

Many of the books concerning John Brown, speak of his followers as guerrillas. Who were the guerrillas fighting with him at Black Jack? Some of his followers doubtless have relatives here today. I knew William E. Barnes, of Vinland, well, and he was one of the finest all round Christian gentlemen that I have ever known. Who is base enough to call men like Barnes, Roe and Jones guerrillas?

It is astounding that more has been written to defame John Brown than William E. Quantrill, the detestible guerrilla, who destroyed Lawrence and murdered more than one hundred and fifty innocent and unarmed citizens. John Brown sought to make Kansas a free state and to establish human freedom in the nation. By what peculiar quirk of history is he to be judged solely by his illegal execution of men who had pillaged his neighbors.

To understand Brown one must consider that he was obsessed with the idea that no human being should be a slave. Finding that all the legal power of the government was against him he felt impelled to serve God rather than man and thus sacrifice the lives of himself and others to bring matters to a head.

It seemed the act of a madman for him to take over Harper's Ferry but when he was on trial, he refused to permit the lawyers appointed by the court for his defence, to allege insanity. On trial he won the respect of many. The sheriff, jailor and all others became his friends. One Southern friend of slavery is quoted as saying: "Slavery is buried with John Brown."

Old John Brown had read the Old Testament and perhaps felt himself to be a reincarnation of Samuel, who with his own hands hacked to pieces the defenceless body of Agag, king of the Amalekites. Those were stern times in Kansas, when the territory was being raided by the renegades of the border, lives were being taken and property destroyed. If justice