

By the Kansas Historical Society

Proclamation

John Brown was arrested after his failed raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859. Many Virginians feared rescue attempts or acts of retaliation from Brown's supporters. These fears increased as Brown's execution neared, causing military and civilian leaders in Virginia to issue this proclamation.

PROCLAMATION!



IN pursuance of instructions from the Governor of Virginia, notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern,

That, as heretofore, particularly from now until after Friday next the 2nd of December, **STRANGERS** found within the County of Jefferson, and Counties adjacent, having no known and proper business here, and who cannot give a satisfactory account of themselves, will be at once arrested.

That on, and for a proper period before that day, strangers and especially parties, approaching under the pretext of being present at the execution of John Brown, whether by Railroad or otherwise, will be met by the Military and turned back or arrested without regard to the amount of force, that may be required to effect this, and during the said period and especially on the 2nd of December, the citizens of Jefferson and the surrounding country are **EMPHATICALLY** warned to remain at their homes armed and guard their own property.

Information received from reliable sources, clearly indicates that by so doing they will best consult their own interests.

No **WOMEN** or **CHILDREN** will be allowed to come near the place of execution.

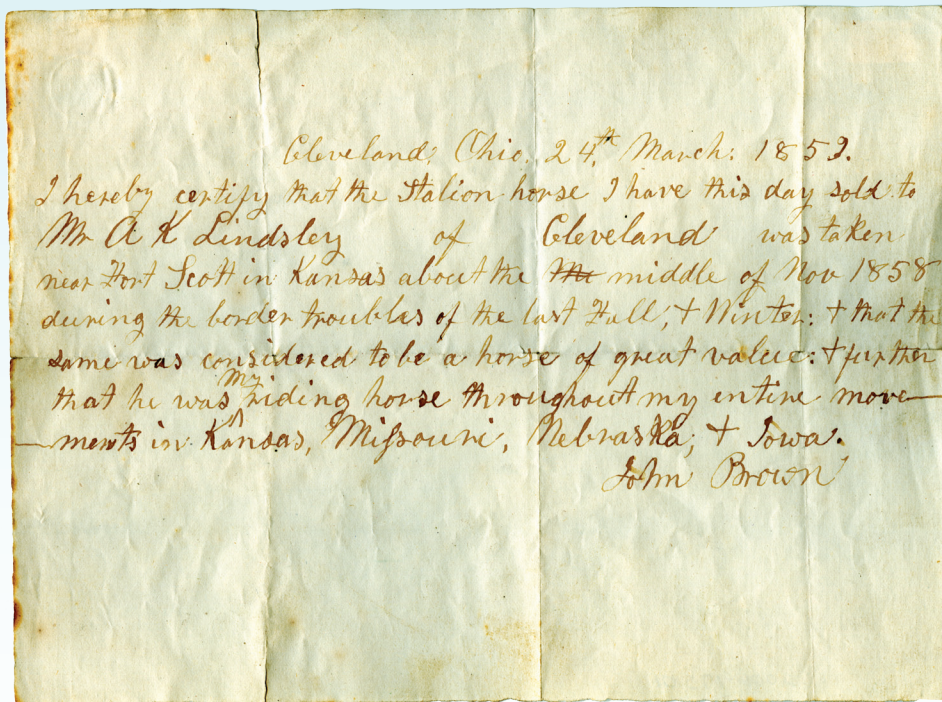
WM. B. TALLIAFERRO, Maj. Gen. Com. troops,
S BASSETT FRENCH, Military Sec'y.
THOMAS C. GREEN, Mayor,
ANDREW HUNTER, Asst. Pros. Att'y.
JAMES W. CAMPBELL, Sheriff.

November 28th, '59.

Spirit Print.

Certificate of Authenticity

The following is a certificate of authenticity that John Brown wrote as part of a business transaction. Brown was selling a horse that he had stolen a year before during his antislavery activities in Kansas Territory.



Cleveland, Ohio, 24th, March, 1859.

I hereby certify that the stallion horse I have this day sold to Mr. A K Lindsley of Cleveland was taken near Fort Scott in Kansas about the middle of Nov 1858 during the border troubles of the last Fall, & Winter; & that the same was considered to be a horse of great value; & further that he was my riding horse throughout my entire movements in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, & Iowa.

John Brown