

1858

Abolitionist, John Brown visits Ingersoll

John Brown (May 9, 1800 – December 2, 1859) was an American abolitionist leader. First reaching national prominence for his radical abolitionism, he was eventually captured and executed for a failed incitement of a slave rebellion at Harpers Ferry preceding the American Civil War. The Black population was doing so well in Oxford in the 1850s, that Brown sought recruits and funding in Ingersoll.

He knew about the large population of Blacks because his son, John Jr., had visited Ingersoll the previous year when he was forming societies in various places to help abolish slavery. John Brown Sr.'s itinerary in 1858 was a busy one, as seen from his diary and letters. On April 9th, 1858 he was in Woodstock, Norwich and Tillsonburg, and the following day in Ingersoll and London. He then returned to Ingersoll on the 12th of April and stayed until the 17th. While in Ingersoll, he stayed at the Daly House hotel and is known to have preached in the Wesleyan Methodist Church and delivered a speech on the horrors perpetuated by the Pro-Slavers from the South.



A Safe Haven by Joyce Pettigrew