
John Brown - A Revolutionary Hero



A portrait of John Brown based on a photograph taken in May, 1859, - from THUNDER AT HARPER'S FERRY, by Allan Keller to be published May 19 by

## Not the Last Word

# The abolitionist who was with us

*Fictionalizing John Brown – who in fact was a fact here in Summit County*

### CLOUDSPLITTER

By Russell Banks  
HarperFlamingo, \$27.50, 758 pages

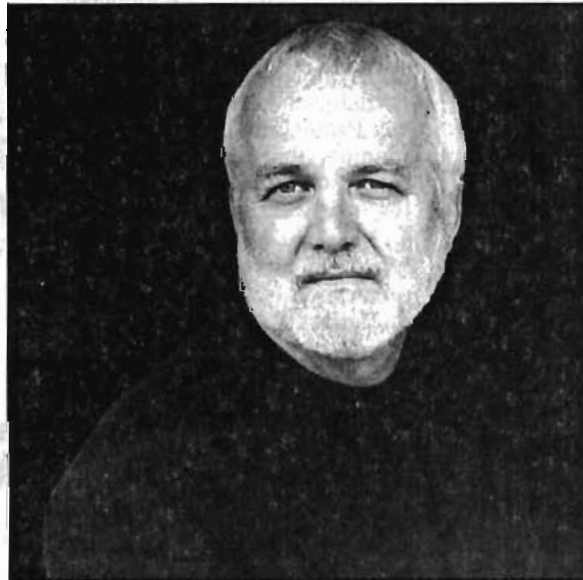
It is odd to read fiction about a man who is so much a fact of Summit County, so much a piece of its yesterday, a part of its today.

If a person here wants to collect and study the kindling that John Brown's flint set ablaze, engulfing him and his nation, he need only look around Hudson, Kent and Akron. It's everywhere, the cinders of the famous abolitionist who sought, first through persuasion and then violence, to end slavery.

Brown came of age and got religion in Hudson. He failed in the tannery business in Kent. He lived for two years in Akron, raising sheep with Col. Simon Perkins on Mutton Hill, where his house remains a historic site.

Even if there were no physical remains, no monument near the Akron Zoo, no John Brown House at Copley and Diagonal roads, no standing reminders in the form of Hudson houses or buried ones in the remains of four of his 20 children, John Brown would nevertheless be everywhere in this place.

If President Clinton's staff had studied its 19th-century history of race relations as closely as it did



HarperFlamingo

been an issue in this country since people enslaved other people and brought them to the land of the free (as long as you weren't black) and the home of the brave.

Russell Banks, of course, has looked beyond Summit and Portage counties for the tools with which to tell the most ambitious story of his storytelling career. He has looked not only into the hearts of the Browns of Summit County, specifically into those of bloody abolitionist John Brown and his third son, Owen, *Cloudsplitter's* narrator, but also into the generic human heart. There, as Banks often has in past work (*Affliction*, *Rule of the Bone*), he has found and mined veins of darkness.

Banks' characters, particularly his fathers and sons, are a conflict

John Brown (right), painted by Ole Peter Hansen while awaiting execution for his raid on Harpers Ferry, and Russell Banks, author of *Cloudsplitter*.

### In Travel

Neglect, vandalism tarnish the John Brown memorials. Page H4.



federal arsenal, which Brown led, failed to ignite an uprising among Southern slaves for which he had prayed. But it did, like the previous killing of which he had been a part in Kansas, make Brown and the consuming issue of his life impossible to ignore.

He was either a maniac or a martyr – or both.

Banks poses the question. The answer is here, in Summit County.

Louis Tohill, an instructor at Kent State University, thought he had that truth when, in 1938, he concluded: "He was a man obsessed with but one idea to an extent that he became a fanatic and finally insane."

Others thought otherwise.

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If President Clinton's staff had studied its 19th-century history of race relations as closely as it did its recent history, it might have steered Clinton toward Akron for his "Town Meeting on Race" last December because this was the home of John Brown, not because the Coming Together project is the current currency of people in a community still trying to find ways to relate to one another.

The popular notion is that Coming Together, these large, small and admirable efforts on the part of the different races to find common ground, sprang from the Beacon Journal series Question of Color, which won a Pulitzer Prize. The notion is true. It just isn't the complete truth.

Coming Together, at least to my way of thinking, is but another link in a continuum on the issue of race. And race is an issue. It has

heart. There, as Banks often has in past work (*Affliction*, *Rule of the Bone*), he has found and mined veins of darkness.

