



# The Carnegie Courier

Newsletter of

The Mitchell Area Historical Society (MAHS)  
& The Mitchell Area Genealogical Society (MAGS)

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## From Harper's Ferry to Dakota Territory

There is a man buried at Graceland Cemetery by the name of Israel Greene. To historians of the Mitchell area this name recalls a man who served with the U.S. Marines (then part of the Navy) for fourteen years, served in the Mexican-American War (1846-1848), captured John Brown at Harper's Ferry, fought for the South in the Civil War, and helped settle this area of Dakota Territory.

He was born July 17, 1824, in Plattsburg, New York. At the age of 23 in 1847, Greene enters the United States Marine Service. The March 3, 1847, Andreas' Historical Atlas of Dakota, dated 1884 indicates that Israel Greene received an appointment, from President Polk, as a Second Lieutenant, serving in the Mexican-American War (1846-1848). At some later date Greene was promoted to First Lieutenant, his rank at the time of the raid at Harper's Ferry.

On July 14, 1853, Commodore Matthew Perry with 300 men, Israel Greene among them, landed in Japan. Japan had been very isolationist and wanted nothing to do with the outside world. The United States wanted to change that and make it safer for Americans who might end up on Japanese shores. Perry's mission was to awe the Japanese. He brought gifts which included a steam locomotive. The men got into a parade formation and marched a distance to deliver a letter. They were met with many nasty stares and glares by the Japanese people. The Japanese were afraid of these strange men. The Americans showed much confidence and delivered the letter written by President Fillmore to the Emperor. Perry said that he would return in a year for an answer about opening relations with



Israel Greene

Japan. The soldiers returned to their ship without incident. Many years later when asked if he was afraid during that trek into Japan, Israel replied that if he had followed his natural instincts he would have run back to the ship. He was afraid of the Japanese as much as they were of the Americans.

In 1857 the Commandant of the Marine Corps detailed Israel to West Point to study artillery and qualify himself to teach the gunner's art to Marines. Greene was sent back to Washington by 1859. This afforded the opportunity to know his wife's family and friends better. Robert E. Lee's family were friends and neighbors with Edmonia Taylor Greene's family, Israel's wife who he married in Virginia in 1851. Edmonia came from an old southern aristocratic family. Her father was a doctor. She was educated at Baltimore Female seminary. After coming to Dakota, she was the first teacher in a school at Firesteel. Israel Greene was becoming a southerner.

Enter John Brown at Harper's Ferry into Israel's story in 1859. Brown with a group of men had taken the US arsenal, had hostages and was inciting a slave rebellion. After much hubbub in Washington, the Secretary of the Navy offered troops that were at the Navy Yard. Lt. J.E.B. Stuart was sent to notify Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee at his home in Arlington. Israel Greene and troops boarded a train to Harper's Ferry. The raid was contained.

On June 30, 1860, Greene served as the commanding officer of Marines aboard the USS Niagara. The Niagara was assigned to carry Japan's first diplomatic mission to the United States from Washington, D.C., to New York, and then home. Thus, helping relations with Japan. The Niagara called in Porto Grande, Cape Verde Islands; São Paulo-de-Loande (now Luanda), Angola; Batavia (now Jakarta), Java; and Hong Kong. The frigate entered Tokyo Bay on November 8th to land her distinguished passengers, and then sailed on November 27th for Hong Kong, Aden, and Cape Town, returning to Boston on April 23, 1861, to learn of the outbreak of the Civil War.

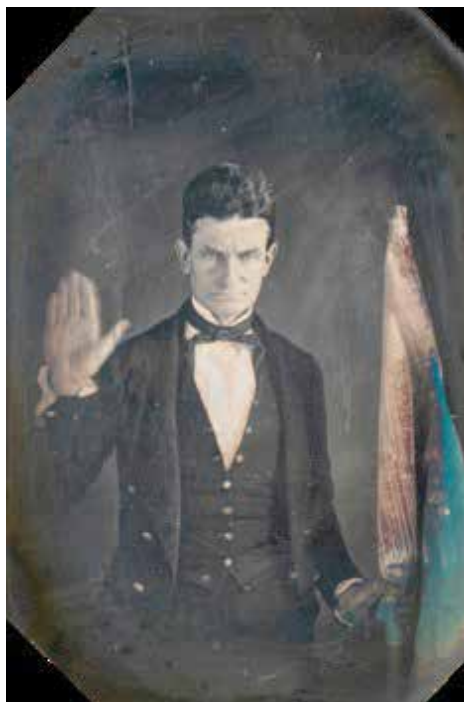
A New Yorker by birth, a Wisconsinite by rearing, a Virginian by marriage, and a Marine by profession, Greene's services were much sought after when the time came to choose up sides in 1861. Upon his return and learning of the start of Civil War, Israel Greene declined an appointment as a lieutenant colonel in the Virginia Infantry and as colonel in the Wisconsin militia. However, Greene accepted a captaincy on July 30, 1861 – in the fledgling Confederate States Marine Corps.

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# Why Harper's Ferry?

Before the Civil War, the Missouri Compromise balanced the number of slave vs. free states in Congress. But in 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed. The Act was intended to help settle new lands in Kansas and Nebraska, and get a transcontinental railroad in place, but it also left the question of slave vs. free state up to voters in the area. Thus, possibly upsetting the equal number of slave vs. free states. Consequently, Kansas became a free-for-all with both sides trying to get the vote their way. The area was flooded with new settlers to sway the vote for or against slavery. The term "Bleeding Kansas" described the violence that went on in an effort to sway the vote. John Brown made his mark in Kansas.

