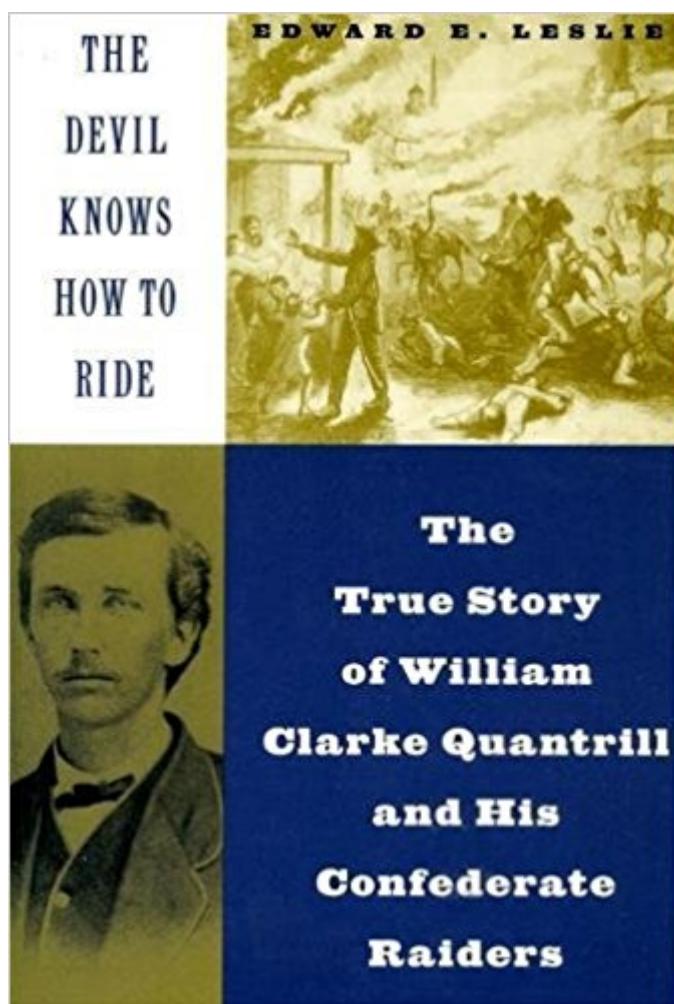


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The Devil Knows How To Ride: The True Story Of William Clarke Quantrill And His Confederate Raiders



Synopsis

Brilliantly weaving together eyewitness accounts, letters, memories, newspaper articles, and military reports into a riveting narrative, this definitive biography reveals the personality of William Clarke Quantrill (1837-1865) and the events that transformed a quiet Ohio schoolteacher from a staunchly Unionist family into a virulent pro-slavery Confederate soldier and the most feared and despised guerrilla chieftain of the Civil War. This groundbreaking work includes the most accurate account ever written of the 1863 Lawrence, Kansas massacre (the greatest atrocity of the Civil War), when Quantrill and 450 raiders torched the Unionist town and executed roughly 200 unarmed, unresisting men and teenage boys. It also details the postwar outlaw careers of those who rode with him—Frank and Jesse James, and Cole Younger. No other history so fully penetrates the myth of a cardboard-cutout psychopath to expose Quantrill in all his brutality and human complexity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

William Clarke Quantrill was quite possibly the most dangerous man to fight in the Civil War. The leader of an almost psychopathic band of guerrilla warriors, Quantrill participated as a Confederate in a deadly border war between Southern sympathizers in Missouri and the Unionist Jayhawks of Kansas. He was largely responsible for the 1863 massacre of nearly 200 unresisting men and boys in Lawrence, Kansas, as well as dozens of other brutal acts that today would be called terrorism. Among the notorious men who rode with him were Frank and Jesse James, whose postwar crime careers are briefly reviewed. Edward E. Leslie provides an objective treatment of his controversial

subject, and readers will appreciate his ability to tell a good story--including the one about why Quantrill's bones currently rest in three different states and why a forensically correct wax reconstruction of his head can be found in the refrigerator of an Ohio historical society. --John J. Miller

Confederate "partisan ranger" Quantrill, known for senseless killing, led his band of guerrillas on constant raids against Union forces and sympathizers in Missouri and Kansas. His most notorious attack was on Lawrence, Kansas, as he turned his men loose to murder and loot as they pleased, leaving the town in ruins and strewn with corpses. Leslie (Desperate Journeys, Abandoned Souls: The True Stories of Maroons, Castaways and Other Survivors, LJ 10/1/88) provides a comprehensive story of Quantrill and his raiders, beginning with the Kansas-Missouri border wars all the way through the Civil War and ending with annual guerrilla reunions into the early 1900s. Along the way, he discusses such notorious Quantrill followers as Frank and Jesse James and Cole Younger. Leslie attempts a balanced view of the infamous guerrilla leader, portraying his willingness to kill while dispelling myths surrounding him. This is a good place to begin a study of Quantrill; recommended for academic and public libraries. ?Grant A. Frederickson, Illinois Prairie Dist. P.L., Metamora

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Very detailed and thoroughly researched. Although it describes a brutal and bloody period of time in Kansas and Missouri, the description was handled matter-of-fact and historic rather than sensational.

True insight of the agony of Civil War guerrilla warfare. Totally off the grid of organized military activity. Only written history gives you their ages of late teens to young adults. Unbelievable chaos.

I went to KU in Lawrence so I was well aware of Quantrill's raid but that was about all that I was aware of. (Pioneer Cemetery with headstone inscriptions bearing witness to that raid is just across I70 from KU on Mount Oread.) When studying the American Civil War in school one learns about Gettysburg, Antietam, Petersburg and the fighting in the Shenandoah of Virginia. Some passing mention might be made of the war in the west, usually a reference to Grant and Vicksburg. There is hardly if ever any mention of the 'border war' in eastern Kansas and western Missouri. The border war is still alive in that part of the nation; the massacre at Baxter Springs and General Order

Number 11 that emptied a number of counties of citizens in western Missouri to combat bands of guerillas is still in the memory of many. Not all of the fighting was in the east and Edward Leslie does a fine job of bringing to life a bit of the war in the west. It was as nasty if not nastier than anything in the east.

A excellent book on a tragic yet little known part of the Civil War. There was good & evil on both sides of this war. I would highly recommend this book to everyone who wants to understand what happened.

it was purchased for a paper on the Confederate Guerilla and it was a good source on the Western guerilla wars

I bought this book for my husband and he stated it was the best book he has ever read. He is passing it around to all of his friends.

I am a history fanatic and I loved this book. It is about a time of which I did not have a lot of knowledge and this was so well done. I am sorry Mr. Leslie doesn't have more books as he is an excellant story teller.

This is a classic study in depth study into the mind of the 19th century guerrilla in the War Between the States. To understand counterinsurgency of today or to understand the reasons insurgents fight, you must delve into their world.

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