

*Midnight Rising: John Brown and the Raid that Sparked the Civil War*, by Tony Horwitz. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2011. 365 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, appendix, index. \$28.00 cloth.

Reviewer Galin Berrier has been adjunct instructor in history at Des Moines Area Community College. He is the author of "The Underground Railroad in Iowa," in *Outside In: African-American History in Iowa, 1838-2000* (2001).

The steady stream of recent books on John Brown continues with yet another entry, a vividly written account by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Tony Horwitz. Readers familiar with his best-selling *Confederates in the Attic* will not be surprised if this latest attempt to explain the controversial abolitionist reaches a larger popular audience than most if not all of its recent predecessors.

Horwitz divides *Midnight Rising* into three parts. In part one, "The Road to Harpers Ferry," he summarizes Brown's early life, his emergence as a border warrior in "Bleeding Kansas," and the preparations for his famous raid, including his brief sojourn with his men in Springdale, Iowa, and the drafting of his "provisional constitution" in Chatham, Upper Canada (Ontario). In part two, "Into Africa," he describes the raid itself and the capture or death of Brown and his men at their besieged "fort" in the engine house at the Harpers Ferry arsenal. Part three, "They Will Brown Us All," covers Brown's trial and execution and includes an assessment of his impact on his own and succeeding generations.

Horwitz is a journalist, not a historian, but his research is thorough and impressive, extensively utilizing manuscript collections. By using their own words culled from letters and contemporary newspaper accounts, Horwitz manages to endow not only Brown, but also his family members and associates, with distinct personalities. No other recent John Brown book has done this so well.

Nonetheless, Iowa readers may find *Midnight Rising* a bit disappointing. The Missouri raid of December 1858 and the subsequent trek across Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa to Chicago and on to Canada merits only a couple of pages, and the passage across Iowa itself in February 1859 a mere two sentences (89). His account of the sojourn of Brown and his men in the Quaker settlement of Springdale in the winter of 1857-58 (73) is more satisfactory, thanks to Horwitz's use of Irving Richman's *John Brown among the Quakers, and Other Sketches* (1894), a sometimes neglected source. But he seems not to have consulted John Todd's *Early Settlement and Growth of Western Iowa, or Reminiscences* (1906). There is no mention of Todd or of another prominent Iowa abolitionist, Josiah B. Grinnell, both of whom aided Brown; and the brief references to the community of Ohio Congregationalists at Tabor

(66, 67, 70–72) offer no explanation of how or why Tabor became a base for Brown and his men.

Readers familiar with the recent scholarship on John Brown will find in *Midnight Rising* no great new insights on such familiar topics as Brown's alleged insanity, his Old Testament religious faith, or whether or not he was a "proto-terrorist." What they will find is a highly readable narrative of John Brown and the Harpers Ferry raid, with fresh insights into the personalities and character of Brown's family and associates. It is a welcome addition to the ever-growing John Brown bookshelf.

*Price's Lost Campaign: The 1864 Invasion of Missouri*, by Mark A. Lause. Shades of Blue and Gray Series. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2011. vii, 280 pp. Illustrations, maps, appendixes, notes, index. \$29.95 cloth.

Reviewer Terry L. Beckenbaugh is assistant professor of military history at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. His dissertation (University of Arkansas, 2001) was "The War of Politics: Samuel Ryan Curtis, Race, and the Political/Military Establishment."

Mark Lause's *Price's Lost Campaign: The 1864 Invasion of Missouri* is a welcome addition to the University of Missouri Press's Shades of Blue and Gray series. Lause's study is a detailed narrative of the 1864 campaign up to the point that Major General Sterling Price's rebel Army of Missouri turned away from Jefferson City, Missouri. That narrative does much to debunk the myths that surround Confederate forces during the Civil War, namely that they respected private property and eschewed the "Hard War" tactics embraced by the Union army that devastated the Confederate states. Price's forces not only routinely looted Missouri citizens but murdered many in cold blood. Most of these actions were not borne of military necessity—certainly not the killings of civilians and prisoners of war. The Confederate Army of Missouri left in its wake a bloody trail of corpses and ransacked homes and businesses, hardly the benevolent liberating army of neo-Confederate myth. Lause also harshly assesses the Federal commander of the Department of Missouri, Major General William S. Rosecrans. According to Lause, Rosecrans was more concerned with protecting the business interests in Missouri than with protecting that state's citizens from Price's forces. Rosecrans also reacted with deplorable slowness to the threat, and did little to coordinate with the Department of Kansas's commander, Iowan Major General Samuel Ryan Curtis.