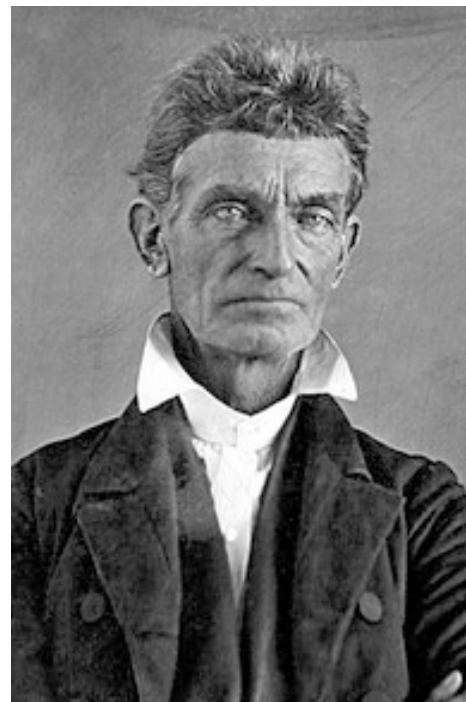
Who was John Brown? He was also known as "Old Osawatimie" or "Pottawatomie." In a Mitchell Daily Republic article from November 24, 1958, "Dr. Woodward, a professor of American history at John Hopkins University and one of the nation's top authorities on the Civil War and history of the South" answered questions as to the person of John Brown. 'John Brown was a Bible reading, bankrupt fanatic who led the famous raid on Harper's Ferry. His purpose was to stage an insurrection, free the slaves of Virginia, and establish in the South a republic of freemen, with himself at the head. He was even armed with a remarkable constitution for his proposed sovereign state. ... Brown's life reveals a bit of his character. It was a succession of failures. Born in 1800 in Torrington, Conn., he lived in several states-Ohio, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York- failing in more than 20 different businesses in 35 years.' The article goes on to say that Brown fathered at least 20 children and moved to Kansas in 1855. With four of his sons, he led a raid "against several peaceful families believed to be pro-slavery. Brown and his clan murdered five men and brutally chopped up their bodies with sabers." This is known as the Pottawatomie Massacre. Brown was deeply involved in the anti-slavery movement in Kansas during the



A daguerreotype of Brown taken by African-American photographer Augustus Washington in Springfield, Massachusetts, c. 1846–1847. Brown is holding the hand-colored flag of Subterranean Pass Way, his militant counterpart to the Underground Railroad. [Wikipedia.com](#)

1850's and became known as a fierce fighter.

Woodward goes on to say, "In July of 1859 he rented a small farm in Virginia near picturesque Harper's Ferry. Here he gathered 21 conspirators-dedicated to the abolition of slavery regardless of the price." He was expecting to be joined by the slaves in the area so he also gathered guns for the effort. On October 16, 1859, a Sunday, he along with 18 followers entered Harper's Ferry, Virginia and captured the federal arsenal with its supply of ammunitions and guns locating themselves in the engine house. Brown ordered the capture of prominent citizens to be held as hostages, among them was the great-grandnephew of President George Washington. The next day locals and their militia fought him, and ironically, a free black man was the first victim. All but John Brown, one of his sons and seven or eight raid-



John Brown -- 1856. [Wikipedia.com](#)

ers, who were barricaded in the engine house, were captured or killed. Brown kept 10 of the most prominent hostages with him in the engine house. On Tuesday the U.S. Marines arrived led by Colonel Robert E. Lee. Ten of Brown's men were killed and one of his sons in the raid. And the rest of the story can be read in Israel Greene's account of the incident reprinted in this issue of the Courier.

An article in The Dakota Huronite dated December 3, 1885, gives a brief review of the account written by Israel Greene of the capture of John Brown printed in The North American Review (This is the account we have reprinted.) The article gives an editorial comment following that says, "A frail old man! On his knees! With a long gray beard falling away from his face! His white head bare! Looking up into the faces of his eager captors! Touched with no sense of shame or hate toward any human creature! Conscious of having risked his life for the liberty of those poorer, if possible, than himself! Utterly alone, helpless, defenceless[sic]! Brave Israel hauled off and knocked him over with his course sword!

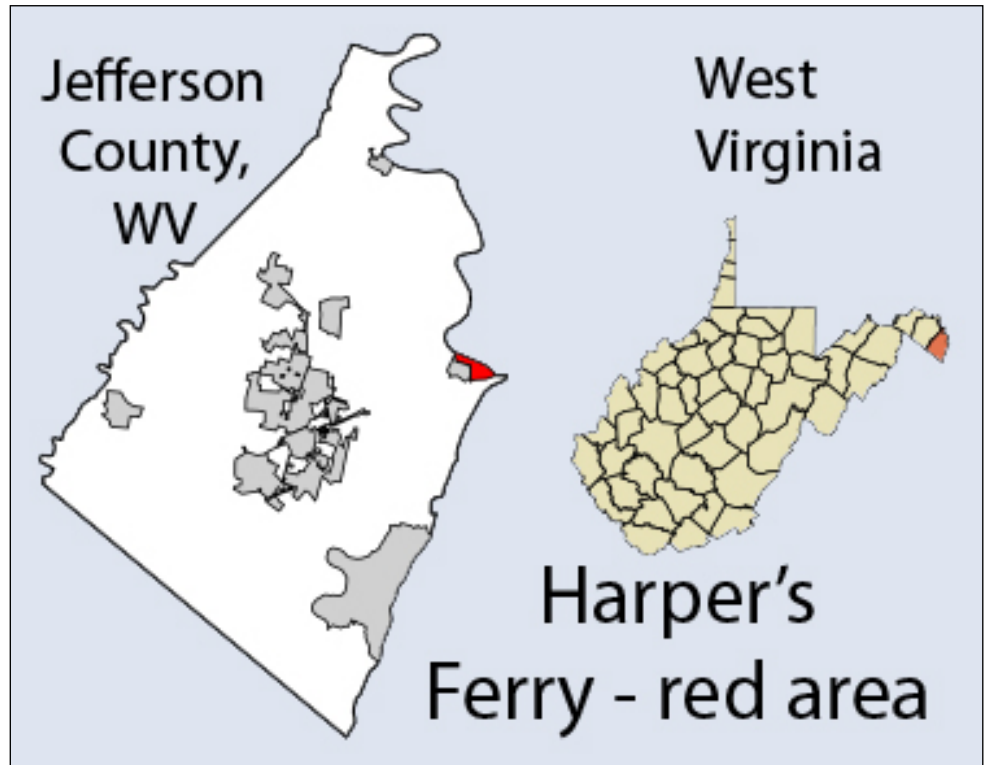
## Why Harper's Ferry? ...

