

John Jarvie

*He was the sage
of the Uintas, the genius
of Browns park. ...
He was not only a man among
men, but he was a friend
among men.*
Vernal Express, July 30, 1909

John Jarvie was a Scotsman who came to Browns Park to start a business. He settled along the Green River in 1880.

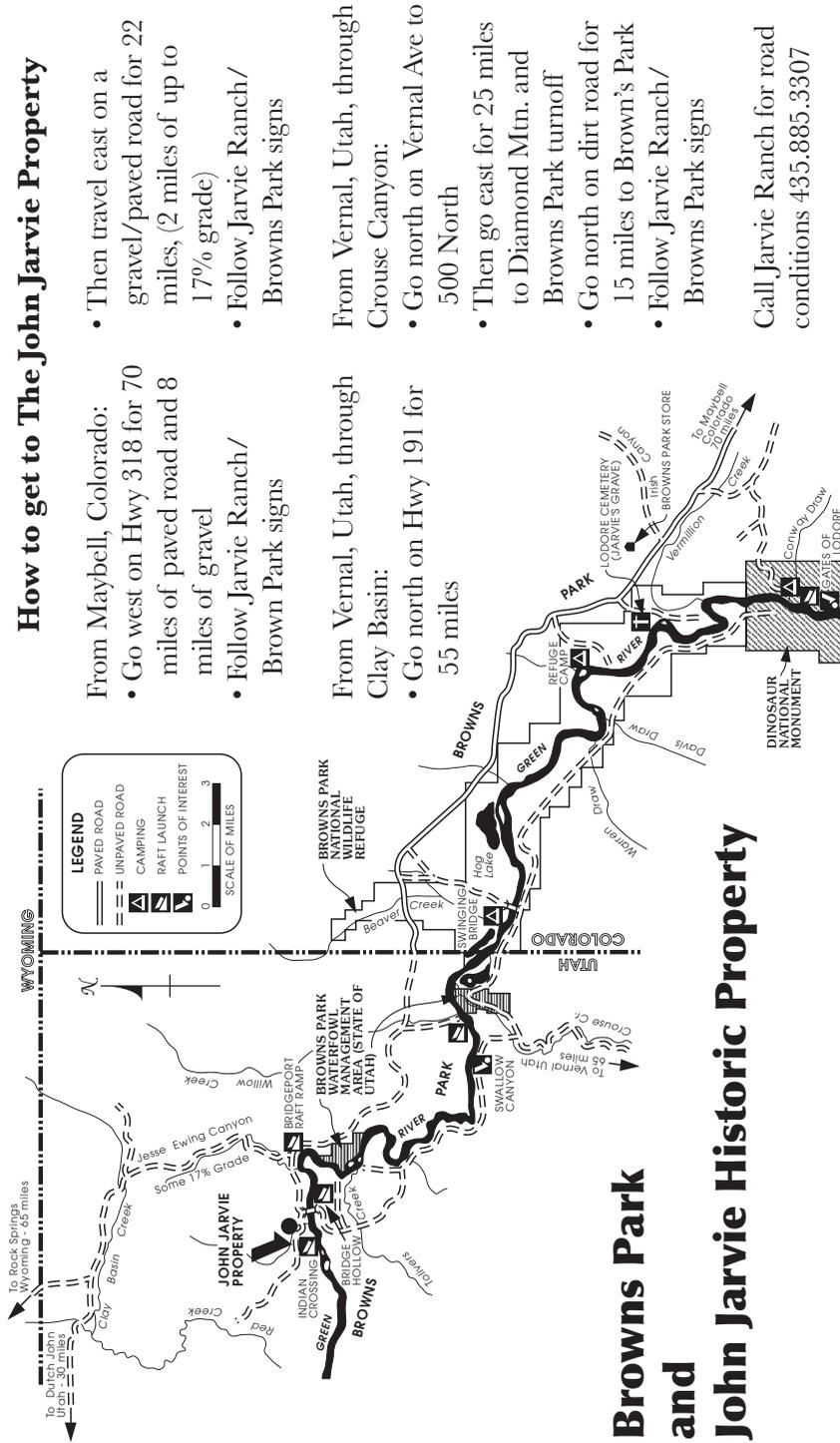
He married Nellie Bar "Pretty Little Nell," and together they had four boys each two years apart. Nellie passed away from tuberculosis, when the youngest was only 8 years old, leaving John to raise the boys on his own.

