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The genesis of this project began with a long-ago conversation lamenting the fact that the paths of scholars of nineteenth-century Missouri and Kansas rarely intersected, and their work seldom crossed “the border.” These artificial academic silos made little sense to us; as residents and scholars of the region, we strongly believed that the academic discourse shouldn’t stop at a manmade state line. We decided to figure out a way to stimulate scholarly conversations that would emphasize the importance of the Civil War story in the border region and to help forge connections across both real and imaginary divides.

This is how one historian of northern antebellum politics employed by the University of Kansas and a historian of slavery in Missouri employed by the University of Missouri–Kansas City hoped to facilitate such a conversation and so convened an unusual group of distinguished experts on both histories who met in two intellectually nurturing conferences to present new research on the conflict on the western border. This group of scholars first gathered in the spring of 2011 at the Hall Center for the Humanities at the University of Kansas to present their preliminary findings. Instead of papers read from a podium, the draft papers were precirculated and workshopped for two full days. The entire group then reconvened at the Kansas City Public Library in the fall of 2011 for two and a half days of public presentations of revised scholarship. The outpouring of interest from the general public on both sides of the state line was nothing short of inspiring. Nearly 300 people attended Michael Fellman’s keynote address on the first evening of the Kansas City conference, and the same number stuck around during the two full days of presentations. To hear academics present their research! This is not entirely surprising given the fascinating
topic, the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, the relevance of guerrilla warfare to America’s present-day military conflicts, and the intense level of historical education and interest locally, but to us this attention and the quality of the scholarship produced merited a wider diffusion of the findings. Hence, this volume.

A number of regional institutions, as well as supportive individuals, played key roles in bringing this top-notch public programming and scholarly content to a greater audience. The Border Wars Scholars Symposium and Public Conference were in the planning stages for many years. We carefully structured the scholarly content of the volume, making sure that we invited scholars who represented the histories of both Kansas and Missouri and whose work was chronologically expansive. We also leveraged the financial and logistical support of our universities, as well as historical and cultural agencies and historical-minded philanthropic foundations in the region. This project would not have come to fruition without their tremendous support.

Special thanks go to Victor Bailey, the director of the Hall Center, for hosting the Lawrence workshop, as well as to Ted Wilson and Jennifer Weber for allowing our group briefly to take over their running Seminar in Peace, War, and Global Change. Jeanie Wulfkuhle of the Hall Center deftly organized all of the details for the two lovely days that the border war scholars spent at the Hall Center.

The 2011 Border Wars Conference at the Kansas City Public Library helped to launch the region’s commemoration of the Civil War sesquicentennial. Although located in Missouri, the library remains the intellectual and cultural heart of the Kansas City region, and was the perfect place to host such a conference. Early in the planning stages, we approached library director R. Crosby Kemper III, and he enthusiastically agreed both to host and to financially support the project. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to him and to KCPL director of public affairs Henry Fortunato, who helped to make the public conference a smashing success. Todd Boyer and the able library staff managed all of the logistical pieces of the conference, including operational details, travel arrangements, and publicity.

It is a pleasure at long last to acknowledge the tireless work of Judy Billings, former director of Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area, who has long supported this project. With the financial support of the Freedom’s Frontier board, Judy agreed to host dinners for the scholars in both Lawrence and Kansas City. She also introduced us to Mary Cohen, who
provided generous and timely financial support for the project through the Barton P. and Mary C. Cohen Charitable Trust. Julie McPike and Fred Conboy of FFNHA have continued to offer aid and sustenance to the project after Judy's retirement.

The history departments at both the University of Kansas, chaired by Paul Kelton, and the University of Missouri–Kansas City, chaired by Gary Ebersole, lent their support to the Border Wars project. The UMKC Bernardin Haskell Lectures Fund, through the support of Deans Karen Vorst and Wayne Vaught, underwrote Michael Fellman's keynote address at the Kansas City conference. The UMKC High School/College Partnerships program also hosted a luncheon for the local teachers who attended the conference in Kansas City, where they learned from the scholars how best to teach about the Civil War in this region. UMKC colleagues John Herron, Louis Potts, Mary Ann Wynkoop, Cynthia Jones, and especially Amy Brost, generously helped with various organizational aspects of the public conference. Lastly, as part of its mission to promote new scholarship of the region, UMKC's Center for Midwestern Studies lent financial support to both the conference and the production of this volume.

