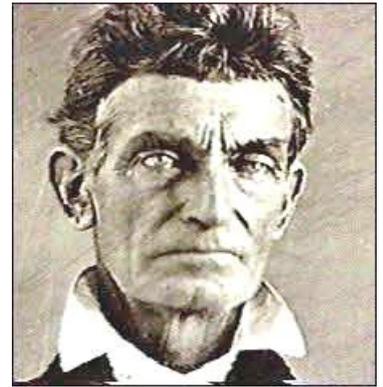


John Brown's body lies *a-mouldering* in the grave
but his *soul* goes marching on.
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!
He's gone to be a soldier in the Army of the Lord...
John Brown's *knapsack* is strapped upon his back...
John Brown died that the slaves might be free...
The stars above in Heaven now are looking *kindly* down...
On the *grave* of old John Brown.

rotting
spirit

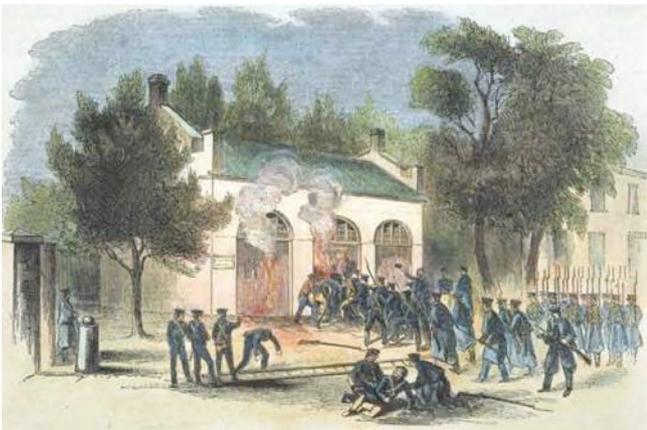
God
backpack

friendly
tomb



It's a famous song. It celebrates the man who became a hero to Americans who were opposed to slavery.

John Brown was a white man with a large family. Seeking work, he settled down in a black township. He was shocked by the way that the black slaves were treated. With five of his sons, he started illegally importing guns into Kansas to help slaves fight for their freedom. One of their attacks on some slavery supporters ended in bloodshed. The massacre made John Brown famous and feared.



hostages and capture Brown. He was tried for treason and murder. He was hanged. This was just before the Civil War between North and South.

to celebrate: commemorate
opposed: against
to settle down: go to live there
township: quarter, ghetto
to treat: deal with
guns: firearms
freedom: independence
supporter: fan

bloodshed: killing
feared: scared
to capture: catch
armoury: army factory
hostage: prisoner
intend: plan
to arm: get guns
be tried: sentenced

***IRREGULAR VERBS**
be - was - been
have - had - had
lead - led - led
ring - rang - rung
say - said - said
begin - began - begun
become - became - become

Change into the past tense:

was

John Brown **is*** a poor man.

He **has*** 20 children.

He **starts** a liberation movement.

He **leads*** a raid to Harper's Ferry.

Seven people **are*** killed.

He **wants** rifles for the slaves.

His attack **fails**.

He **is*** hanged.

In the North the church bells **ring***.

In the North he **is*** a hero.

In the South people **say*** he is a terrorist.

President Lincoln **says***

he **is*** a "misguided fanatic".

Sixteen months later the Civil War **begins***.

The song "John Brown's Body" **becomes***

the marching song of the Union soldiers.

***irregular verb, see list of strong verbs**