### Cont. from page 2

Gashed him with its dull edge, and bruised and stunned him with its heavy blade! Hero of the democratic party then! Fit representative of its civil service reform now? Rewards may be showered upon the butchers of John Brown, but his soul still marches on! Let Israel go to his Indians and be -----scalped!"

For years John Brown had tried several ideas to help those enslaved before he made his way to Harper's Ferry on that fateful day. Ultimately, none of the actions he took were successful. There are many more accounts of his efforts available online. Other abolitionists were reluctant to align themselves with Brown. The minister who presided at his funeral because he was the only minister there, suffered by having several of his abolitionist parishioners leave his church. It took the minister many years to disassociate himself from John Brown. Brown was a person who struggled with himself, his society and the moral values of his day.

Lee and his men arrested Brown. He was tried in Charles Town where a jury found him guilty of treason, and inciting a slave insurrection in November 1859. He was executed by hanging on December 2, 1859, at the age of 59. (Note: Much more information is available about the aftermath and the abolitionist movement online.) Among those present at the execution of John Brown were Israel Greene and Robert E. Lee - both in an official capacity and John Wilkes Booth - future assassin of Abraham Lincoln, protestors on both side of the slave issue and many journalists. John Brown was an abolitionist who was willing to use violence to get results. He is looked at by some as a man who fought for a noble cause even though he had a disregard for law and order. Is he a hero, fanatic, or villain?



Map of West Virginia (looks like a frog) & Jefferson County, WV. [Wikipedia.com](#)



Engine house at Harper's Ferry where John Brown barricaded himself. [Wikipedia photo](#)

# The Capture of John Brown

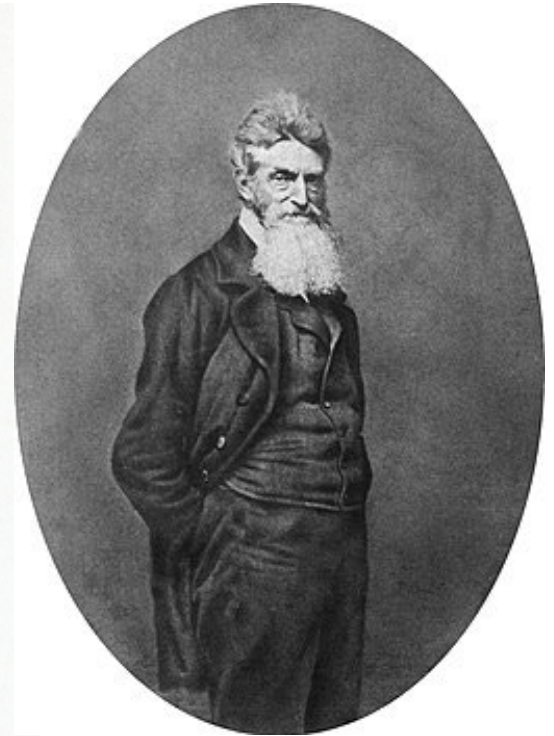
## *The Capture of John Brown\** by Israel Green

At noon of Monday, October 18, 1859, Chief Clerk Walsh, of the Navy Department, drove rapidly into the Washington Navy-yard, and, meeting me, asked me how many marines we had stationed at the barracks available for immediate duty. I happened to be the senior officer present and in command that day. I instantly replied to Mr. Walsh that we had ninety men available, and then asked him what was the trouble. He told me that Ossawatimie Brown, of Kansas, with a number of men, had taken the arsenal at Harper's Ferry, and was then besieged there by the Virginia State troops. Mr. Walsh returned speedily to the Navy Department building, and, in the course of an hour, orders came to me from Secretary Tousey to proceed at once to Harper's Ferry and report to the senior officer; and, if there should be no such officer at the Ferry, to take charge and protect the government property. With a detachment of ninety marines, I started for Harper's Ferry that afternoon on the 3:30 train, taking with me two howitzers. It was a beautiful, clear autumn day, and the men, exhilarated by the excitement of the occasion, which came after a long, dull season of confinement in the barracks, enjoyed the trip exceedingly.

