

# 'Gray Ghosts of the Confederacy'

A BOOK BY RICHARD S. BROWNLEE, REVIEWED BY MARY PAXTON KEELEY

To your reviewer, who was born in Independence, Missouri, just twenty-one years after Lee surrendered to Grant, this book comes as a revelation that fits the pieces of an old puzzle in their places. We used to wonder why our neighbors could talk about very little else except "the War," which, of course, means the guerrilla warfare on the border between Kansas and Missouri. In fact, we became so bored with the subject that we ignored it whenever possible almost up to the reading of this book. When held in thrall, we listened most unsympathetically as old family friends told with fascinated horror of the looting, arson, and murder, often the murder of the men in their family. They told of Jennison's *Jayhawkers* and Lane's *Red Legs*, who would swoop down on our town to loot and burn and kill, and sometimes even to carry off scalps.

On the other hand, Quantrill was regarded as a kind of avenging angel, or Robin Hood, who robbed the Yankees and burned their bridges and tore down their railroads in order to succor the gallant General Sterling Price.

There must have been some people in Independence who were horror-struck by Quantrill's massacre at Lawrence, and in its burning, but that was never spoken of, nor was "Bloody Bill" Anderson's massacre

at Centralia of a trainload of unarmed Union soldiers, bound for a furlough, ever spoken of among the Sons and Daughters of the Confederacy. These were conveniently forgotten. When I read this book, much of the bloody, savage warfare in Missouri was news to me, as it will be to many Missourians, who know the history of the rest of the United States better than they do that of their own state.

For such people, Brownlee's book should be required reading, and they will find it an easy book to read, for it is written in a vivid and dramatic style, so infrequently encountered among the books of historians. In spite of being interesting, it is fully documented and represents exhaustive research in documents, old papers, and memoirs. It may prove to be a definitive book unless new material comes to light.

There is not space in this review to take up the policies of the northern and southern armies, though they are fully covered and help fit the puzzles in their places.

There is always an argument about who started the war, but Brownlee believes that the Missourians began it when they rode across the border in great numbers to vote illegally in order to make Kansas a slave state; then Jennison's Jayhawkers, the bloodiest of all the guerrillas rode into Missouri in retaliation.



Tau

George C. Scott

## George C. Scott heads for stardom in big roles

George C. Scott never performed in a stage role until nine years ago when he appeared in a Missouri Workshop play. Today he is hailed by critics as one of the finest young actors in the American theater as he continues to score triumphs on Broadway, in television, and in the movies.

A recent appearance was in a villainous role in "Comes the Day," starring Judith Anderson. It was a short-lived play, although critical reviews praised the quality of acting, and as Frank Aston wrote in the World-Telegram: "George C. Scott committed highway robbery so far as honors were concerned." Walter Kerr of the Herald Tribune said: "Mr. Scott's work is fascinating. The play, unhappily, is never quite able to catch up to it."

Brooks Atkinson of the Times viewed Scott's acting in the role opposite Miss Anderson as a "brilliantly calculated performance" worthy of another of the awards he has received in New York. Richard Watts of the Post wrote: "The characterization of a man who literally goes mad before your eyes is managed with such monstrous power and shocking credibility that the sadist becomes not just a villain of

Missouri can at least be congratulated that its University did not commemorate Quantrill's men by naming its football team for them.

To protect the border against Lane's and Jennison's bloody forays, Quantrill enlisted young fighters, who rode the swiftest horses the Missouri border could provide and carried the deadliest weapons. All this violence, of course, snowballed, until even General Price must have had nightmares about it, although he praised Anderson as well as Quantrill.

Another thing that this book takes up, was the complete suspension of all civil authority from the time of Fremont's first proclamation until the end of the war, during which time provost marshals, many of them venal, took the place of courts and peace officers. Thanks to Quantrill, the mail service was disorganized as well as railroad service.

The book answers another question: Why were not these guerrillas regularly enlisted in the Confederate Army? Brownlee shows the many opportunities offered Quantrill and Anderson to become officers under General Price, and these were always declined, because these bushwhackers did not recognize any authority except that of their leaders, who did not want anyone giving them orders.

The most interesting part of the book is the  
*(continued on next page)*



*Richard S. Brownlee*

Battaglia

melodrama but a terrifying real human being." And John McClain of the *Journal-American* said the play gave Scott "an opportunity to reveal one of the great bravura, flamboyant performances in recent memory. Mr. Scott is the most wonderfully insidious and active heavy we've had around here in many a moon."

The day after the play closed, Scott appeared as Robespierre with Peter Ustinov in "The Empty Chair" on Omnibus. He has made numerous other television appearances.

Scott won the attention of New York critics with his work in the off-Broadway play, "Children of Darkness," for which he received the Clarence Derwent Award, and for his roles as Richard III and as Jacques in "As You Like It." He received drama awards for his performances in the New York Shakespearean Festival, and is being sought for the role of Iago in "Othello," to be presented next summer.

When George Scott played a leading part in "The Winslow Boy" at the University of Missouri in March of 1949, it was his first acting experience. He appeared opposite Pat McClarney, New York actress. He had come to Missouri from Detroit to study journalism and was enrolled at the University from 1949 to 1952. He became "disenchanted" with the idea of being a newspaperman, and turned to acting. While here, he won the Mahan Story Prize in

1951, and was a member of the Purple Mask, honorary dramatic society.