Banks' characters, particularly his fathers and sons, are a conflicted lot, whether totally fictional or, in the case of the Browns, bits and pieces of fact and fiction spun together in the hope of ending up with the thread of greater truth.

In the process of vacating his endowed chair as Howard G.B. Clark University Professor at Princeton University for the luxury of full-time writing in the north of New York, Banks shares something in common with those of us in Hudson and Akron and Kent. He cannot ignore John Brown's physical proximity.

Banks lives just down the road from North Elba, N.Y., where John Brown was buried after being hanged for his October 1859 attack on Harpers Ferry, Va. (then West Virginia). The 21-man attack on a

ment that he became a fanatic and finally insane."

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When Brown was captured at Harpers Ferry by then Col. Robert E. Lee, there were those in Summit County who conspired to save Brown's life by devising an insanity defense and wiring facts of hereditary insanity to Charlestown, Va., where Brown was being tried for treason. The wire came from Asahel Lewis, editor of the Summit Beacon, and it was the truth. It did not mean, however, that the people of Summit County believed Brown was crazy. They had spent enough time with him to know better, to know he was a man worth saving. In all, 19 affidavits came from Summit County attesting to Brown's insanity. They weren't enough. The ploy failed.

If there was an insane Brown, it is the Owen Brown created by Russell Banks. Without his father's

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He, not John Brown, would be the star of *Natural Born Killers* had it been filmed in the instead of the 1990s.

During the heat of battle in Kansas, Owen asks: "Were we simply using them as an excuse to commit violence against one another?"

There is no simple answer. Conflicted men find themselves hurled into conflict.

Banks suffered abuse from his alcoholic father who beat him and deserted his family when Banks was 12. Owen was the son of a man who was again and again in business could imagine, better than any white man, what it might be like to be black and, as a result of this powerful imagining, could down inevitability's thunder.

John Brown's last moan

# Haunting mystery explores the lure of self-destruction

• Was the young woman, shot 3 times in the head, murder victim or a suicide? It's classic Martin Amis

**NIGHT TRAIN**  
By Martin Amis  
Harmony Books, \$20, 175 pages

BY JONATHAN ALLISON  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

"My wife is American. Our infant son is half-American. I feel fractionally American myself."

This is how Martin Amis, the English novelist, son of the late author Kingsley Amis, introduces himself in *The Moronic Inferno*, his 1986 book of essays on American subjects.

Twelve years later, although no longer married to an American, he is still very conscious of his quasi-American identity, he still writes about America in both his journalism and fiction and there has been speculation in the press that he is considering a permanent move to New York.

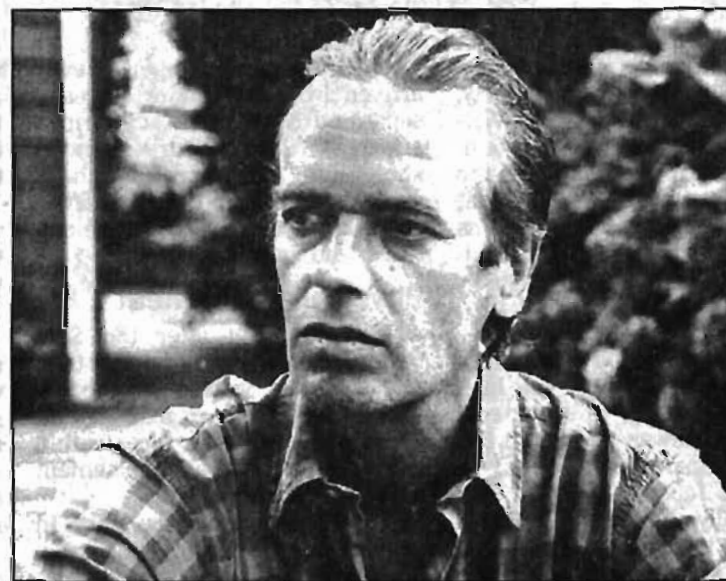
He is the author of 10 previous novels, including his splendid *Money* (1994) which was partly set in

lice officer, Mike Hoolihan.

Amis once wrote that "conversation about murder in America is as stoical and routine as talk about the weather." The conversation in *Night Train* revolves around murder quite a bit, and Hoolihan's attitude is indeed stoical and crisply matter-of-fact.

Her language is direct and colloquial, a rich argot of the street, riddled with slang and *NYPD Blue*-style streetwise bons mots. But she is also by turns speculative about human nature and its foibles, psychologically acute, compassionate and tender to those she is close to.