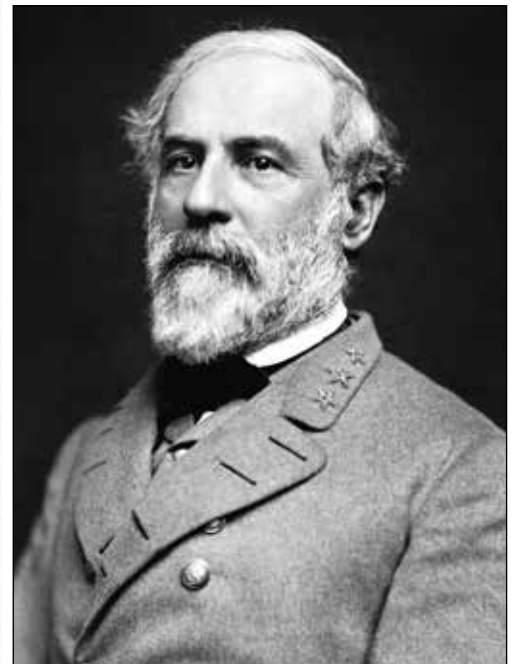
At Frederick Junction I received a dispatch from Colonel Robert E. Lee, who turned out to be the army officer to whom I was to report. He directed me to proceed to Sandy Hook, a small place about a mile this side of the Ferry, and there await his arrival. At ten o'clock in the evening he came up on a special train from Washington. His first order was to form the marines out of the car, and march from the bridge to Harper's Ferry. This we did, entering the enclosure of the arsenal grounds through a back gate. At eleven o'clock Colonel Lee ordered the volunteers to march out of the grounds, and gave the control inside to the marines, with instructions to see that none of the insurgents escaped during the night. There had been hard fighting all the preceding day, and Brown and his men kept quiet during the night. At half-past six in the morning Colonel Lee gave me orders to select a detail of twelve men for a storming party, and place them near the engine-house in which Brown and his men had intrenched themselves. I selected twelve of my best men, and a second twelve to be employed as a reserve. The engine-house was a strong stone [actually brick] building, which is still in a good state of preservation at the Ferry, in spite of the three days' fighting in the building by Brown and his men, and the ravages of the recent war between the States. The building was . . . perhaps thirty feet by thirty-five. In the front were two large double doors, between which was a stone abutment. Within were two old-fashioned, heavy fire-engines, with a hose-cart and reel standing between them, and just back of the abutment between the doors. They were double-battened doors, very strongly made, with heavy wrought-iron nails.

\*Originally published in *The North American Review*, December 1885.

*Continued on page 5*



John Brown  
[Wikipedia.com](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Brown)



General Robert E. Lee  
[Library of Congress](https://www.libraryofcongress.org/)

## The Capture of John Brown ... Continued from page 4

Lieutenant J. E. B. Stewart [Stuart], afterwards famous as a cavalry commander on the side of the South, accompanied Colonel Lee as a volunteer aid. He was ordered to go with a part of the troops to the front of the engine-house and demand the surrender of the insurgent party. Colonel Lee directed him to offer protection to Brown and his men, but to receive no counter-proposition from Brown in regard to the surrender. On the way to the engine-house, Stewart and myself agreed upon a signal for attack in the event that Brown should refuse to surrender. It was simply that Lieutenant Stewart would wave his hat, which was then, I believe, one very similar to the famous chapeau which he wore throughout the war. I had my storming party ranged alongside of the engine-house, and a number of men were provided with sledge-hammers with which to batter in the doors. I stood in front of the abutment between the doors. Stewart hailed Brown and called for his surrender, but Brown at once began to make a proposition that he and his men should be allowed to come out of the engine-house and be given the length of the bridge start, so that they might escape. Suddenly Lieutenant Stewart waved his hat, and I gave the order to my men to batter in the door. Those inside fired rapidly at the point where the blows were given upon the door. Very little impression was made with the hammers, as the doors were tied on the inside with ropes and braced by the hand-brakes of the fire-engines, and in a few minutes I gave the order to desist. Just then my eye caught sight of a ladder, lying a few feet from the engine-house, in the yard, and I ordered my men to catch it up and use it as a battering-ram. The reserve of twelve men I employed as a supporting column for the assaulting party. The men took hold bravely and made a tremendous assault upon the door. The second blow broke it in. This entrance was a ragged hole low down in the right-hand door, the door being splintered and cracked some distance upward. I instantly stepped from my position in front of the stone abutment, and entered the opening made by the ladder. At the time I did not stop to think of it, but upon reflection I should say that Brown had just emptied his carbine at the point broken by the ladder, and so I passed in safely. Getting to my feet, I ran to the right of the engine which stood behind the door, passed quickly to the rear of the house, and came up between the two engines. The first person I saw was Colonel Lewis Washington, who was standing near the hose-cart, at the front of the engine-house. On one knee, a few feet to the left, knelt a man with a carbine in his hand, just pulling the lever to reload.

"Hello, Green," said Colonel Washington, and he reached out his hand to me. I grasped it with my left hand, having my saber uplifted in my right, and he said, pointing to the kneeling figure, "This is Ossawatomie."

