

## ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY MARCH 14



West Virginia State Building,  
World's Columbian Exposition of 1893

**On March 14, 1891, the Legislature passed an act establishing a commission to organize the West Virginia exhibit at the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893.**

**CSO: SS.8.22, ELA.8.1, ELA.8.21**

**Investigate the Document: (*Aretas Brooks Fleming Papers, 1890-1893, Agricultural Exposition, 1892, AR-1729, 27A; Boyd B. Stutler Collection, John Brown Souvenir, World's Columbian Exhibition, 1893, Ms78-1; MacCorkle Collection, Sc91-70*)**

Document 1

1. Where did the Board of Agriculture meet with the World's Fair Commission? What was the purpose of their meeting?
2. Who was the author of this letter to Governor A. B. Fleming?

Document 2

3. Why is John Brown referred to as the "Liberator of Kansas and the Martyr of Virginia?"
4. What was John Brown's goal in raiding Harpers Ferry?
5. Explain the significance of John Brown's Raid at Harpers Ferry and explain why this event would be a worthy addition to an exhibit of West Virginia at the 1893 World's Fair.

**Think Critically:** (Essay 200-250 words) Select three individuals and/or events that YOU would want to be displayed in an exhibit at the World's Fair if it were held today. Explain their significance and the purpose of including them in your exhibit.

The West Virginia  
State Board of Agriculture.

T. C. ATKESON, PRESIDENT, Buffalo, Putnam County.

B. F. FISHER, Flat Woods, Braxton County.

C. R. SPEROW, Martinsburg, Berkeley County.

J. M. ROWAN, Union, Monroe County.

H. M. TURNER, SECRETARY, Shepherdstown, Jefferson County.

Office of  
THE PRESIDENT.

Buffalo, W. Va., June 16th 1892

Gov. A. B. Fleming,  
Charleston W. Va.

Dear Sir: - The State Board of Agriculture will meet with the Worlds Fair Commission at Parkersburg July 26th '92 to arrange for the agricultural exhibit at Chicago, next year. If you have not already made the appointment to fill vacancy on Board Agr. from the first district, our members would be pleased if you would do so in time to have him present and make his acquaintance at Parkersburg. Of course there is no great necessity for hurry, and I only desire to call your attention to the matter. Hoping you may secure the best possible man for the place I am

Sincerely and Respectfully Yours

T. C. Atkeson

JOHN BROWN SOUVENIR  
(1893) OF THE (1893)  
WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION

CHICAGO, U. S.



CHICAGO, U. S.

*John Brown*

LIBERATOR OF KANSAS AND MARTYR OF VIRGINIA

Was born in Torrington, Connecticut, on the ninth day of May, 1800. He was the fifth in descent from Peter Brown, one of the Pilgrim Fathers.

It was in 1839, that John Brown conceived the idea of becoming a liberator of the slaves. He saw slavery blighting and blasting the manhood of the nation and he listened "to the voice of the poor that cried." He heard Washington loudly praised, but he saw no helper of the slaves. He saw the people building the sepulchres of the fathers of '76, but lynching and murdering the prophets that were sent unto them. He believed that "who would be free, themselves must strike the blow." But the slaves were ignorant, scattered, closely watched, without arms, knowing the white man only as their master and foe. Seeing everywhere and always that the slaves needed a sign that they had friends among the whites who sympathized with them, believed in their right to freedom and were ready to aid them in their attempt to obtain it, John Brown's attack on Harper's Ferry was to let the slaves know that he was ready to lead them out of bondage.

The crack of his rifle at Harper's Ferry suddenly confronted every man in America with his traditional cowardice, moral, political or physical. There was a moment of timid deprecation or hasty denial; "We know not the man;"—the million eyes met, the explosion of long-pent fires, the nation is rent, the lie dragged to judgment, the laws reconstructed, and people of the Free States confess that John Brown the "outlaw," the "lunatic," the spurned of all sections to an ignominious death, was not prophet only, but the very cry that was rising in every true heart in America. John Brown was the Arnold Winkelried of America, he sacrificed himself that the shackles of American slaves might be broken.

December 2nd, 1859, was the day appointed for his martyrdom. A few minutes before he was led out to die on the scaffold, he wrote the lines of which the copy on the other side of this card is a fac-simile. The original lines were sent to me by his jailer and are still in my possession. With what prophetic vision he looked into the future of his country? It required two millions of men (half of whom were slain) and rivers of blood, to rid the land of the blighting curse of human slavery.

*"John Brown's soul through the world is marching on!"*

WARNING—Every GENUINE

"John Brown Souvenir"

is signed by

*A. M. Ross*

Governor MacCorkle  
respectfully invites you to attend the  
Opening of the State Museum,  
containing the  
West Virginia Exhibit from the World's Fair,  
and the collection of the  
West Virginia Historical and Antiquarian Society,  
at the Capitol,  
Charleston, West Va.,  
Tuesday, April 3rd, 1894, 7 to 10 P. M.