We are grateful to Gary Kremer, director of the State Historical Society of Missouri, who supported this project from the start and who helped fund the Kansas City conference, and to Gary, Virgil Dean, and William Piston, who joined us in Kansas City to serve as moderators of panels at the conference.

We also would like to thank Fred Woodward, the director of the University Press of Kansas, who took a chance by publishing yet another example of that dreaded product of academic publishing: the coedited anthology. The collection benefited greatly from the thoughtful comments provided by William Piston and Kenneth Winkle, both of whom supported publication and provided excellent constructive criticisms. Larisa Martin and Carol A. Kennedy helped get the book out on a timetable that neither of us had seen in academic publishing.

Thanks to both Leslie Tuttle and David Burke for graciously putting up with the dozens of phone calls, emails, and meetings that were necessary to organize two conferences and edit this volume. We often joked that we put about as much work and planning into organizing this project as we would a decent-sized wedding. As a seasoned volume editor, Leslie deserves special thanks for steering us away from potential pitfalls and providing always-sound advice for moving the process forward.
Finally, this project would never have come to fruition without the intrepid band of border wars scholars. To our delight, each fully bought into both the concept of the project and the process we laid out for it. Nearly every scholar who we approached agreed to participate, and in the end fifteen historians, including the two of us, twice took time out of their busy teaching and research schedules to travel to “the border” to present original work about this region’s history. Each worked countless hours on multiple drafts of their essays and graciously submitted to a rigorous peer-review process at both the Hall Center symposium and at the University Press of Kansas. There was not a single slacker in this group—each pulled his or her weight and met numerous deadlines. It was a joy to work with them, and we are so grateful for the new friendships that we forged along the way.

A somber note marred the preparation of this volume when Michael Fellman died unexpectedly in June 2012. We invited Michael to deliver the keynote address for the conference because we wanted to recognize him as one of the first scholars to examine the Civil War on the border in all of its complexity. We rightly believed that he would provide an excellent and unique perspective on the state of the scholarship that has been produced since the publication of his path-breaking book, *Inside War*, almost a quarter century ago. As he did with all his passions, Michael enthusiastically dove into the project, participating at every stage at a level seldom seen from senior scholars. He closely read each of the essays and actively engaged in the process of peer review. He also gamely produced an original piece of scholarship specifically for the conference. In short, he was a mensch, and we will miss his historical insights, his caustic wit, and his unique combination of worldly pessimism about “the way things are” and a *joie de vivre* those who had the pleasure of knowing him found inspiring. It is to his memory that we dedicate this volume.

*JE and DMB*
Bleeding Kansas,
Bleeding Missouri
Introduction

Revisiting the Long Civil War on the Border

Jonathan Earle and Diane Mutti Burke

Forest Hill Cemetery is a sprawling necropolis located in Kansas City, Missouri, less than two miles from the Kansas state line—a border that is almost meaningless today but that 150 years ago formed a porous and portentous boundary between slavery and freedom, North and South, Union and Confederate. There, a short walk from the graves of notable Kansas Citiens including jazz-age mayor Tom Pendergast and Negro Leagues baseball greats Satchel Paige and Buck O’Neill, is an impressive monument to fallen Confederate soldiers from the Battle of Westport, which was fought on these very grounds. The Civil War battle, often called “the Gettysburg of the West,” was the largest military engagement this side of the Mississippi (30,000 men were engaged on October 23, 1864), and represented the turning point of Confederate General Sterling Price’s Missouri expedition.

Although there are Union dead also buried at Forest Hill, few would be able to find their markers. This is because sites like Forest Hill and the Confederate Memorial State Historic Site an hour east of Kansas City in Higginsville are 100 percent dedicated to the “Lost Cause.” Indeed, the markers at Forest Hill are dedicated to telling the story of Confederate General Jo Shelby’s Last Stand that, during the Battle of Westport, allowed General Price’s army to escape the battlefield. Shelby himself also retreated that October day, and when the Confederacy began to topple he buried his battle flags in the Rio Grande and, with 600 fellow militants, entered Mexico to plant the gringo colony of “Carlota” near Vera Cruz. After the dismal failure of the colony, Shelby returned to the border region (settling in rural Bates County, Missouri) in 1867. Shortly before his death in 1898, Shelby apologized for his role in the border conflict to the Kansas historian William E. Connelley, saying “I went there to kill Free State men. I did kill them. . . . I am now ashamed of myself for having done so, but then times were different from what they are now.” Interestingly, the former Confed-
erate went on to endorse the violence committed by his abolitionist foes: “I say John Brown was right. He did in his country what I would have done in mine in like circumstances. Those were the days when slavery was in the balance and the violence engendered made men irresponsible.” Despite this unusual recantation, Shelby’s final resting place is a stone’s throw from the towering monument to the Old South at Forest Hill.