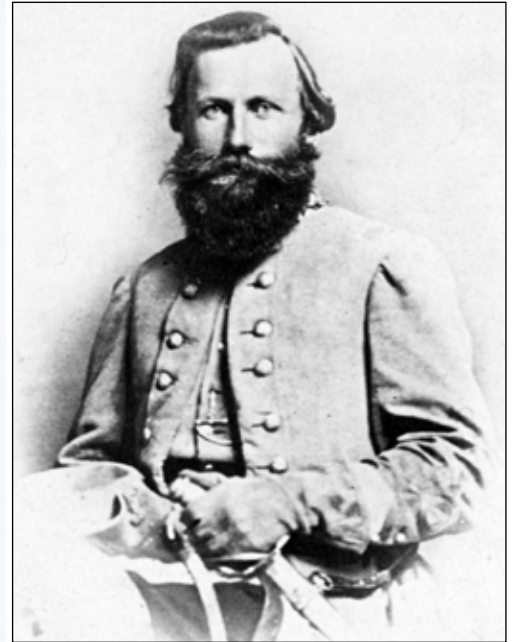
*Continued on page 6*

## The Capture of John Brown ... Continued from page 5

*As he said this, Brown turned his head to see who it was to whom Colonel Washington was speaking. Quicker than thought I brought my saber down with all my strength upon his head. He was moving as the blow fell, and I suppose I did not strike him where I intended, for he received a deep saber cut in the back of the neck. He fell senseless on his side, then rolled over on his back. He had in his hand a short Sharpe's-cavalry carbine. I think he had just fired as I reached Colonel Washington, for the marine who followed me into the aperture made by the ladder received a bullet in the abdomen, from which he died in a few minutes. The shot might have been fired by some one else in the insurgent party, but I think it was from Brown. Instinctively as Brown fell I gave him a saber thrust in the left breast. The sword I carried was a light uniform weapon, and, either not having a point or striking something hard in Brown's accouterments, did not penetrate. The blade bent double.*

*By that time three or four of my men were inside. They came rushing in like tigers, as a storming assault is not a play-day sport. They bayoneted one man skulking under the engine, and pinned another fellow up against the rear wall, both being instantly killed. I ordered the men to spill no more blood. The other insurgents were at once taken under arrest, and the contest ended. The whole fight had not lasted over three minutes. My only thought was to capture, or, if necessary, kill, the insurgents, and take possession of the engine-house.*

*I saw very little of the situation within until the fight was over. Then I observed that the engine-house was thick with smoke, and it was with difficulty that a person could be seen across the room. In the rear, behind the left-hand engine, were huddled the prisoners whom Brown had captured and held as hostages for the safety of himself and his men. Colonel Washington was one of these. All during the fight, as I understood afterward, he kept to the front of the engine-house. When I met him he was as cool as he would have been on his own veranda entertaining guests. He was naturally a very brave man. I remember that he would not come out of the engine-house, begrimed and soiled as he was from his long imprisonment, until he had put a pair of kid gloves upon his hands. The other prisoners were the sorriest lot of people I ever saw. They had been without food for over sixty hours, in constant dread of being shot, and were huddled up in the corner where lay the body of Brown's son and one or two others of the insurgents who had been killed. Some of them have endeavored to give an account of the storming of the engine-house and the capture of Brown, but none of the reports have been free from a great many misstatements, and I suppose that Colonel Washington and myself were the only persons really able to say what was done. Other stories have been printed by people on the outside, describing the fight within. What they say must be taken with a great deal of allowance, for they could not have been witnesses of what occurred within the engine-house. One recent account describes me as jumping over the right-hand engine more like a wild beast than a soldier. Of course nothing of the kind happened. The report made by*



JEB Stewart, prominent Confederate  
U.S. Navy website

### *Our apologies---*

In the last edition of the Carnegie Courier, we included a list of members and donors for both the Mitchell Area Historical Society and the Mitchell Area Genealogical Society. We inadvertently missed James M. and Carol N. Kenton as donors and Louise Metz as a longtime member. Please accept our apologies, we'll try another way of recording.



*Continued on page 7*

## The Capture of John Brown ... Continued from page 6

*Colonel Lee at the time, which is now on file in the War department, gives a more succinct and detailed account than any I have seen.*

*I can see Colonel Lee now, as he stood on a slight elevation about forty feet from the engine-house, during the assault. He was in civilian dress, and looked then very little as he did during the war. He wore no beard, except a dark mustache, and his hair was slightly gray. He had no arms upon his person, and treated the affair as one of no very great consequence, which would be speedily settled by the marines. A part of the scene, giving color and life to the picture, was the bright blue uniform of the marines. They wore blue trousers then, as they do now, and a dark-blue frock-coat. Their belts were white, and they wore French fatigue caps. I do not remember the names of the twelve men in the storming party, nor can I tell what became of them in later life. We had no use for the howitzers, and, in fact, they were not taken from the car.*

*Immediately after the fight, Brown was carried out of the engine-house, and recovered consciousness while lying on the ground in front. A detail of men carried him up to the paymaster's office, where he was attended to and his wants supplied. On the following day, Wednesday, with an escort, I removed him to Charleston [Charles Town], and turned him over to the civil authorities. No handcuffs were placed upon him, and he supported himself with a self-reliance and independence which were characteristic of the man. He had recovered a great deal from the effects of the blow from my saber, the injury of which was principally the shock, as he only received a flesh wound. I had little conversation with him, and spent very little time with him.*

*I have often been asked to describe Brown's appearance at the instant he lifted his head to see who was talking with Colonel Washington. It would be impossible for me to do so. The whole scene passed so rapidly that it hardly made a distinct impression upon my mind. I can only recall the fleeting picture of an old man kneeling with a carbine in his hand, with a long gray beard falling away from his face, looking quickly and keenly toward the danger that he was aware had come upon him. He was not a large man, being perhaps five feet ten inches when he straightened up in full. His dress, even, I do not remember distinctly. I should say that he had his trousers tucked in his boots, and that he wore clothes of gray—probably no more than trousers and shirt. I think he had no hat upon his head.*

*None of the prisoners were hurt. They were badly frightened and somewhat starved. I received no wounds except a slight scratch on one hand as I was getting through the hole in the door. Colonel Lee and the people on the outside thought I was wounded. Brown had, at the time, only five or six fighting men, and I think he himself was the only one who showed fight after I entered the engine-house. There were no provisions in the building, and it would have been only a question of time when Brown would have had to surrender. Colonel Washington was the only person inside the house that I knew.*

*Continued on page 11*

## It's almost here!

### Woolworth's Caramel Apples and the Corn Palace Festival

Proceeds from the sale of these fresh apples covered in caramel (a secret recipe) will go to benefit the Carnegie Resource Center which plans to use their proceeds toward fixing the front steps of the historic building, and Mitchell Main Street and Beyond which plans to use their share to further the streetscapes in downtown Mitchell.

