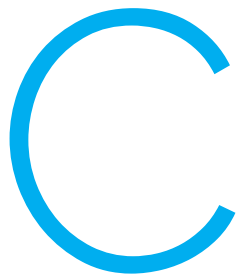


Gallery talk by Eva Garcelon-Hart and Bill Hart



Can a simple tree fungus be a historical document? On Oct. 16, at 1 p.m., as part of the Sheldon's monthly exhibit "Hidden Treasure Series," Archivist Eva Garcelon-Hart and Middlebury College Professor Bill Hart will discuss a unique rendering of the John

Brown farmstead in North Elba, N.Y., on a 19th century tree fungus. The fungus along with several stereographic photographs depicting the Brown cemetery grounds were donated to the Sheldon Museum in 1891 and will be on display through the month of October.

The carving and the photographs illuminate

unexpected chapters of national and regional history. John Brown (1800-59), a pious radical abolitionist, is best known for his raid on the federal armory in Harper's Ferry, Virginia in October 1859 for which he was executed. He is less well known as a founding member and resident of the free Black community, Timbuktoo, near Lake Placid, NY. Brown, two of his sons, and several other insurgents are buried together in the family cemetery on the farmstead grounds. Vermont legislature designated October 16, 2017 John Brown Day in his honor.

Free with museum admission. The Sheldon is located at One Park Street in downtown Middlebury across from the Ilsley Library. For more info visit henrysheldonmuseum.org.



John Brown's Farmstead, North Elba, N.Y., carved on tree fungus, 1887.

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