ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

The Struggle for Missouri

By Elle E. Harvell, University of California, Los Angeles

Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	Title. City: Publisher, Year.
Fellman, Michael	Inside War: The Guerrilla Conflict in
	Missouri During the American Civil War.
	Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 1989.

Books and Articles

Author	Title. City: Publisher, Year.
Boman, Denis K.	Lincoln and Citizens' Rights in Civil War
	Missouri. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State
	University Press, 2011.
Earle, Jonathan and Diane Mutti Burke,	Bleeding Kansas, Bleeding Missouri: The
eds.	Long Civil War on the Border. Lawrence:
	University Press of Kansas, 2013.
Harvell, Elle	"Cope, Cooperate, Combat: Civilian
	Responses to Union Occupation in Saline
	County, Missouri during the Civil War."
	Master's thesis, University of Texas at Tyler,
	2012.
Gerteis, Louis	The Civil War in Missouri: A Military
	History. Columbia: University of Missouri
	Press, 2012.
Neely, Jeremy	The Border Between Them: Violence and
	Reconciliation on the Kansas-Missouri Line.
	Columbia: University of Missouri Press,
	2007.

Phillips, Christopher	Missouri's Confederate: Claiborne Fox
	Jackson and the Creation of Southern
	<i>Identity in the Border West</i> . Columbia:
	University of Missouri Press, 2000.

Organizations

Web Resources

URL	Name and description
http://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/	The Missouri Digital Heritage Initiative is a
	collaborative effort that dramatically expands
	the amount of information available online
	about Missouri's past. Through the Missouri
	Digital Heritage Initiative, the Missouri State
	Archives and the Missouri State Library, in
	partnership with the State Historical Society
	of Missouri, are assisting institutions across
	the state in digitizing their records and
	placing them online for easy access.
http://shs.umsystem.edu/index.shtml	The State Historical Society of Missouri is
	the premier research center for the study of
	Missouri state and local history. Founded in
	1898 by the Missouri Press Association and
	a trustee of the State of Missouri since 1899,
	the Society preserves and provides access to
	reference materials and historical collections
	through research centers located in Cape
	Girardeau, Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla, St.
	Louis, and Springfield.

Other Sources

Scholars

Name	Email
Elle E. Harvell	eharvell@ucla.edu

Google Keywords

The struggle for Missouri was one of the most prolonged and violent conflicts of nineteenth-century America, extending beyond the boundaries of the Civil War. In fact, Missouri was the very seedbed of the Civil War. Events in Missouri prior to 1861 triggered the national debate over the westward expansion of slavery, and the Kansas-Missouri Border War of the 1850s heralded the larger conflict. Yet, Missouri is marginalized in Civil War history, and its war continues to be treated as a "sideshow" because it defied notions of acceptable nineteenth-century warfare and continues to challenge our paradigm of a civil war. Claimed by both North and South, Missouri held a liminal status between Union and Confederate, with combatants fighting conventional battles as well as a guerrilla war. Over the course of the war, the guerrilla war predominated and shifted the struggle from the battlefield to the home front, blurring the line between combatant and noncombatant, drawing civilians into the conflict.
