

ending with the vertical relationship established with the tobacco companies, which Bryant suggests is “imperative” (p.155).

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Kentucky and the Great War: World War I on the Home Front. By David J. Bettez (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2016). Pp. 428. \$45 cloth.

David Bettez' *Kentucky and the Great War: World War I on the Home Front* is part of the University Press of Kentucky's Topics in Kentucky History and the 2016 winner of the annual Thomas D. Clark Medallion Book awarded by the press for books that stand out for adding to the understanding of the culture and politics of the Commonwealth. The author makes a concerted effort in emulating David Kennedy's acclaimed *Over Hear: The First World War and American Society* by providing a comprehensive overview of the effort to mobilize all parts of the state's civilian population in the war effort. Both authors see the war experience as preparation for greater government involvement in American lives that would come later with the New Deal.

Through the application of “coercive voluntarism,” state and local defense councils encouraged participation in bond drives and various war-related organizations. On the more coercive end of the scale, local communities, including several in the Jackson Purchase, enthusiastically applied federal and state directions to enforce efforts towards requiring service-age men to either “work or fight” and to crack down against vagrants. For example, the city of Hickman with support from the Fulton County Defense Council fined “slackers” and posted signs announcing that “Hickman is a 100 percent American city and we have no room for slackers.” Local lawmakers also joined the campaign to make life uncomfortable for those who might be German sympathizers as in the case of Ote Piper, Democratic state representative from Hickman County, who was the author of bill passed in the state legislature to ban the teaching of German that was vetoed by the governor.

However, not all residents of the Jackson Purchase were as militantly patriotic as Piper. H. Boyce Taylor, the minister at the First Baptist Church in Murray and the moderator of the Kentucky General Association of Baptists, gained a reputation for his vigilance against “Catholicism, tawdry entertainments, and the preeminence of the secular world.” He also opposed the work of the YMCA and the Red Cross in providing comfort to soldiers who, as he suggested, faced death at the front unprepared for the “eternal darkness and hell.” Taylor was reported to state and federal authorities several times for urging young men to avoid the service or seek non-combatant assignments, but was never convicted.

In general, Bettez suggests that most segments of Kentucky society, including many that were originally opposed to America's entry into the war, were cooperative in the war once it was

declared. This included the Black community, which is the subject of an entire chapter. Bettez devotes a chapter to Black participation and singles out Andrew Carman from Graves County, William Kivil of Paducah, and Rufus Atwood, a native of Hickman and later president of traditionally black Kentucky State (now University) for their conspicuous service on the western front. Nevertheless, Black veterans faced virulent discrimination in too many instances after the war. Atwood's father warned his son not to wear his military uniform upon his return to Fulton County for fear of what physical punishment the local sheriff, who previously had failed to protect another Black soldier jailed for an altercation with his deputies against a lynch mob, might inflict on him. The determination of local communities to hold Jim Crow segregation regardless of the contributions of Black service men belies Bettez' later conclusion that Kentucky soldiers were welcomed home by their communities.

The author ends with a brief chapter on the postwar impact of the war that leaves the reader wishing for more. Its impact on civil rights, ignored completely, is an example. Bettez suggests that some issues, such as rural versus urban, were sublimated during the war and would reemerge afterwards, but does not explore these issues further. Were there others beside Rufus Atwood who had a chance to experience more of the world during the war who decided to pursue their futures outside the Jackson Purchase? What forces were at work in the years following the war that caused a 10% drop in population in the region's counties, excluding the more urbanized McCracken County, between the 1920 and 1930 censuses and would continue in the future until the four river counties (Ballard, Carlisle, Fulton, and Hickman) lost nearly half their population since the First World War?

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The Flood Year 1927: A Cultural History. By Susan Scott Parrish (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017. Pp. X, 396. \$35.00, 978-0-6911-6883-8).

Susan Scott Parrish's *The Flood Year 1927* recounts the causes, experiences, and remembrances of the 1927 flood as a national event. Opposed to viewing the flood from the high water mark alone, Parrish builds her narrative from the decades of material causes of the flood within the entirety of the Mississippi Watershed. Industrial deforestation, mechanical water redirection, and mono-crop agriculture from within and beyond the Jackson Purchase area created a man-made "second nature" that exponentially increased the likelihood of the Delta's 1927 hydrological disaster. The treatment of cultural expressions of the flood such as newspaper articles, popular culture, and literature reflects Parrish's academic training in literary criticism and position in the Department of English Language and Literature and the Program in the Environment at the University of Michigan. She devotes the majority of her work to analyzing the mediation of the flood itself and cultural critics' use of the flood to expose social ills of the