Being a well educated man, John loved to read. He was an accomplished musician and often entertained travelers and drifters as they passed through the park.

Due to the nature of Browns Park as a hiding place for outlaws, John became acquainted with many colorful members of Browns Park's history including, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid of the Wild Bunch; outlaws Matt Warner and Isom Dart; and Queen of the Rustlers, Ann Bassett.

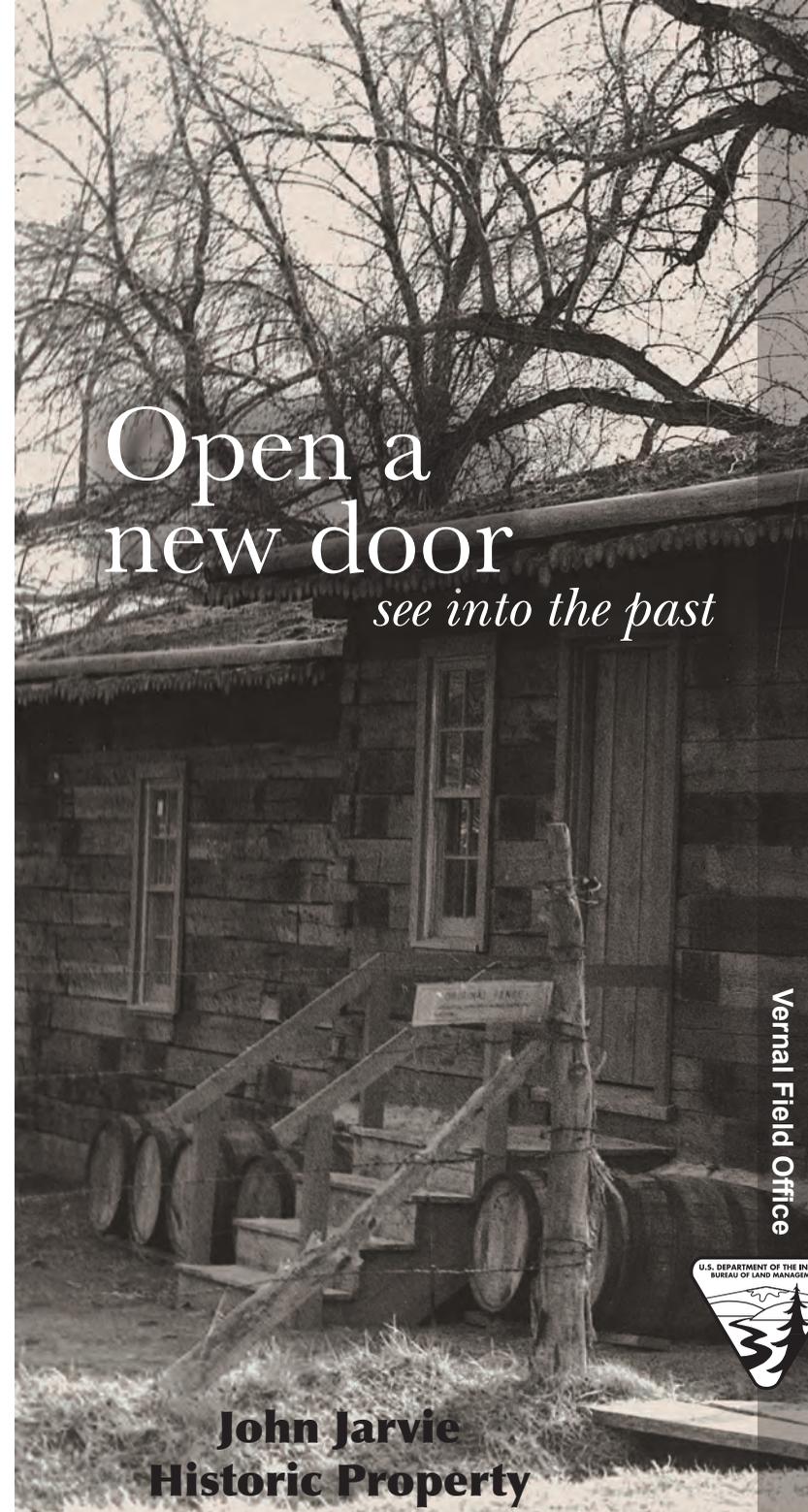
On Tuesday, July 6, 1909, John was robbed, murdered, and his store ransacked by two transient workers from Rock Springs, Wyoming. After they killed him, they placed his body in a boat and pushed it into the Green River. His murderers were never captured.