A bookend of sorts to the imposing Confederate monument in Kansas City is the more modest “Quantrill Monument” in Lawrence, Kansas’, Oak Hill Cemetery, closer to the west than Higginsville is to the east. This monument was erected in 1886 and according to the front of the marker is “dedicated to the Memory of the One Hundred and Fifty Citizens who Defenseless Fell Victims to the Inhuman Ferocity of the Border Guerillas [sic] Led by the Infamous [William Clark] Quantrell [sic] in his Raid upon Lawrence August 21, 1863.” Just as Missouri Lost-Cauers continued to celebrate the Confederacy in what was, of course, a border state that never left the Union, the citizens of Lawrence refused to forget the raid by Confederate guerrillas led by Quantrill who massacred a lion’s share of that antislavery town’s male population.

These memories preserved in stone reflect Kansans’ and Missourians’ postwar interpretations of the history of the Civil War on the border. Perhaps it is understandable that emotions were still raw in the years directly after the war, but it is more difficult to comprehend how such a simple view of the conflict—all white Missourians supported slavery and the Confederacy and all white Kansans were freedom-loving abolitionists who were victimized by Confederate guerrillas—to some degree persists 150 years later. Missing from this memory is the complex story of the earlier history of the two states and the violent conflict that erupted along the political line that divided them.

Beginning in the years following the War of 1812, settlers from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia flooded into the bottomlands of the Missouri River, bringing with them the cultural values of the Upper South. Many also brought their slaves. During the following decades, these upland Southerners established a society in their western world with small-scale slavery at its core. Over time the population of the state became increasingly more diverse, however, as German and Irish immigrants and settlers from northern states moved into the region. Many of the new arrivals had a different
vision for Missouri, encouraging early industrial development in St. Louis and promoting new railroad ties that would connect western Missouri to the Northeast and the Upper Midwest.

As the nation grew, tens of thousands of people passed through western Missouri on the way west on the Santa Fe, California, and Oregon Trails. The Kansas-Missouri border became a bustling crossroads where merchandise, cultures, and beliefs mixed and changed to take on a character of their own. But when Congress opened up white settlement across the state line in Kansas in 1854 this cultural and political diversity took on a new resonance. Americans held divergent visions for the future of the new Kansas Territory, largely based on their beliefs about liberty and freedom. Settlers possessing these conflicting ideas flocked into the territory, some traveling from nearby Missouri and the border South and others from as far away as New England in a literal playing out of the policy Stephen A. Douglas called “popular sovereignty.”

Bitter feuding turned to open hostilities on the Kansas-Missouri border well before the firing on Fort Sumter. Violence first erupted in Kansas as free soil and proslavery settlers vied to stake land claims and erect a new territorial government. The nation watched as the residents of Kansas Territory and Missouri attempted to resolve the question of the extension of slavery that had so long stymied elected leaders in Washington. When proslavery congressman Preston Brooks beat Massachusetts senator Charles Sumner unconscious for innuendo within his speech “The Crime against Kansas,” even the halls of Congress were no longer safe from the forces unleashed on the border.

Free soil forces eventually won the battle and Kansas joined the Union as a free state in 1861, but only after southern members who had long blocked its applications for statehood resigned their seats. Still, bitter memories of the border’s violent conflict simmered beneath the surface and, after the Civil War began, erupted in an even more virulent form. It was now Missouri’s turn to bleed as the growing internal divisions existing before the war and the presence of hostile forces on the western border turned the state into the scene of vicious guerrilla warfare. Western Missouri civilians—both black and white—were caught in the crossfire as Union and Confederate troops fought for control of the state and Bushwhackers and Jayhawkers ravaged the countryside.
The experiences of Missouri and Kansas residents during the era of the border war is a window on the issues and circumstances that shattered the union during the Civil War. After all, it was on the Kansas-Missouri border that Americans first grappled with the problem of liberty and slavery face to face—some even shedding blood in the interest of their cause. What was it that made the Civil War—including its prelude in “Bleeding Kansas” and long postbellum memory—so unique on the Kansas-Missouri border? Why did it become, in the words of the late historian Michael Fellman, the worst guerrilla war in American history? After all, the men and women on both sides of the border spoke the same language, worshiped the same God, and lived under the same flag. As Fellman wrote in his astonishing contribution to this collection—his last piece of scholarship in a much-lauded career—the war “became an endless cycle of robbery, arson, torture, murder, mutilation, an endless cycle of revenge and revenge and revenge. While using the most brutal and ruthless physical means, men and women . . . victimized one another, lied, dehumanized their enemies, lost all empathy and retreated into numbness, and buried their consciences behind a high, hard wall of utter antipathy.” Indeed, the war on the border became a true beliium omnium contra omnes—a war of all against all, a conflict Thomas Hobbes memorably gave to human existence in the state of nature in his 1651 masterpiece Leviathan. Could a society so fragmented by ideology and violent conflict ultimately reconcile and rebuild upon different lines?

