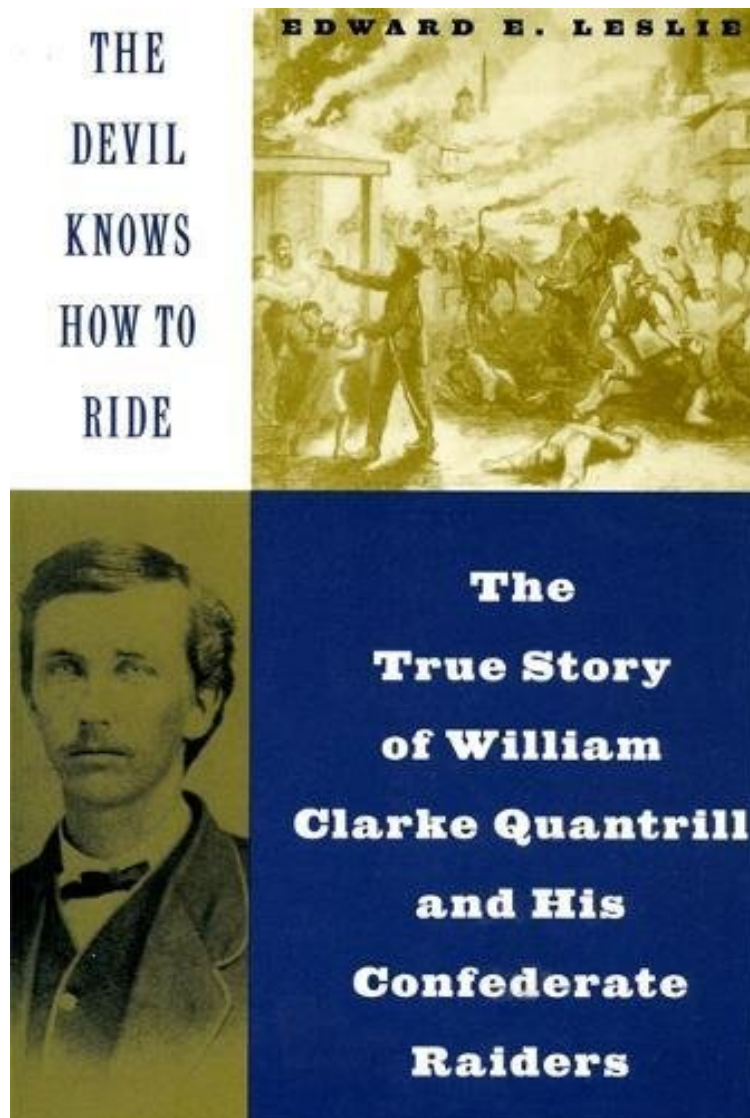


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The Devil Knows How To Ride: The True Story Of William Clarke Quantril And His Confederate Raiders

Edward E. Leslie

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Edward E. Leslie : The Devil Knows How To Ride: The True Story Of William Clarke Quantril And His Confederate Raiders before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Devil Knows How To Ride: The True Story Of William Clarke Quantril And His Confederate Raiders:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Quantrell really was the devilBy HalThis is an awful story, but it's

one that Americans should be aware of as it shows how bad things can be without a law and order in our society. I wish the book was available as an audiobook, but I was able to use the CD;s without much effort. I am glad that I was able to read the book and learn more about this bit of American history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thorough and well researched By Carol S. 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. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Civil war Guerrilla Warfare. By Paul B. Martin 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.

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.

.com 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 From Library Journal 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. Fredericksen, Illinois Prairie Dist. P.L., Metamora Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus s One of two action-packed works about the notorious border ruffian and Confederate guerrilla to be published this season (see Duane Schultz's *Quantrill's War: The Life and Times of William Clarke Quantrill*, p. 1134). Little has survived in Quantrill's hand, writes freelance historian Leslie (*Desperate Journeys, Abandoned Souls*, 1988): a few letters home, a couple of commemorative verses, an eight-paragraph military report. It is thus not easy to determine what motivated the man who terrorized the abolitionists of Kansas before and during the Civil War. Born in Ohio to a Unionist family who opposed slavery, he seems to have been converted to the Southern cause while working as a freighter in Utah Territory during the Mormon War, and he embraced the cause with ferocious energy. A part-time cattle rustler when the Civil War broke out, Quantrill, writes Leslie, seems to have had a streak of cruelty--a wartime associate recalls that he once shot a pig just to make it squeal--that served him well in his campaign of terror. Many thousands of deaths can be attributed to his guerrilla command, including the 150 civilians slain during his infamous 1863 raid on Lawrence, Kan. "I would cover the armies of the Confederacy all over with blood," he wrote to a superior. "I would invade. I would reward audacity. I would exterminate. . . . I would win the independence of my people or I would find them graves." Quantrill rode into infamy, dying at the age of 27 near the war's end; his notoriety was assured both because of his own depredations and because among his soldiers were Frank and Jesse James and the Cole brothers, who were to become famous outlaws. Leslie does a remarkably thorough job of telling Quantrill's bloody story, and especially of relating the grisly fate of his remains, which the author traces as they traveled over the next century from one burial site to another, with an intermediate stop at an Ohio fraternity house. Highly recommended for Civil War buffs and students of frontier history. (Author tour) -- Copyright ©1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.