JOHN BROWN AT HARPERS FERRY

John Brown's career as an abolitionist culminated in the October 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry and the United States arsenal located there. His intention was to establish a stronghold from which to direct slave insurrections in the Southern states and to form a government with himself as the head. His subsequent capture and trial, which brought these plans to light, shocked both Northerners and Southerners, but his execution insured his place as a martyr in the eyes of Northern abolitionists. This section includes the major books and pamphlets concerning John Brown and his raid on Harpers Ferry, but the checklist by Boyd B. Stutler should be used as a guide to the voluminous periodical literature.


LABOR

As early as the 1860's, West Virginia's skilled workers were beginning to organize local unions in an effort to improve their wages, hours, and working conditions. The successes of the United Mine Workers in the Kanawha Valley in 1902 and the formation of the West Virginia Federation of Labor in 1903 marked the beginning of extensive and successful organizing movements in West Virginia's industries. Although not coterminous, the fortunes of organized labor in West Virginia have closely paralleled the waxing and waning in the fortunes of the United Mine Workers. This list of sources on labor's activities in West Virginia excludes publications on the United Mine Workers, as these references have been included in the section on the Coal Industry and Coal Miners.