

## NOTABLE KENTUCKY AFRICAN AMERICANS DATABASE

### SEARCH RESULTS

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#### John Brown, Hanged With Kentucky Rope

End Year : 1859

The rope used to hang abolitionist John Brown (1800-1859) came from Kentucky. Prior to his hanging, samples of rope were submitted by South Carolina, Missouri, and Kentucky. The ropes were put on exhibit for the public to view. The ropes from South Carolina and Missouri were not used because it was thought that they were not strong enough, so the rope from Kentucky was selected. John Brown was hanged in Charleston, WV, on December 2, 1859. In an article in the *Charleston Gazette*, 07/14/1929, it was stated that the rope used to hang John Brown was in the Kentucky Archives, but there is no evidence of that being true today. Two pieces of the rope are said to be on display at the [Warren Rifles Confederate Museum](#) [photo of rope]; the rope pieces were donated by the Richmond United Daughters of the Confederacy. The rope pieces are artifacts from a Virginia regiment that was present the day of the hanging. The original rope is also said to be in the State Museum Section of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History; the rope was part of the collection purchased from Boyd B. Stutler, who was a collector of John Brown items. The Massachusetts Historical Society also has a rope, with the noose, that supposedly was used to hang John Brown. The rope was given to the organization by William Roscoe Thayer, president of the American Historical Association in 1918. For more see *The Public Life of Capt. John Brown*, by J. Redpath; *Progress of a Race, Or, the Remarkable Advancement of the American Negro*, by H. F. Kletzing and W. H. Crogman [available full view via [Google Book Search](#)]; "Notes on John Brown Hanging Rope" and other items in the John Brown/Boyd B. Stutler Collection Database and other collections at the [West Virginia Division of Culture and History](#) website; "Brown rope is given Stutler on birthday," *Charleston Gazette*, 07/14/1929; and artifacts and library holdings relating to John Brown at the [Massachusetts Historical Society](#).



See photo image of John Brown and additional information at the New Perspectives of the West - John Brown website at Kentucky Educational Television [KET].

**Subjects:** [Activists](#), [Civil Rights](#), [Executions](#)

**Geographic Region:** [Kentucky](#) / [South Carolina](#) / [Missouri](#) / [Charleston](#), [West Virginia](#)

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