Both organizations want to thank all who support us through purchases, donations and contributions of their time.

Come, enjoy a sweet treat and support two great organizations with this 1959 tradition. We are committed to historic preservation while revitalizing the heart of our city.



## From Harper's Ferry to Dakota Territory ... Continued from front page

As a major and Adjutant and Inspector of the Corps he served throughout the war at Confederate Marine headquarters in Richmond until his capture and parole at Farmville, Virginia, in April 1865. [US Marines at Harpers Ferry 1859] It seems that Israel was pulled by his good friends Robert E. Lee and J.E.B. Stuart along with his wife and her family to join the Confederacy.

The 1870 census shows the Israel Greene family as residents of Berryville, Clarke County, Virginia. Heman Greene, Israel's brother, and family leave Rochester, Minnesota for Dakota Territory May 14, 1870. They reached Bon Homme on June 14, 1870. [Memoirs of Louise Greene Hammer, interviewed by Arthur S. Mitchell, July 2, 1941]

Louise Greene Hammer, daughter of Heman Greene, in an interview with Ethel D. Abild, stated that "Another experience at Rochester (Minnesota) filled her heart with fear. Among her uncles was Israel Greene who had moved to Virginia rather than to the west. During the Civil War, he was under the command of Robert E. Lee, had led the expedition that captured John Brown. Louise's father had set up a store in Rochester, and was getting established, when the citizens associated him with the Israel Greene, considered a southern rascal, by the northern soldiers and citizens. The reaction caused his business to slump, giving cause for the move to Dakota Territory.

Israel Greene came to Davison County in the spring of 1873. His son, Platt, who had been attending school in St. Louis, came in June and the rest of his family followed three years later. [Memoirs of Louise Greene Hammer, interviewed by Arthur S. Mitchell, July 2, 1941]. Israel Greene located land in the summer of 1874.

In 1876, the discovery of gold in the Black Hills added to the numbers of people that came through or stayed in Dakota Territory. More organization was needed. The Territorial legislature engaged Israel Greene to survey a route to Ft. Thompson

and Pierre where it joined the Pierre to Deadwood Trail.

Israel Greene's family are residents of Davison, Dakota Territory in the 1880 census. About 1882, Israel Greene is listed as: "Owns 160 acres, has 16 acres broken, with six of it in corn and ten in oats. Owns one pony, four cows, and three yearlings and two calves. Has frame house and barn, and values his improvements at \$800."

Greene had been engaged in surveying in the James River valley - Jim Town (or Jimtown) and the Fort Thompson Trail. The Jim Town Trail ran north up the James River Valley and was the 1st mail route into the area. The Ft. Thompson Trail - a route to the Black Hills Gold Rush - intersected the Jim Town Trail near the village of Firesteel. When the railroad came through and located in what became Mitchell, Firesteel relocated to Mitchell. There is a monument located just east of Mitchell, South Dakota that references the settlement of Firesteel.

The following newspaper stories reported movements of Greene:

\* "Major Greene returned from Washington yesterday and is now prepared to take up his duties as Indian agent at Sisseton, where he will go Monday. He says "there will be no change in the Mitchell Post Office very soon" and "there is likely to be a change in the Mitchell Land Office before a great while." [January 1, 1886, Mitchell Daily Republican]

\* "Major Israel Greene shipped the balance of his household goods yesterday to Wilmot, Dakota, the nearest railroad station to the Sisseton Agency. He will leave for his new home today, his family being there already. "[March 13, 1886, Mitchell Daily Republican]

\* "Israel in trouble; Major Greene has quarreled with other employees at the Sisseton Agency. Secretary Lamar dismissed the doctor, clerk & principal of the school as Major Greene said they were not loyal." [July 23, 1886, Mitchell Daily Republican]

\* "Major Israel Greene was down from Sisseton over Sunday". [September

14, 1886, Mitchell Daily Republican]

\* "Major Israel Greene passed through yesterday on his way from Sisseton to Washington. He pronounces recent published statements regarding his connection with the troubles in the Sisseton Agency schools as unqualifiedly false." [October 1, 1886, Mitchell Daily Republican]

\* "INDIAN AGENT GREENE'S CASE - Washington, October 12 - Israel Greene, agent at the Sisseton (Dakota) agency, has been in the city several days, and has filed his bond and received his commission under his ad interim appointment. Mr. Greene repudiates the allegation that he is opposed to Indian education, and has explained to the satisfaction of the Indian Bureau the various charges against him." [October 13, 1886, Mitchell Daily Republican]

\* "Maj Israel Greene returned from Washington yesterday." [October 13, 1886, Mitchell Daily Republican]

\* "Maj Israel Greene returned to Fort Sisseton Agency yesterday. Miss Carrie Rogers of this place accompanied him." [October 13, 1887, Mitchell Daily Republican]

\* "Alexandria (Minnesota) Advocate: Major Israel Greene of Mitchell, one of the earliest settlers in Davison County, was in town yesterday. The Major is one of those candid, straight up and down, dyed-in-the-wool democrats who does not appear to have a very exalted opinion of the tricks and methods, resorted to by the ring masters of the present mixed administration to which the "man of destiny" is only an over estimated and misrepresented side show." [September 6, 1887, Mitchell Daily Republican]

Note: Major Greene apparently differed with the Democratic administration of President Grover Cleveland on some issues. When he was beaten for re-election in 1888, Republicans sneered that this only proved that the so-called "Man of Destiny" was really just the "Man of Density." [some information from A Good Man is Hard to Take: Grover Cleveland - Man of Destiny by Mark W. Summers, Ph.D.]

