

The Guerrilla Hunters: Irregular Conflicts during the Civil War

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In this volume, however, Neely's arguments can also be a bit frustrating. In perhaps the most important scholarly contribution, the essay on the election of 1862, Neely's evidence often feels thin. While he references other states, including Iowa, on occasion, Neely draws most of his evidence from his home state of Pennsylvania. He acknowledges this, arguing that it was a "crucial state in all national electoral calculations," but that is an unsatisfying justification given the wide variety of state-level experiences during the war, especially between the eastern and western states. An ambitious graduate student would do well to follow up on Neely's argument with a more national approach.

The other element missing from the book is the war itself. One would scarcely realize from these pages that battles were being fought and thousands of men were losing their lives. Granted, Neely is a political historian, and the focus of this work is politics. Still, one cannot write about wartime politics without acknowledging what is happening on the battlefield. Those events help shape politics, after all, just as political calculations help shape what happens in the field. This oversight becomes glaringly apparent in the chapter on the Democratic Party and racism. Most of the chapter is a fascinating study based on the attitudes of the Democratic press (though not political pamphlets, which seems like a relevant oversight). The latter part of the chapter, though, is dedicated to the 1864 election. Precious little attention is paid to the sagging morale of northern civilians in the summer of that year because of the real and perceived failures of the Union armies. The fall of Atlanta goes entirely unremarked upon, even though it was a major victory that re-energized support for the war and revived Lincoln's political fortunes.

This book, then, is a mixed bag. Neely's arguments are stimulating and, as always, worth taking seriously, but he leaves enough un-addressed that he doesn't make his cases airtight. On the other hand, what Neely has done, at the very least, is to lay a trail of bread crumbs for his intellectual heirs to follow. And, really, what many scholars want to do is start a discussion. Neely has succeeded wildly in that regard.

The Guerrilla Hunters: Irregular Conflicts during the Civil War, edited by Brian D. McKnight and Barton A. Myers. *Conflicting Worlds: New Dimensions of the American Civil War*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2017. xx, 399 pp. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$49.95 hardcover.

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

This collection of 15 essays offers a wide variety of approaches to the study of irregular or guerrilla warfare during the Civil War. Kenneth

Noe's foreword lays out the three themes most of the essays address: guerrilla warfare was not a sideshow but rather a central aspect of the war; it is not easily categorized or defined, and its practitioners had diverse motivations; and ultimately there was no clear line between irregular and regular soldiers or between guerrillas and those who hunted them. Together, these essays offer Civil War historians new approaches not only to the study of guerrilla warfare but to the war as a whole and provide local historians new ways to examine the impact of irregular warfare on local communities and new ways to study those who supported and opposed the guerrilla fighters.

Most of the essays deal with irregular warfare on the local or regional level, including topics such as alcohol and the guerrilla war in Missouri and the impact of the environment on both guerrillas and guerrilla hunters in the trans-Mississippi region. One of the local essays that has the potential to help local historians with a new approach to their work is Aaron Astor's "Who is 'Tinker Dave' Beaty?" Astor uses traditional historical sources such as maps, census documents, and military records, as well as the newer approach of social network analysis, to identify the members of Beaty's Independent Scouts, a combination of approaches that could be applied to study local communities.

An exception to the local studies is Barton Myers's excellent essay "Partisan Ranger Petitions," which examines the Confederate government's attempt to recruit men for partisan ranger units beginning in 1862. While a number of such petitions were approved, the effort ultimately proved to be unsatisfying to both the government and the regular army, although not to the men who formed and joined such units. The units proved to be too hard to control and hurt the overall recruiting effort for the regular Confederate army and were thus ended in February 1864.

Several of the essays focus on individual guerrillas or those who have been called guerrillas. Brian Steel Willis successfully refutes the myth that Nathaniel Bedford Forrest was in any way associated with irregular warriors. John Gatewood, northern Georgia's warlord (not a true Confederate guerrilla), and the fate of Lawrence massacre participant Larkin Skaggs are also the subject of individual essays.

One of the standout essays in the collection is Laura Davis's "Irregular Naval Warfare along the Lower Mississippi," which discusses naval guerrilla attacks throughout the war. More than 40 Union warships were destroyed in organized attacks by Confederate sympathizers who usually had previous naval experience and were closely tied to the local community. They were so successful that Union authorities reacted harshly and local shipowners increased their own patrols but were still unable to stop the attacks.

Most of the essays focus on the Confederate side, but a few do concern the behavior of Union soldiers and Union irregulars. The Union's treatment of Southern women during its occupation of the South and how that treatment crossed the line of acceptable behavior is the topic of Lisa Frank's "The Union War on Women." In "Challenging the Union Citizen-Soldier Ideal," Andrew Lang examines how the activities of Confederate guerrillas changed the behavior and ideals of Union soldiers. The Lieber Code may have technically governed their activities, but they were forced (not always unwillingly) to adapt to the different ways the war was being fought in different areas. The concept of hard war ultimately meant that in some areas there were no rules, and it became all but impossible to differentiate between regular and irregular soldiers.

The broadest essay is Earl Hess's "Civil War Guerrillas in a Global, Comparative Context," which largely discusses Spanish guerrillas in the Napoleonic Wars and their Confederate counterparts along with a discussion of guerrilla warfare since the Civil War. His overview along with Daniel Sutherland's afterword and the selected bibliography provide excellent ways to put Civil War guerrillas into a larger context and suggest avenues for further study.

The work would have been strengthened by a clearer organization, but overall the essays represent a wealth of topics for scholars interested in any aspect of Civil War military history and make a strong case for including the study of guerrilla warfare in more mainstream Civil War military history.

This Storied River: Legend & Lore of the Upper Mississippi, by Dennis McCann. Madison: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2017. 192 pp. Map, illustrations, bibliography, index. \$20.00 paperback.

Reviewer Patrick Nunnally is coordinator of the River Life Program, part of the Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Minnesota. His Ph.D. dissertation (University of Iowa, 1990) was "Visions of Sustainable Place: Voice, Land, and Culture in Rural America."

There are many books about the history as well as the "legend and lore" of the Mississippi River, so it's fair to ask why another one is needed. Dennis McCann's slim volume holds its own, for the most part, in this literature. Although he does not offer new insights or a sharply distinctive perspective on the events, places, and people he describes, he does reliably point his readers in the direction of further information. As befits a retired travel writer, McCann also liberally suggests places to visit to learn more about the river's history and points the way to websites and other sources.