H. Donovan Rhynsburger, professor and chairman of the University's department of speech and dramatic art, recalls that Scott is one of only two student actors to appear in both productions of the Starlight Theater in one season. The Starlight Theater is the summer workshop of the University dramatics department. He had the juvenile lead in "The Show-off" and the character lead in "Laburnam Grove," a real test of his versatility. Other University plays in which Scott appeared included "The Traitor," "Two Blind Mice," and "Shadow and Substance." From 1951 to 1953 he was a member of the resident professional company at Stephens Playhouse.

Scott has completed his first movie role, and it is a prominent one which is certain to further his versatile career. He portrays a religious fanatic in "The Hanging Tree," starring Gary Cooper.

But his career was not always so bright. For several years he toiled in comparative obscurity, playing stock in Toledo, Detroit, Washington, D. C. and Canada. There was also a period of six months in which he pounded on studio gates and agents' doors in Hollywood, with no takers. After his first movie is released, it will come as no surprise if Scott's services are as much in demand for films as they are now for stage and TV.

estimate of these leaders; how they could inspire the kind of loyalty that such leaders always inspire.

Brownlee writes: "Popular interest in the western guerrilla organizations is due to several factors. In the first place, their wild cavalry tactics were of such fabulously dashing, cruel, and mysterious nature that they gave rise in later years to a great body of folklore and legend. Secondly, their deeds were of such relentless and calculated violence it was not possible for their contemporaries to write of them without indulging in wildly controversial condemnation or praise. To persons of Southern sentiment, who lacked western idols, they personified the militant Confederacy and were all Robin Hood heroes. To other men, whose sympathies lay with the North, the guerrillas were only unprincipled thieves, "bushwackers," and pathological criminals. Finally, because of the unique qualities required for leadership, many of the guerrilla officers were strange and fascinating characters, and certain of the men, boys such as Frank and Jesse James and Coleman and James Younger, went on in border history to become legendary figures."

Of Quantrill he writes: "Quantrill was one of the most romantic and controversial figures in the Civil War of the West. . . . All types were drawn together under the baleful command of William Quantrill, a terribly dangerous leader, as he was himself amoral, vicious, and ambitious . . . A singular man, a truly able cavalry leader, yet with such major defects of character as to render him continuously defeated in what might have been a distinguished military career." And of "Bloody Bill" Anderson: "Quickly earning the name of 'Bloody Bill,' he became insane because of the injury to his sisters, and his attitude toward all men who supported or served the Union became that of a homicidal maniac. . . . (on the way to Lawrence) In Bill Anderson's mad, gleaming eyes, there could be seen the desire for revenge . . . (after he was shot) The body of the handsome guerrilla was put in a wagon and put on public display in the court house at Richmond. . . . The bridle of his mount was braided with a human scalp."

Of their foes he writes: "Jim Lane, the Grim Chieftain of Kansas, as he was called, can even in kindness, be described as eminently unscrupulous. . . . Lane, Montgomery, and Jennison, a fantastic set of zealots and scoundrels. . . . These were the men who would start the guerrilla war on the western border."

After sparing no guerrilla outfit, northern or southern, Brownlee ends his book: "In a few years only a few men remained of those who had followed Quantrill, Anderson, and Todd. To the end, they kept a certain notoriety, for they had been brave, bold, and viciously dangerous. They had been natural fighters, and they had actually served the Confederate States of America better than they knew."

As I lay down *Gray Ghosts of the Confederacy*, I thought of my young impatience with all that war talk, but now I wonder why those who suffered so greatly for those four cruel years in border warfare had *ever* been able to talk about anything else.

## Homecoming 1958

Another Homecoming has gone into the memory book, and the last one, on November 22, surpassed previous celebrations in many ways. For one thing, the registration of returning alumni was higher than in past years. For another, the weather was ideal. The house decorations and the parade provided a colorful and imaginative backdrop for the weekend of festivities participated in by students and those who used to be. Open house in the various dean's offices and at organized houses, and the traditional breakfasts and other reunions of old grads, all had good attendance and enthusiasm.

And there was a football game that was moving along the way it should to delight Missouri partisans, until the final minute of play. Then the script of these Tiger-Jayhawker encounters was suddenly remembered, so that the usual startling ending was served up; what had seemed a certain Missouri victory settled into a tie game. The ending took on the atmosphere of defeat for many a Tiger follower and apparently it was welcomed by the Kansans as something close to a triumph.

As the alumni made the rounds about town and campus during the mild weekend, many expressed surprise at the changing appearance of the University community, a change brought on by the disappearance of some old landmarks and their replacement by new structures. The extent of construction now under way was also a revelation.

With a welcome to Coach Dan Devine as the theme of Homecoming decorations, ample play on his name was evident. As an example, the winning float in the men's division, entered by the Veterinary Medicine students, was an ark labeled "Devine Guidance." Chi Omega had the winning float in the women's division. Lambda Chi Alpha's steam roller scene (on opposite page) won first among the men's division in house decorations, and Delta Delta Delta won in the women's group.

Being elected Homecoming Queen brought a bonus honor to Carol Marie Earls, resident of Gentry Hall and a sophomore in Education from Ironton, Mo. She was to represent the University at the Sugar Bowl, celebrating its 25th year. All schools that have once played in the bowl were invited to send a queen to New Orleans to join in anniversary activities reaching a climax January 1.

Miss Earls during Homecoming Week made the traditional trips in the state with her attendants, Barbara Mallory and Phyllis Aaron, both of Kansas City. The girls were luncheon guests of the St. Louis Alumni Association, met with Governor Blair in Jefferson City, and were guests of Kansas City Rotarians at luncheon, making their final appearance at the Kansas City Alumni pep rally and banquet. In each city they appeared on television programs.