*Continued on page 9*



## From Harper's Ferry to Dakota Territory ... Continued from page 8

\* "Special session of the Board of County Commissioners - Israel Greene presented a bill of \$75 for damage in consequence of a road which had been opened across his land the sw 1/4, section 13, town 102, range 60. Laid over..." [November 16, 1887, Mitchell Daily Republican]

\* "Adjourned session - Board of County Commissioners - Jan 17. On motion, Israel Greene was appointed surveyor to fill a vacancy. "[January 22, 1889, Mitchell Daily Republican]

\* "Mrs. J. W. Downer who has visited her mother, Mrs. Israel Greene for some months past, left today with her mother, for her home in Norfolk, Virginia. "[November 8, 1889, Mitchell Daily Republican]

\* "Israel Greene serving on jury duty trial." [November 29, 1891, -]

\* "H. C. Greene made motion of delegates to the Democratic County Convention. Israel Greene nominated & elected as temporary chairman." [September 27, 1891, Mitchell Daily Republican]

\* "JOHN BROWN'S CAPTOR DEAD: Major Israel Green, who was at Harper's Ferry, was 85 years old - Mitchell, S.D., May 26 - Major Israel C. Greene, aged 85, the man who captured John Brown of Osawatomie at Harper's Ferry, is dead on his farm near here, where he has lived for thirty-six years. Major Greene was a close friend of Gen. Robert E. Lee." [May 27, 1909, The New York Times]

Israel and Edmonia Greene are buried in Graceland Cemetery in Mitchell. They had five children, Mrs. J. P. Donner, Thomas Platte Greene, Samuel T. Greene, Ned Greene and Charles T. Greene. Charles Greene stayed in the area and he had five sons (Hiram Hoyt, Israel, Tom, Raymond, and Charles) and three daughters, (Edmonia Kobes, Virginia and Mrs. Lois Main). Decedents of Israel and Edmonia include the families of Dorothy Greene Malde (Daughter of Hiram Hoyt) and Charlie Kobes (Son of Edmonia) who are great grandchildren of Israel.

Note: On March 2, 1861, Dakota Ter-



Israel Greene



Israel Greene in his Marine Uniform



Israel Greene's home. Possibly the day of the funeral - Empty chair

ritory became an organized territory with William Jayne, a friend of Lincoln's and neighbor from Illinois, as its first governor. South Dakota and North Dakota came into the union as states on November 2, 1889. South Dakota is the 40th state with North Dakota being the 39th.

In 1859 at the time of the Harper's Ferry raid, West Virginia did not exist as a separate state but was part of Virginia. It became a Union state on June 20, 1863. Harper's Ferry is in West Virginia.

Quick fact sheet for Israel Greene:

\*Born June 17, 1824, in Plattsburgh, New York, US

\*Died May 25, 1824 (aged 84) in Mitchell, SD, US

\*Buried at Graceland Cemetery in Mitchell, SD

\*Allegiance to the United States of America and the Confederate States

\*Service/branch: U.S. Marine Corps and Confederate States Marine Corps

\*Years of service: 1847-1861 (USMC) & 1961-1965 (CSMC)

\*Rank: First lieutenant (USMC) & Major (CSMC)

\*Battles: Mexican-American War, Harper's Ferry, Civil War & the plains of Dakota Territory

Linda Oster - Researcher

## AN OLD RESIDENT BURIED

**Remains of Major Israel Greene Laid to Rest in Graceland After Long and Eventful Life.**

This morning at 10 o'clock occurred the funeral over the remains of the late Major Israel Greene, which occurred at the residence, 2 1/2 miles east of the city, the homestead which he took from the government 36 years ago, and on which he has made his home ever since. A number of old-time friends went out from the city, and all the neighbors in that community gathered at the residence to pay their last tribute of respect to the man whom they honored and admired for the many good qualities he possessed and which he made manifest through life. The services were those of the Episcopal church and were read by Rev. A. Craig Bowdish, pastor of the Congregational church. There were many beautiful floral offerings sent to the house as an expression of friendliness and sympathy.

Notwithstanding the condition of the roads many went out to the cemetery, where the burial service of the Episcopal church was read by Mr. Bowdish. The following were the pallbearers: W. H. Conyes, C. U. Miller, W. H. Gregory, James Lyons, G. I. Smith, and J. T. Morrow.

...  
A peculiar coincidence happened just at the same time of the death of Major Greene. A telegram from Ottawa, Kansas, announces the death of Horace H. Day, which occurred the day after Major Greene died. Day was a nephew of John Brown, and lived at Osawatomie, Kan., and where Brown lived.  
...

(Israel's Family) They re-

sided in Beryville for a number of years and then came west in 1872, locating 2 1/2 miles east of this city on a government claim, and which has been the home of the major up to the time of his death. For the past few months he has been poorly, oftentimes being overcome by a smothering spell due to weak heart. Monday night, May 24, while seated in his chair his life suddenly went out, and he leaves his good wife and children to mourn his death. Since living here Major Greene has lived a quiet life, at first engaging in the work of government surveyor, with his brother, H. C. Greene, locating the corners of the government land over a large section. In the latter years of his life he has lived at his pleasant home, enjoying his life in a serene manner. He did not take any activity in politics, but was a democrat. Major Greene was highly respected by all the citizens of this community, and those who have known him during the greater part of his life here prized his friendship to a marked degree. He was a well informed man and kept in close touch with the current events of his country's history. Much regret is expressed at his death.