Books on the Civil War take up row upon row on library shelves, but the real estate devoted to the war in the trans-Mississippi West is relatively modest. Geographically distant from the major theaters of war and so considered a marginal story by many, the border region by and large has received limited attention from national Civil War scholars. In most people’s minds, Gettysburg and Antietam win out over Wilson’s Creek and Westport in significance. Even so, throughout the years a number of academic and professional writers have focused their attention on the political and military history of the conflict in the region, as well as the guerrilla conflict that raged along the border.

This focus on the history of the war on the Kansas-Missouri border developed within years of the war’s end, although much of it was largely confined to the actual residents of the border region. A number of former border war participants, including politicians, such as Kansas governor
Charles Robinson, and guerrilla warriors, such as John Edwards and Cole Younger, published personal accounts of their wartime activities in an effort to shape the history to portray their side in a favorable light. Historians Wiley Britton and William Connelley also worked to define the early historical understanding of the military operations in the border region, as well as the first comprehensive account of William Quantrill’s wartime activities.2

The first substantial scholarly treatments of the border conflict were not written until after the Second World War, however, when historians such as Richard Brownlee, Albert Castel, Jay Monaghan, and William Parrish published political and military histories of the Civil War in the border region, with a special focus on guerrilla leaders and their activities. Others, such as Alice Nichols and Allen Crafton, explored the history of the Kansas Territorial conflict and the state’s involvement in the Civil War. The market for books on Missouri’s Confederate guerrillas has endured to this day. In recent decades, the publication of guerrillas’ original accounts, as well as histories of the conflict by authors such as Donald Gilmore, Thomas Goodrich, Edward Leslie, and Albert Castel, have added to the growing literature on the border conflict. By and large, these books profiled key border war personalities—all who were white male political or military leaders—and significant events and military actions such as Quantrill’s Raid on Lawrence and General Thomas Ewing’s General Order No. 11. Few of these works married the story of the political and military conflict along the border with the social history of the diverse people who lived in the region. In addition, this scholarship rarely examined the history of the region as a whole and instead concentrated the story on one side or the other.3

A few scholars have been willing to cross over both historical and geographic lines. These newer studies are increasingly expansive and use the conflict along the Kansas-Missouri border as a lens through which to examine the larger issues facing the nation during this crucial period in American history. Michael Fellman’s foundational Inside War, published in 1990, was one such early effort to bring the story of Missouri’s guerrilla conflict into the national scholarly conversation about the Civil War. Traditionally, social and military historians ran along parallel tracks, rarely making the crucial connections between the experiences of those living on the home front and of those fighting the war or between high politics and the power struggles of everyday people. Fellman artfully connected the mili-
tary, social, and political history of the war in the region as he explained how young men might engage in violence against perceived enemies with whom they shared much in common. As he suggested in his symposium keynote address, this essential question continues to plague us today as Americans find themselves immersed in yet another in a long list of military engagements dominated by guerrilla insurgencies.4

More recently, there has been a resurgence in the study of the Civil War on the western border in part because of this contemporary resonance but also because of an emerging recognition by scholars that it is crucial to integrate the social, military, intellectual, and political history of the era in order to fully understand the conflict. The Kansas-Missouri border region, where warfare daily seeped into everyday life, is a wonderful laboratory for examining the interplay between these important historical forces. As Christopher Phillips explains, so much of what the Civil War eventually became—a “total” war in which the army engaged the civilian population—was in play along the border from the earliest days of the war. As a number of historians, such as Nicole Etcheson, Jonathan Earle, and Tony R. Mullis, make clear, these issues were put into motion on the prairies of Kansas even before the “actual” war began.5