One of the most surprising things about the novel is the decision to have a female narrator, which is a new departure for Amis. On the whole, he manages to pull it off. Hoolihan is vivid, lively, intelligent, amiable, candid, self-aware. Husky-voiced and hard as nails, she is a recovering alcoholic who is proud of her new sobriety, though under no illusions about her own



The 11th novel by Britisher Martin Amis, *Night Train*, is a mystery through the eyes of a female police detective in an American city.

ever handled. The worst case - for me, that is. When you're a police, 'worst' is an elastic concept. You can't really get a fix on 'worst.' The boundaries are pushed out every other day. 'Worst?' we'll ask. There's no such thing as 'worst.' But for Detective Mike Hoolihan this was the worst case."

Hoolihan is investigating the death of Jennifer Rockwell, the beautiful and talented daughter of her police boss, Col. Tom Rockwell. Because Hoolihan was nursed back to a sober recovery by the Rockwells, she is a friend of the family and is deeply shaken by Jennifer's death, which appears to be a suicide case (though this is scarcely credible to all who knew her).

The main complication in the

pect. Amis' characterization out is unerringly superb, mystery of this murder, it haunts the reader as it narrator. It is not his most meticulous novel, lacking the scope of *London Fields* (for instance).

But it has the tightly concentration of Amis' best and is as profound a meditation on the nature and effects of you'll find. In this regard turning to one of his major the enormous resources for self-destruction by hand or by the weaponry ate. The author's foreword *ey* begins, after all, with "This is a suicide note."

If *Night Train* has a f

# BOOKS & AUTHORS

The Beacon Journal

## Abolitionist with us

— who in  
Summit County

John Brown (right), painted by Ole Peter Hansen while awaiting execution for his raid on Harpers Ferry, and Russell Banks, author of *Cloudsplitter*.

### In Travel

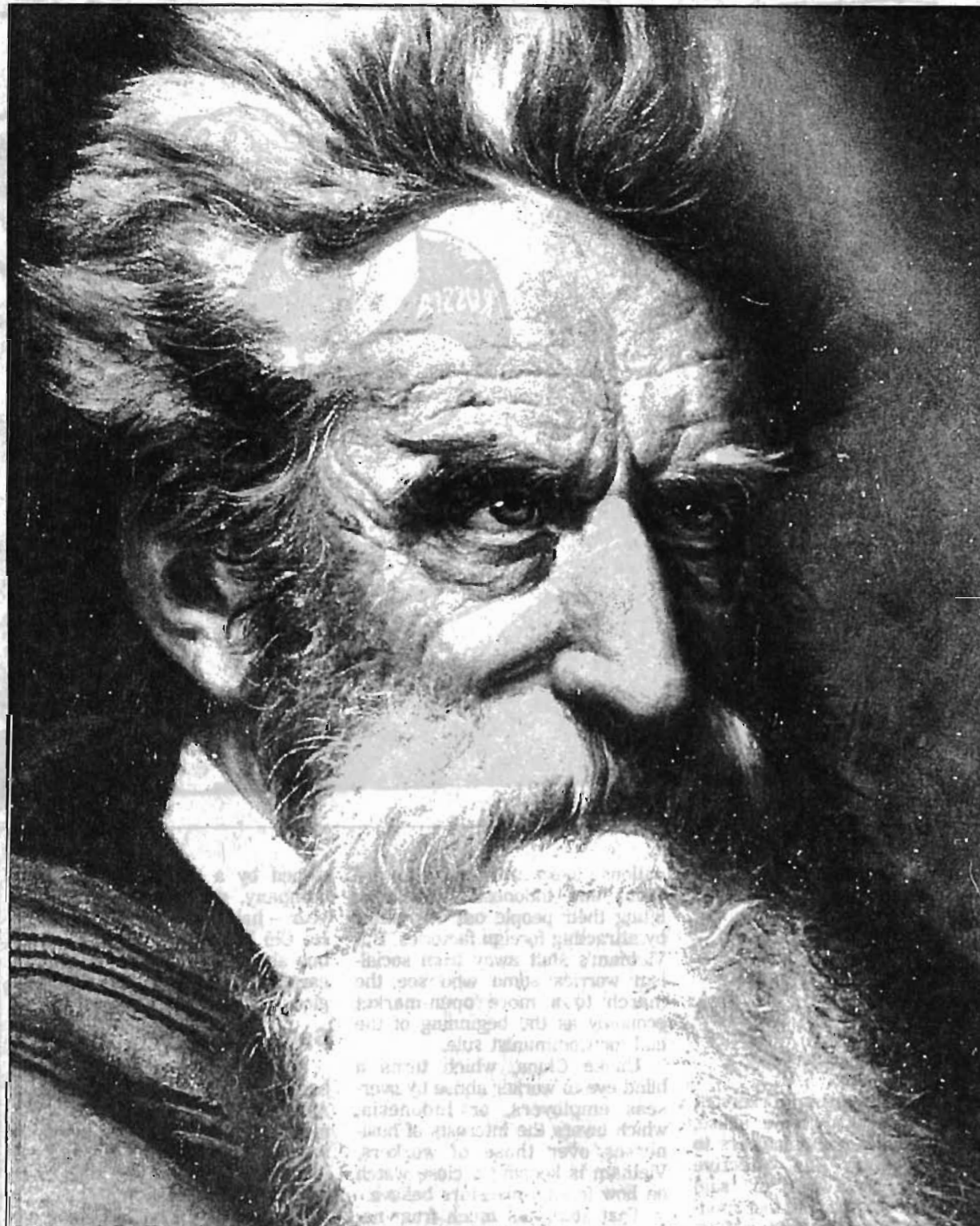
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HarperFlamingo

