



15. John Brown with beard, New York, May 1858. Photographer: Martin M. Lawrence (1808-1859) Salted paper print, 7 3/8 x 5 3/8 inches. 'Lawrence's Photographs' blind stamp on mount, with autograph of John Brown pasted on.

**Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division
Acquired from Marian S. Carson in 1997 (Sidney Strober Auction, 1970, Lot 344)**

There are no new photograph sittings in 1859. Brown was greatly delayed in setting the raid into motion with a severe Bell's Palsy episode ¹ as well as other recurring illness:

“I have been entirely laid up for more than a week with a terrible gathering in my head; & with the Ague: but am much better now.” John Brown to Mary Brown from Kingsville, Ohio, April 7, 1859

“I write to say that I have been again entirely prostrated with the difficulty in my head, and with ague so that I have not yet been able to attend to any business ...”

John Brown to John Henrie [Kagi] from North Elba, April 25, 1859.

By May 7 (1859), Brown was in Boston, meeting with John Andrew, who would become the Civil War governor of Massachusetts after helping to defend John Brown on trial in Virginia in November. 1859.

“Dear Sir: After being delayed with sickness and other hindrances, I am so far on my way back, and hope to be in Ohio within the coming week ...I have been middling successful in my business.”

John Brown to John Henrie [Kagi] from Keene, New York, June 9, 1859

At home with Mary and children for the last time in midJune, he apparently had the Onthank painted print by John Heywood (Image 12) with him, as well as the vignette view by J. W. Black to prepare for “newspaper presence” (Image 14).

The Lawrence print was compared with the copyright registration print by J. W. Black in November 2009 by the Curator of Photography at the Library of Congress, Carol M. Johnson. The Lawrence print has finer detail and resolution, indicating that it is the original from which the negative by J. W. Black (Image 13) was made and copyrighted. Another salt print of the bearded John Brown by J. W. Black is at the National Portrait Gallery, acquired in 1974. ² The pasted signature on the copy print is exactly as in the Lawrence print.

Brown's New York trip in late May, 1858--the last time he was in New York and Boston until May, 1859--is the time of the twelfth portrait sitting. His beard growth from January is documented at the Chatham Convention on May 8, and in June, 1858, in Kansas.

“John Brown, now under sentence of death for treason and murder, at Charlestown, Va. From a photograph taken one year ago by Martin M. Lawrence, 381 Broadway, N. Y.” *Frank Leslie's Illustrated*, v. 9, no. 207 (1859 Nov. 19):383. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs: Illus. in AP2.L52 1859(Case Y).

About the photographer: **Martin M. Lawrence (1808-1859)** was a well-known daguerreotypist in New York City from 1842. He specialized in large-format daguerreotypes, and was elected President of the American Daguerre Association in 1852. He was an early producer of paper photographs, employing Caleb Hunt for this work. His last recorded gallery address is 381 Broadway. *Craig's Daguerrian Registry*

1 Bell's Palsy, a common nerve condition not related to stroke, is a family condition that continues to the present day. It was identified by Greg Artzner at the John Brown Remembered Symposium in Harpers Ferry in October 2009, and confirmed by descendant Paul Keesey in California in December 2009. It is seen in Image 9, sometimes used as “evidence” of insanity.

2 The NPG print is in the current exhibition “Faces of the Frontier; Photographic Portraits of the American West, 1845 – 1924” which is traveling to San Diego in Spring 2010 and then to Oklahoma in Fall 2010..