In the last decade, scholars have increasingly worked to connect the conflict along the Kansas-Missouri border to the story of the larger war. An examination of warfare in the border region is an excellent vantage point for understanding the political and social conflicts that shook the nation during the era of the Civil War. Liminal geographic spaces increasingly have intrigued historians. In the Kansas-Missouri border region, diverse people with divergent ideas lived among one another and worked to create homes and communities in spite of their differences. Eventually their visions for the future of the region collided and virulent violence erupted. Both Stanley Harrold and Daniel Sutherland profiled the Kansas-Missouri border conflict in their comprehensive studies of how political conflict turned into violence in America’s border regions, through their examination of the fight between antislavery and proslavery forces in the years before the war and the emergence of guerrilla warfare during the war itself. Other scholars explored how the region’s border location influenced the way that residents lived and how they engaged in the violent conflict that engulfed their region. Diane Mutti Burke examined the ways in which slavery developed differently in Missouri because of its border location. Kristen Tegtmeier Oertel described how the activities of Native Americans,
African Americans, and white women influenced the emerging political conflict in Territorial Kansas, while LeeAnn Whites argued that secessionist women provided crucial material support for Missouri guerrillas. Christopher Phillips, Mark Geiger, T. J. Stiles, and Aaron Astor also described the motivations and politics of Missouri’s southern sympathizers, and William Piston and Louis Gerteis examined the military history of the region along with social analysis of the soldiers who fought and the communities that supported them. With the exception of Jeremy Neely, who explored the Civil War history of the Kansans and Missourians who lived in the counties straddling both sides of the state line, few scholars have attempted to explore the many connections between border residents.

Over the years, historians of Missouri and Kansas have written about the Civil War along the border, but few have attempted to examine the region in conversation with each other. Bleeding Kansas, Bleeding Missouri brings together the efforts of fifteen scholars who are interested in expanding our understanding of the history of this important region, as well as describing the ways border residents interacted. Taken together, the essays examine the history of the region holistically and in all of its complexity by focusing on the experiences of the diverse people who lived on both sides of the state line. These essays define both what united and what divided the men and women who lived in the region and how their political disagreements ultimately disintegrated into violence. They also present the story from a number of angles—military, social, intellectual, and political. Lastly, the collection traces the history of the conflict from its earliest days until well after the physical war was over, when the memory of the conflict was shaped by border residents’ contemporary concerns.

We have divided the collection into three sections. In Part I, “Slavery and the Politics of Law and Order along the Border,” the essays examine how the border region was transformed by the conflict over the status of slavery in Kansas Territory. Kristen K. Epps, in her essay “Before the Border War: Slavery and the Settlement of the Western Frontier, 1825–1845,” describes the society that developed on what was initially the western edge of white American settlement. Slavery figured prominently in the region and, even though it operated on a smaller scale, was an economically and socially flexible institution that was essential to the developing border communities. In “The Goose Question: The Proslavery Party in Territorial
Kansas and the ‘Crisis in Law and Order,’” Nicole Etcheson explains why western Missourians and their proslavery counterparts in eastern Kansas were so threatened by the growing presence of antislavery forces in Territorial Kansas after 1854. Many border residents sincerely believed that free soil settlers were defying the law when they challenged the existence of Kansas’ proslavery legislature. Both Kristen Tegtmeier Oertel and Pearl T. Ponce explore how the emerging conflict on the Kansas-Missouri border took on a larger national significance. In “‘Nigger-Worshipping Fanatics’ and ‘Villain[s] of the Blackest Dye’: Racialized Manhoods and the Sectional Debates,” Oertel shows how both Northerners and Southerners used gendered and racially charged language to vilify—and ultimately dehumanize—their political enemies, and Pearl Ponce, in “‘The Noise of Democracy’: The Lecompton Constitution in Congress and Kansas,” describes the interplay between local and national politics as the conflict over the Lecompton Constitution erupted on the national stage.

