



Historians Corner, Paul R Petersen

Paul is the Author of *Quantrill of Missouri*, *Quantrill in Texas*, *Quantrill at Lawrence* and *Lost Souls of the Lost Township*. Petersen is a retired U.S. Marine Corps master sergeant and a highly decorated infantry combat veteran of the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is a member of the William Clarke Quantrill Society, the James-Younger Gang Association, the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Jackson County and Missouri State Historical Societies.

Quantrill Was Not a Slave Owner

Quantrill was not a slave owner. In the present day when sanctimonious liberals are decrying anyone remotely associated with slavery including the Founding Fathers they should take a refreshing look at Confederate Colonel William Clarke Quantrill who promoted Blacks and minorities within his organization. Liberals should be pleased that Quantrill promoted the equality of Blacks contrary to President Abraham Lincoln's stated purpose in allowing the continuing existence of slavery in the Northern slave states. Lincoln himself stated more than once in his inaugural address, that the North was not fighting to free the slaves. Lincoln signed the Corwin Amendment, a new constitutional amendment passed by Congress that stated that "no amendment shall be made to the Constitution which will authorize or give to Congress any power to abolish or interfere with slavery in any of the States by whose laws it may be allowed." It was signed by Lincoln only two weeks after he became president. The secession of Southern states kept it from becoming the 13th amendment to the Constitution.

In the neighboring State of Kansas Kansas Jayhawkers coerced Blacks to join the military at the point of the bayonet. During their plunder raids into Missouri Blacks were induced to run away from their masters and those that did not want to accompany the Jayhawkers back into Kansas resulted in the men being beaten or murdered and the Black women raped. Quantrill by comparison readily accepted and recruited many Blacks and minorities into his guerrilla company.

An un-debatable truth finds the provenance of free Black Confederates in the Cantey-Myers photographic collection, shown by the generosity of Major

Emory Cantey on his web site CanteyMyersCollection.com and at quantrillsguerrillas.com. Mr. Cantey's collection is the most unsurpassed contribution to Missouri Civil War History to date.

Here in this unbelievable photographic collection are the images of not only Black Confederates serving under Colonel William Clarke Quantrill as combat soldiers, hostlers, cooks, bodyguards and spies but also Native American Indians and women who heroically served the South.

Probably the most noted Black soldier in Quantrill's company was John T. Noland. Federals once offered him ten thousand dollars to betray Quantrill and his men, but Noland only replied with scorn. During the First Battle of Independence on August 11, 1862 Noland and four other volunteers crawled more than two hundred yards under a withering fire to gather combustibles to smoke Union Colonel James T. Buel out of his headquarters building. During the Battle of Lamar, Missouri on November 6, 1862, Noland stood by Quantrill's side shouting more orders than any other of Quantrill's men trying to make the Federals believe they were surrounded. Noland made three separate charges against the Federal stronghold. During the raid on Lawrence, Kansas in August of 1863 Noland risked his life reconnoitering the town to gather intelligence information prior to the raid. After the war Noland attended the Quantrill reunions and when he died he had all white pallbearers at his funeral. His white comrades referred to him as "a man among men."

Another former slave that proudly served in Colonel William Clarke Quantrill's Southern guerrilla company was John Lobb. Quantrill used Lobb by sending him into Lawrence, Kansas to spy out the situation prior to the Lawrence raid. In the Cantey Myers collection is a photo of Lobb on horseback

taken immediately after receiving orders from Quantrill to spy out the town of Lawrence. An additional Black man who served in Quantrill's company was Henry Wilson, also found in the Cantey Myers collection. Wilson served as Quantrill's bodyguard. Interviewed after the war Wilson explained that he ran from Union troops for miles without stopping and joined Quantrill's band. He also served as the company's cook in camp. Wilson was also one of Quantrill's best spies, because he could slip into a village without alarming the occupants and secure significant information. Wilson reported his experience in his own words following the war when he was offered a chance by the Jayhawkers to go to Kansas. "When they asked me if I wished to go, I said, Hell, no! I don't want to have nothing to do with such robbers and thieves. I joined Quantrill when Master Wilson moved to Texas and I carried supplies to [Quantrill] and his men. I took an oath that I would stick to the end, and Quantrill trusted me because I didn't drink whiskey and because I was dependable and could shoot." Facts such as these in writing and in photographic history set the record straight against the efforts of revisionist historians that are battling hard to distort the truth.

Jack Swartz was a mix-breed black man that rode with Quantrill on the Lawrence raid when he was only 16 years old. Swartz carried Quantrill's "Black Flag" during the Lawrence raid. After the war Swartz hung Quantrill's Black Flag proudly in his home and his dying wish was to be buried with the flag serving as his shroud. A further example of a Black soldier who served under Quantrill was Frank Noland who was for a time a cook in the Confederate army but later served as a cook with Quantrill. Noland attended the Quantrill reunions after the war. Another Black who served Quantrill was Zack Rube who was Quantrill's personal cook all during the Civil War.

Quantrill's ranks were filled with a diversity of race and talent, Besides Black soldiers that served in Quantrill's command there were also Indians that rode with Quantrill's Missouri guerrillas. Cherokee Indian James Martin rode with Quantrill on the Lawrence raid. Ben Broomfield was part Cherokee Indian and served under Quantrill in Captain Bill Anderson's company of guerrillas. Broomfield took part in the battles of Fayette, Centralia the Danville

raid and the battle of Glasgow. He also fought in the Lawrence raid. Broomfield was killed in action while saving the life of fellow guerrilla Plunk Murray. Cherokee Joe was a Cherokee Indian scout that served under Quantrill. During a skirmish with Federals Cherokee Joe was killed and the Federal who shot him was killed in return by Quantrill. Solomon Strickland, also known as Red Fox, was part Cherokee Indian, that served as an Indian scout under Quantrill. Red Fox died in 1947 at 108 years old. Adam Wilson was a Cherokee Indian that rode with Quantrill, serving as a scout. He was from Muncie, Nowata County, Oklahoma Indian Territory. Another native American that served in Quantrill's Southern guerrilla company as a scout was Squirrel Tail, a Cherokee Indian. James "Wash" Washington was a half breed Indian that also served in Quantrill's company. While serving with the guerrillas in 1864 Washington was captured and later executed by the Yankees for "giving aid to the guerrillas." Besides those already mentioned was James Martin, a Cherokee Indian from Nowata County, Oklahoma who rode with Quantrill on the Lawrence raid.

It can be said that 5% of Quantrill's guerrillas were minorities. North or South they were the most diverse military group during the entire Civil War.

Article by Paul R. Petersen

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James Brooks, Jr.