ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY
March 14

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.
State Board of Agriculture.

T. C. ATKISON, PRESIDENT, Buffalo, Putnam County.
B. P. FISHER, Flat Woods, Braxton County.
C. E. 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


Dear Governor,

The State Board of Agriculture will meet with the World's Fair Commission at Parkersburg July 26th 1892 to arrange for the agricultural exhibit at Chicago next year. If you have not already made the appointment to fill vacancy on Board Apr. from your 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 nothing for very delay. The best possible time for the placing of the

Sincerely and Respectfully yours,

T. C. Atkinson
JOHN BROWN SOUVENIR
(1893)
OF THE
WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION
(1893)

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 blasing the manhood of the nation and
he listened "to the voice of the poor that cried." He heard Washington loudly
proclaimed, but he saw no helper of the slaves. He saw the people building the
sepulchre of the fathers of 75, 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 timidity, depression 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 reconstrued, and people of the Free States confess that
John Brown the "outlaw," the "fanatic," the spawn of all sections to an
ignominious death, was not prophet only, but the very cry that was rising in every
tree heart in America. John Brown was the Arnold Whinekeried 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

[Signature]
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.