What began as a low-level conflict along the border erupted into full-scale warfare during the Civil War. In Part II, “Making the Border Bleed,” the authors explore this transition to total warfare. In “The Illusion of Security: The Governments’ Response to the Jayhawker Threat of Late 1860,” Tony R. Mullis examines the response of the army to the violence perpetrated by free soil guerrilla forces against proslavery settlers in southeastern Kansas in 1859. They never fully arrested the violence, but military leaders nonetheless learned important lessons that they later employed against enemy secessionist guerrillas in Missouri during the Civil War. Jonathan Earle, in “‘If I Went West, I Think I Would Go to Kansas’: Abraham Lincoln, the Sunflower State, and the Election of 1860,” explores the connection between the conflict over the status of slavery in the territories and the national political scene through an examination of Lincoln’s 1860 trip to Kansas—the territory, and the political issue—that brought him back into national politics in the decade before the Civil War.

Other contributors examine the wartime experiences of the diverse people who lived along the Kansas-Missouri border. In “‘A Question of Power Not One of Law’: Federal Occupation and the Politics of Loyalty in the Western Border Slave States during the American Civil War,” Christopher Phillips describes the dilemmas faced by the Union soldiers as they attempted to control and subdue the state. Although Missouri was technically loyal to the Union, a large segment of the civilian population was hos-
tile to what they saw as an illegitimate military occupation. It was neces-
sary to crush the enemy guerrilla insurgency while at the same time trying
not to alienate a civilian population that supported it. In “‘Slavery Dies
Hard’: Enslaved Missourians’ Struggle for Freedom,” Diane Mutti Burke
explores how military occupation, guerrilla violence, and the initiative of
enslaved Missourians ultimately resulted in the destruction of border slav-
ery. In the final essay in Part II, Joseph M. Beilein Jr. describes the strong
economic, political, and social connections between male guerrillas and
the women who supplied them in “The Guerrilla Shirt: A Labor of Love
and the Style of Rebellion in Civil War Missouri.”

Violence decreased after the war’s end, but border residents’ traumatic
wartime experiences left many scars. In Part III, “The Border Reconstructed
and Remembered,” the collection’s authors explore the ways in which bor-
der residents rebuilt their society after the war and how they remembered
it decades later. Both black and white Missourians struggled to reconstitute
their social, political, and labor relations in the aftermath of emancipation.
Aaron Astor, in “The Lexington Weekly Caucasian: White Supremacist Dis-
course in Post–Civil War Western Missouri,” describes the ways in which
white Missourians clung to the racial sensibilities of slavery in spite of
Union victory and the rise of the Republican Party in Missouri, while in
“We Promise to Use the Ballot as We Did the Bayonet’: Black Suffrage
Activism and the Limits of Loyalty in Reconstruction Missouri,” John W.
McKerley describes how black Missourians worked to create a new politi-
cal reality in the state. In “‘A Little Different than in Alabama’: Sectional
Narratives and the Rhetoric of Racist Violence,” Brent M. S. Campney
shows that Kansans also wrestled with racial politics as they fashioned a
new society and government after statehood was achieved. White Kansans
proudly celebrated their free state origins at the same time that discrimi-
nation increased against black Kansans.

Only when Missourians and Kansans eventually embraced a common
vision for their region—one based on shared agricultural practices, ideas
about economic development, and racial inequality—could white residents
on both sides of the border reconcile. Even as they increasingly were
aligned socially and economically, white Missourians and Kansans still
imagined that they were divided and found the explanation for their dif-
fences in the historical border conflict. In “The Quantrill Men Reunions:
The Missouri-Kansas Border War, Fifty Years On,” Jeremy Neely explains
how white Missourians overwhelmingly embraced their Confederate past as they overlooked both the violent activities of irregular Confederate guerrillas and the reality that Missouri officially remained in the Union. For their part, Lawrence citizens were horrified by these annual celebrations of the men who massacred the male citizens of their town. Perhaps in an effort to reconcile and channel their historic animosities, the conflict was transferred to the gridiron during these same years. Jennifer L. Weber explores the ways in which the history of the border war has been used to explain the intensity of the sports rivalry between the University of Missouri and the University of Kansas in “‘William Quantrill Is My Homeboy’: Or, The Border War Goes to College.”

In the final analysis, while unable to examine all aspects of the history of the Kansas-Missouri border war, we have attempted to tell the story of a people, who, although they perceived their differences were many, in reality shared much in common. Even today the belief in the differences lingers—as fans taunt one another across fields of play and as politicians lure companies back and forth over the state line—in spite of the fact that socially, culturally, ethnically, and politically they are remarkably similar. The Kansas-Missouri border continues to have cultural resonance in ways that seem disconnected from Civil War history but just under the surface remain firmly tied to the violence that plagued the region for nearly two decades.