

Bushwhackers: Guerrilla Warfare, Manhood, and the Household in Civil War Missouri

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ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

Gorman, Kathleen. "Bushwhackers: Guerrilla Warfare, Manhood, and the Household in Civil War Missouri." *The Annals of Iowa* 76 (2017), 349-350.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.12411>

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Bushwhackers: Guerrilla Warfare, Manhood, and the Household in Civil War Missouri, by Joseph M. Beilein Jr. The Civil War Era in the South. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 2016. xiv, 283 pp. Maps, table, illustrations, appendixes, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.95 hardcover.

Reviewer Kathleen Gorman is professor of history at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Her research has focused on Reconstruction in the New South.

Missouri, like most border states, was torn apart by guerrilla warfare and internal strife during the Civil War. Guerrilla warfare has been the subject of many works and has been both romanticized and demonized. Recent works have emphasized the brutality of the rebels and how their tactics fit into warfare in the West against Native Americans and ultimately contaminated American tactics in such places as Vietnam. Except for a few biographies of some of the more famous leaders, however, very little has been written specifically about the lives of the guerrillas themselves. *Bushwhackers* is an attempt to change that, using some very modern approaches and focusing solely on the Confederate side.

Author Joseph Beilein analyzes many aspects of the guerrillas' lives — their households, families, labor practices, food, clothes, horses, guns, and physical environment — to illustrate how they were a product of their time and culture and can only be understood by better understanding their world. He discusses the role of gender and the ideas about masculinity that allowed the men to both believe in romantic love and scalp their enemies without ever sacrificing their manhood or even worrying about doing so. Not surprisingly, the two most famous guerrillas, William Quantrill and "Bloody Bill" Anderson, receive special attention.

Missouri's guerrillas believed that they were fighting to protect their households and especially their women. In turn, their households and women provided material support for them, support designed to help them succeed. "Guerrilla shirts, in particular, were made by women to provide young men with protection from the elements" (105). Men and women needed each other in order to successfully resist the Union. Beilein discusses the many ways those interactions figured into all aspects of the lives of the guerrillas.

The work is organized topically. This strategy allows for a detailed discussion of each of the major topics mentioned above, but it makes it difficult to follow a narrative thread of what the guerrillas were doing when. For example, Federal policies such as General Orders 10 and 11 (the government's attempts to deprive the guerrillas of resources and support) are mentioned in multiple chapters, but it is never clear what actual impact they had (other than as motivation).

One of the issues with looking so intently at any one group of men and their lives is that it is tempting to empathize with them no matter

their actions. The author suggests that we need to increase our understanding of the guerrilla's world, for "only then will our fears of this killer subside, allowing us to see him as something other than just a curiosity and specimen" (13). But it is never clear, considering the brutality of some of their actions, that fear is not the appropriate response.

One is not likely to find a more comprehensive examination of the cultural lives of the guerrilla soldiers of Missouri. For scholars working on any local history topic, Beilein provides a model of using census and other official records to take a deep dive into any particular segment of a community. *Bushwhackers* allows readers to see every aspect of how these men lived, loved, fought, and ultimately died.

The Sacred Cause of Union: Iowa in the Civil War, by Thomas R. Baker. Iowa and the Midwest Experience Series. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2016. vi, 285 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, index. \$27.50 paperback.

Reviewer William B. Feis is professor of history at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. He is working on an anthology of interpretive work on Iowa's role in the Civil War.

In *The Sacred Cause of Union: Iowa in the Civil War*, Thomas R. Baker examines the complex and, in many ways, unique wartime experiences of a key state in the so-called New West (2). Baker argues that a "one-state approach" can deepen our understanding of how Iowans dealt with the burdens and horrors of war at the front and at home by examining "demographic background, local enlistment trends, battlefield participation, gender conflict, election results, and the politics of dissent" (1). The Civil War also brought other critical issues to the surface in Iowa, including slavery, racism, equality, and the nature of citizenship. The author skillfully weaves together these many threads to explain how and why Iowans responded to the events that shaped the state and its future. Baker also demonstrates the value of the "one-state approach" in his revealing discussion of how the state recruited, organized, armed, equipped, fed, cared for, trained, and paid for its men-in-arms at a time when the Federal government exercised minimal control over those matters. Additionally, he deepens the reader's connection to the story by expertly weaving into the narrative the experiences of six Iowa families from diverse economic, social, geographic, racial, and political backgrounds, including the families of humanitarian Annie Wittenmyer and civil rights pioneer Alexander Clark.

Most chapters are well-argued, engagingly written, cohesive, and even enlightening, although the first encounter with the book—the introduction—is somewhat cumbersome because the subtopics discussed