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Smithsonian Institution

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handed to another prisoner, on the morning of Dec. 2, 1859, before he rode to the gallows, sitting in a wagon atop his coffin, warned: "I, John Brown, am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away but with

work of fiction, not as a version of interpretation of history."

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He, not John Brown, would have been the star of *Natural Born Killers* had it been filmed in the 1850s instead of the 1990s.

During the heat of battle in Kansas, Owen asks: "Were we doing this for them, the Negroes, or were we simply using them as an excuse to commit vile crimes against one another?"

There is no simple answer when conflicted men find themselves hurled into conflict.

Banks suffered abuse from an alcoholic father who beat his mother and deserted his family in 1952 when Banks was 12. Owen Brown was the son of a man who failed again and again in business yet could imagine, better than almost any white man, what it must be like to be black and, as a result of this powerful imagining, could call down inevitability's thunder.

John Brown's last message,

handed to another prisoner, on the morning of Dec. 2, 1859, before he rode to the gallows, sitting in a wagon atop his coffin, warned: "I, John Brown, am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away but with blood. I had, as I now think, vainly flattered myself that without much bloodshed it might be done." Eleven months later Abraham Lincoln was elected president. Eight months after his election the Civil War had begun.

Owen Brown beats himself up for not being "half the man your father is," as a black man with whom Owen has a love/hate relationship tells him unsparingly. He is wracked with guilt for being one of five men to have escaped Martins Ferry and this guilt and doubt courses through his narration, ingeniously done as writings to Miss Mayo, assistant to Columbia University historian Oswald Garrison Villard.

It is to Villard, who wrote *John Brown: A Biography Fifty Years After*, and to Richard Boyer (*The Legend of John Brown*) and Stephen Oates (*To Purge This Land with Blood*) whom Banks points in an author's note that reminds us that *Cloudsplitter* - the reality of the Adirondacks at North Elba or the metaphor of Old Brown's lofty racial reach - should be read as "a

work of fiction, not as a version of interpretation of history."

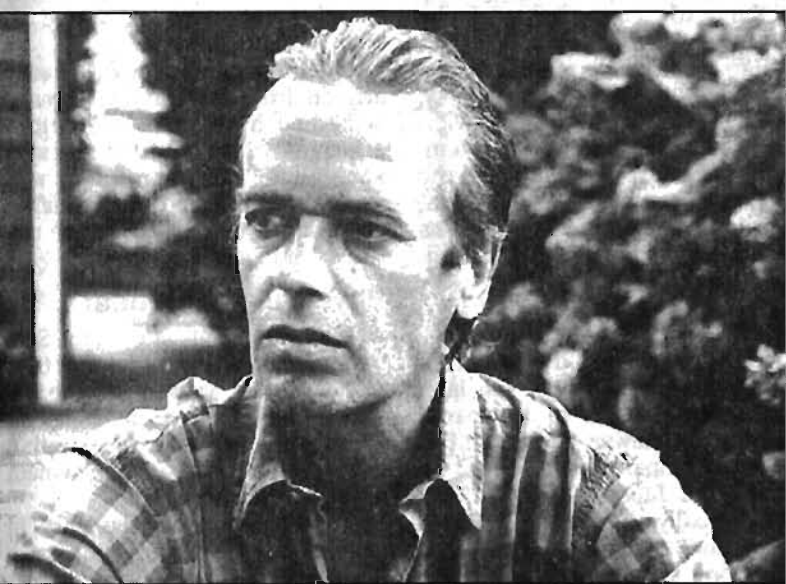
This is almost impossible to do especially in such places as Akron Hudson and Kent where snippets of the Brown truth in Banks' near biblical undertaking of six years shine through.