John's body was discovered eight days later, 25 miles down river. He is buried in the Ladore Cemetery.



**Browns Park
and
John Jarvie Historic Property**

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Open a
new door
see into the past

**John Jarvie
Historic Property**

Vernal Field Office
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

BLM



“The largest and nobler faith in all that is and is to be, tells us that death even at its worst is only perfect rest ... We, too, have our religion and it is this: ‘Help for the living, hope for the dead.’”

— John Jarvie

The John Jarvie Property

Located along the Green River in eastern Utah, the Jarvie Property had been used for years by Indians, fur trappers and travelers.

John chose this site along the river because of the naturally occurring river crossing. He believed it would be an excellent spot to establish his business.

On the property, John ran a general store, trading post, post office, and river ferry. There is a cemetery adjacent to the site.

Following Jarvie’s murder on July 6, 1909, the property passed to his two sons Tom and John Jr. His sons interests laid elsewhere; and the property would never again flourish as it had.

The General Store

The general store was originally built from hand-hewn railroad ties found in the Green River. It was reconstructed again of railroad ties over the original location and is furnished with many artifacts from the Jarvie period. It contains the original safe, which was robbed the evening of Jarvie’s murder.

The Water Wheel

The water wheel is a 16 foot diameter working replica of the original wheel built by Jarvie.

Dugout

The two-room dugout located on the southwestern end of the property is where John and his wife Nellie lived while they waited for their home and general store to be finished. It was built into the hillside with a south-facing entrance overlooking the Green River. This dugout was also one of the three major hideouts along the outlaw trail.

The Stone House

The stone house is a one-room, rectangular building, measuring 18X20 feet. It was built by outlaw Jack “Judge” Bennett using masonry skills he learned in prison. Bennett was later hanged for his part in a local murder and ironically, the pole from which he was hung is now on display in the very house he built.

The Blacksmith Shop

The blacksmith shop was constructed using cottonwood trees from along the river. John did blacksmith work of his own and for his neighbors.

The Cemetery

Another point of interest is the graves of four men who died violent deaths in the early days of Browns Park — two drowned, one was stabbed, and one was shot.

Visitor Information

River Safety — The Green River can fluctuate daily from 830 to 4500 cubic feet per second or higher, depending on the time of year. Life jackets are required on the river.

Camping/Picnicking — Indian Crossing and Bridge Hollow developed (fee) campgrounds, adjacent to the Jarvie site, offer drinking water, restrooms, picnic tables and fire rings. Day-use facilities at the Jarvie site include picnic tables, fire rings, drinking water and rest rooms. Pets must be on a leash at the site.

Permits — Permits are required for commercial float boating only. No permits are required for personal use from the Flaming Gorge Dam to the Dinosaur National Monument at Ladore Canyon in Colorado.

Fishing — Fishing is limited to artificial bait only. All fish between 13 and 20 inches must be released. You may keep two fish under 13 inches and one fish over 20 inches.

Telephone — A credit card/collect-call-only telephone is located at the Bridge Hollow boat ramp.

Accommodations/Supplies — Gas, food, and lodging can be obtained in the towns of Green River and Rock Springs Wyoming; Maybell, Colorado; and Vernal, Manila, and Dutch John in Utah. Gasoline, food, and phone services are available at the Browns Park Store in Colorado. Extra gas should be carried. Other equipment, such as tire chains, food, water, and a shovel are recommended.

Tours — Guided tours of the Jarvie property are offered daily May through October, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Contact

•Park Ranger at Jarvie Ranch Historic Site: 435.885.3307

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