Excerpt from the Daily Republic  
May 27, 1909



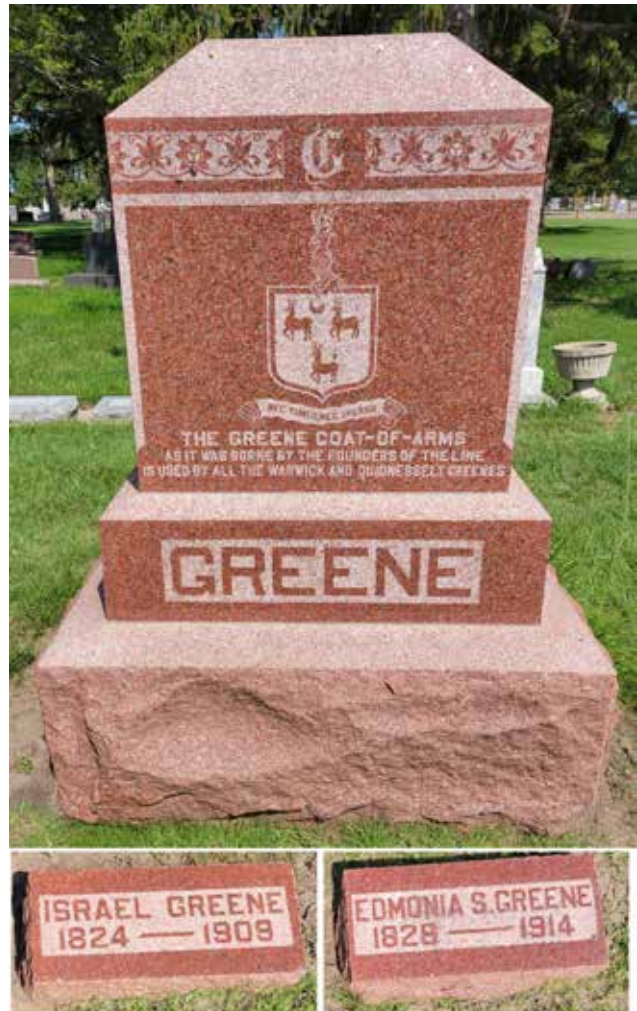
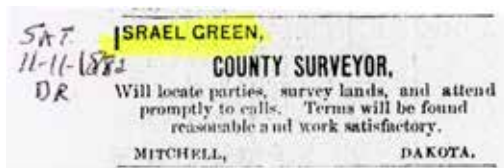
Thank You, Palace City Lions for the bookshelves built by Alex Hartman that you donated to the Carnegie Resource Center. They will be put to good use. From left to right: Rick and Cindy Easton, Chuck and Linda Oster, Alex Hartman, Dennis Bohmont (1st District Governor) Donna Weiland.

# The Capture of John Brown ... Continued from page 7

*I have been asked what became of Brown's carbine. That I do not know. My sword was left in Washington, among people with whom I lived, and I lost trace of it. A few years ago, after having come out of the war and gone west to Dakota, where I now live, I received a letter from a gentleman in Washington, saying that he knew where the sword was, and that it was still bent double, as it was left by the thrust upon Brown's breast. He said that it was now a relic of great historic value, and asked me to assent to the selling of it upon the condition that I should receive a portion of the price of the weapon. To me the matter had very little interest, and I replied indifferently. Since then I have heard nothing of the matter. I presume the saber could be found somewhere in Washington.*



Charlie Kobes – great grandson of Israel Greene. Charlie is the son of Edmonia Greene Kobes. Edmonia is the daughter of Charles T. Greene. Charles T. is the son of Maj. Israel Greene. Picture from April 16, 1997, Mitchell Daily Republic. Charlie Kobes holding a surveyor's compass that dates back to about 1873 and was owned by Israel Greene, who platted much of Mitchell and surrounding area.



Old Part - Block 12  
Graceland Cemetery, Mitchell, SD

# Upcoming Events 2023

*Michell Area Genealogical Society (MAGS)  
And Mitchell Area Historical Society (MAHS)*

**August 18-19** – Minnesota Gen Society, Midwest Migration Institute: Midwest Genealogy Foundations: Migrations to and through the Midwest Mendota Heights MN for more information see <https://mngs.org/midwest-migration-institute>

**August 21** – 7:00 p.m. MAHS Business Meeting

**August 28** – 6:00-6:30 p.m. MAGS Business Meeting  
7:00 p.m. MAGS Program – Exploring the Resources at the Carnegie

**August 31-September 4** - South Dakota State Fair – Primary exhibits - Our Ancestors Trails also Gene Breaks daily

**September 3-10** - Dakota Genealogists Trip to Salt Lake City, Utah to download brochure

see <https://rcgenealogy.com/eventListings.php?nm=51>  
(Reservation deadline Aug 3)

**September 18** - 7:00 p.m. MAHS Business Meeting

**September 25** - 6:00-6:30 p.m. MAGS Business Meeting  
7:00 p.m. MAGS Program – Get Unstuck

**October 16** - 7:00 p.m. MAHS Business Meeting

**October 23** - 6:00-6:30 p.m. MAGS Business Meeting  
7:00 p.m. MAGS Program How to Become a Genealogist Detective

**Oct 27-28** - North Star Genealogical Conference, Egan, MinOBERnesota for more information <https://www.mngs.org/north-star-2023>

**November 20** - 7:00 p.m. MAHS Business Meeting

**November 27** - 6:00-6:30 p.m. MAGS Business Meeting  
7:00 p.m. MAGS Program

**December** - Christmas at the Carnegie

**2024 – Feb 29-Mar 2** – Roots Tech – Salt Lake City, Utah  
(Est. Attendance 27,000)



*Carnegie Resource  
Center  
119 West Third Avenue  
Mitchell, S.D. 57301*

