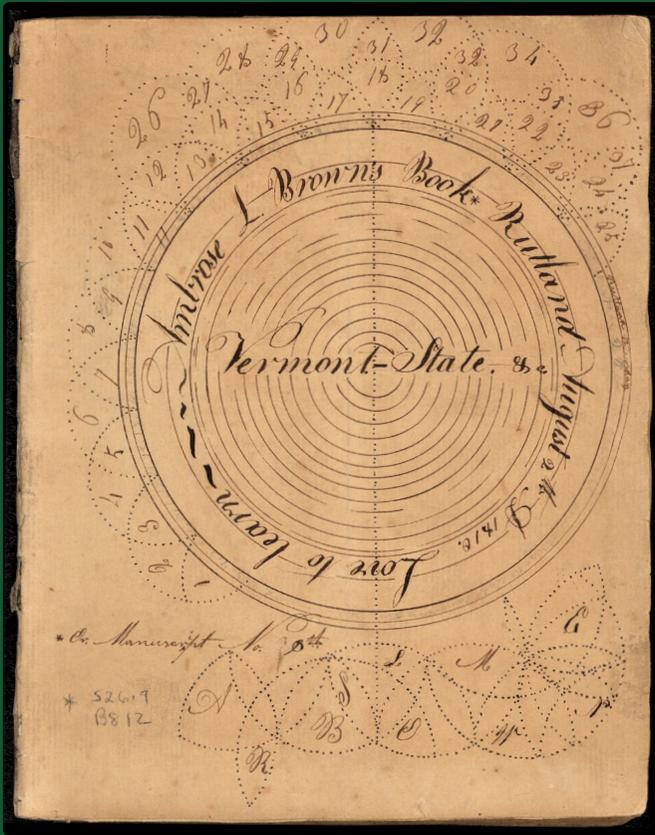


# VERMONT HISTORY

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- ❖ Alexander Twilight: Exploring How Economics Shaped His Life
- ❖ Stephen Bates: Earliest Known Black Sheriff of the North
- ❖ A Persistent and Spirited Controversy:  
The State Normal Schools and the Education of Vermonters

*Darlene Young*

*Jane Williamson*

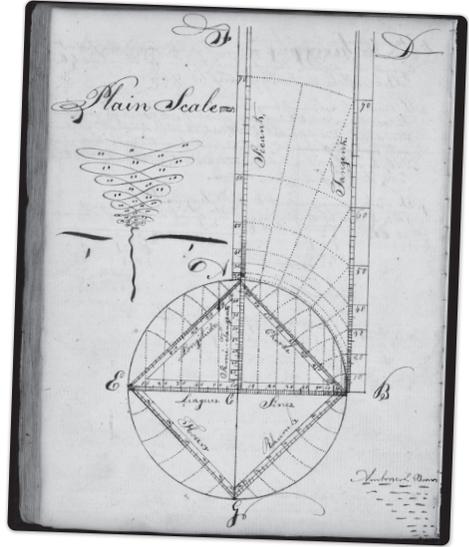
*Ennis Duling*

The journal of the  
VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY





Born October 25, 1795, in Cheshire, Massachusetts, Brown moved to Rutland, Vermont, sometime before 1810, when he filled this notebook with explorations of geometry and surveying practices. Every inch of the one-hundred-page book is covered with notes, calculations, diagrams, and word problems (e.g., “Four men bought a grindstone of 60 inches diameter: How much of its diameter must each grind off to have an equal share of the stone, if one first grind[s] his share, and then another till the stone is ground away, making no allowance of the eye?”).



In his cover illustration, we also see Brown playing with the compass, a tool of the fields studied inside the notebook. The compass-drawn broken concentric circles emanate from the phrase “Vermont State, &c.,” in a labyrinthine path to the outer rim, where intersecting arches enclose numbers and the jumbled letters of Brown’s name.

An inscription on the inside cover implies that this is the third notebook in a series and another at the end suggests a continuation—a set of crisp blank pages waiting to be filled with continued learning. Brown would go on to study at Castleton Seminary, a precursor to the State Normal School at Castleton, an institution of the type discussed in this issue of *Vermont History*. He graduated from Middlebury College in 1816 and studied law in Rutland, where he was an active citizen until his death.

In addition to this notebook, the Leahy Library of the Vermont Historical Society holds several other items related to Brown and his family, including account books from his law and paper mill businesses, as well as personal cashbooks and other papers.

KATE PHILLIPS  
 Librarian, Vermont Historical Society