It is to Akron that John Brown came to collect the weapons from Gen. Lucius Bierce he took to Kansas to fight and kill Border Ruffians from Missouri who would have made Kansas a slave state. It is from Akron and Hudson that he found the sensibilities worth the fight for equality that continues to day.

In 1928, an Akron attorney, Jonathan Taylor, addressing the Summit County Historical Society spoke words that are no less true today. Said Taylor: "John Brown passed his whole life practically within Summit County. He walked our streets, breathed our air talked with our people. He was unquestionably a product of Summit County. Yet he did not belong exclusively to Hudson, to Akron, to Summit County or Ohio or even the United States. He was an international hero."

In fact - and fiction.

Steve Love's column appears regularly in *Books & Authors*.



Associated Press

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Amis' characterization throughout is unerringly superb, and the mystery of this murder, or suicide, haunts the reader as it does the narrator. It is not his most ambitious novel, lacking the range and scope of *London Fields* (1989), for instance.

But it has the tightly knit concentration of Amis' best writing, and is as profound a meditation on the nature and effects of suicide as you'll find. In this regard, he is returning to one of his major themes:

## BOOKTALK

### Complicated conflict

Eastern Ohio was a strange battleground 300 years ago.

Europeans were pressing westward over the mountain ridges.

The Indians were struggling to retain their hunting grounds and nomadic ways.

But the conflict was far more complicated than that.

A new 441-page hardback, *David Zeisberger, A Life among the Indians*, by Earl P. Olmstead, curator of the Tuscarawas Campus, makes clear how many factions were competing for control along the banks of the Ohio.

Zeisberger was a Moravian missionary. The Moravians were a small pacifist group that fled military conscription and governmental control of religion in central Europe.

Their urge to evangelize led them to the frontier. The non-religious American pioneers moving westward were often a

to be children needing control and discipline, according to Olmstead.

The Indians were splintered into numerous factions - the warlike, the peace loving, those willing to accept Christianity, those who sided with one European power or another and those who wanted to recapture the converted for traditional ways.

When Zeisberger fled eastward to Philadelphia and Boston with his peace-loving Christian Indians, riots broke out. The frightened citizenry threatened to lynch them all.

Olmstead has drawn on hundreds of previously unpublished excerpts from dairies Zeisberger compiled over 63 years. Some reports are freshly translated from German.

During his years, Zeisberger ministered to the Iroquois and Delaware of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Canada.

Olmstead includes 46 pages of footnotes, a six-page bibliography and a 22-page subject index, with

BY HERBERT KUPFERBERG

# What's Up This Week

BOOKS

## Illustrating History

John Brown—the anti-slavery leader who was hanged in 1859 after his raid on Harpers Ferry, Va.—has been celebrated in songs, poems and stories, so why not in pictures? Stan Cohen has produced a fascinating biog-



raphy of the famed abolitionist, from his birth in Connecticut to his hanging in Virginia. in **John Brown: The Thundering Voice of Jehohah.** Cohen's own cogent narrative is useful, but it's the illustrations—photographs, drawings, posters, maps and the like—that bring this tempestuous history alive. Even John Wilkes Booth, Lincoln's assassin-to-be, has his moment: He witnessed the execution of Brown, dubbed "God's angry man"—and got sick from it. Cohen carries the history to the present, with modern views of sites, me-

mentos and even a mural by Diego Rivera. The oversized 196-page paperback (\$14.95) is available in stores or (\$18.95 postpaid) from Pictorial Histories Publishing Co., 713 S. Third Street West, Dept. P, Missoula, Mont. 59801; or call 1-406-549-8488.

**The Alamo: An Illustrated History** relies largely on a swift-moving but comprehensive text by Edwin Hoyt to convey the story of the famous stand by a heroic band of embattled Texans surrounded by a huge Mexican army in 1836. Pictures illuminate the event. The clothbound book (\$28.95) is put out by Taylor Publishing Co., 1550 W. Mockingbird Lane, Dept. P, Dallas, Tex. 75235; or call 1-800-759-8120.