

Book Reviews

The Historic Reelfoot Lake Region: An Early History of the People and Places of Western Obion and Present Day Lake County. By Judge David G. Hayes (Collierville, TN: Instantpublisher.com, 2017). Pp. 1, 353. ISBN: 978-1-61422-826-4.

Alluring and mysterious, Reelfoot Lake and its majestic bald cypress trees anchored in swamps and sloughs are an exceptionally rare site in the Southeast. The lake meanders through Lake, Dyer, and Obion Counties in Tennessee, one of the most captivating places in the Mississippi River flood plain. Nestled in far west Tennessee, it lies east of Kentucky's Jackson Purchase Region which shares its proud heritage.

The Historic Reelfoot Lake Region, written by David G. Hayes, explores its rich culture. An attorney in private practice, Hayes served as a senior judge on the Tennessee Supreme Court. He also taught at the University of Tennessee at Martin and was a faculty advisor at the National Judicial College at the University of Nevada in Reno. As part of the third generation of his family to reside in the lake hills, Judge Hayes knows the subject matter well.

An authoritative publication, this is the first known written account of early Lake County. It includes some anecdotes not previously reported. Misinformation about the area is addressed and in some instances revised in concise detail.

Hayes's extensive treatment of old files, county archives, court documents, deeds, biographies, and newspapers, reflect the author's dedication to the finding of facts. Opening chapters grab the reader's interest with the description of the lake and its environs, juxtaposed with the backdrop of Paleo people and native residents.

Well-researched narrative portrays the power struggles among the multiple governments that later claimed control of these water lands. He describes these complexities by relating the rivers and land as the Chickasaw Nation and French trappers would have seen them. By using eyewitness interpretations of the 1811-12 earthquakes, which formed the lake, Hayes masterfully brings the terrifying events to life. For example, he includes in his narrative Eliza Bryan's description of the chaos engendered by the earthquake. A resident of New Madrid, Missouri, Bryan explained:

On the 16th of December 1811, about two o'clock, a.m., we were visited by a violent shock of an earthquake, accompanied by a very awful noise resembling loud but distant thunder, but more hoarse and vibrating, which was followed in a few minutes by the complete saturation of the atmosphere, with sulphurous vapor, causing total darkness. The screams of the affrighted inhabitants running to and fro, not knowing where to go, or what to do – the cries of the fowls and beasts of every species – the cracking of trees falling, and the roaring of the

Mississippi – the current of which was retrograde for a few minutes, owing as is supposed, to an interruption in its bed – formed a truly horrible scene (pp.25-26).

Other compelling depictions highlight unique aspects of the landscape, such as the lost rivers, the washout, the scatters, the bluffs above the lake, as well as how the lake affected those living nearby. Hayes chronicles numerous villages and communities through the exchange of lands, establishment of governments and the development of transportation venues.

Real people are woven into the story as Hayes handily guides the reader from those European explorers to pioneer settlers of the new frontier. The legendary David Crockett provided one of the most visual, complete and entertaining vignettes. His fascinating life as a landowner, game hunter, politician and biographer was significant in the formation of these Tennessee counties.

Kentucky is not forgotten in the telling, as Mills Point was a busy river point settlement on the east side of the lake. Positioned in what was then called Hickman County, this essential town was part of the Jackson Purchase. In 1837, Mills Point was renamed Hickman.

Kentucky Bend held its own weight in the community and economic development of the vicinity. Hayes deftly applies spirited sketches of local river people to recount important factors such as political wrangling, the formation of Lake County, and the glory days of steamboats.

As the territory evolved, farmers turned from corn production and cotton became king of agricultural pursuits. Slave labor eventually changed to the sharecropper system which led to around eighty percent of cropland being rented in Lake County. Crop failures, declining market values, and harsh lending practices eventually caused many farmers to leave the area. This pushed large farm operations to bring laborers in from surrounding states. The black population of Lake County tripled between 1890 and 1910. After the 20th Century, agriculture in the section became a two-tiered system, large farmers and farm laborers.

Hayes uses his professional insight to reveal the past through early court cases of Lake and Obion Counties. Topics range from apprenticeships, caring for the orphaned and poor, setting tavern tax rates and the branding of animals.

For Civil War buffs, the defense of the Mississippi River and the Battle of Island 10 in Chapter 13 are a must read. For those who simply enjoy lively non-fiction, subsequent chapters feature notorious tales of feuds, assassinations, murder, meanness, and mayhem during the period of reconstruction. This includes the formation of the Obion County State Guard in 1867 due to the ongoing threat of violence by the Ku Klux Klan.

This interesting analysis of west Tennessee closes with a brief retelling of the Night Riders of Reelfoot Lake. These men banded together to resist the efforts of one family's control of the lake and the livelihood they had always known as commercial fishermen.

Several photos and maps compliment the narrative along with extensive endnotes and an index that will satisfy families with local ties. That said, I did long for a page reference on specific sites and historic events.

This volume is an exceptional work about the establishment and social and general history of western Tennessee and far western Kentucky. It is a fitting tribute to all the unnamed Reelfoot Lake inhabitants Hayes set out to honor.

Bobbie Bryant

Kentucky League of Cities

The Wild World of the Jackson Purchase. By Richard Dwayne Parker. (Paducah, Ky.: Duke of Paduke Press, 2017. 174 pages. \$24.99 paperback. 9781389521867).

This volume of work by Richard Parker, JPHS Vice President, is a compilation of many stories throughout the Jackson Purchase. It includes many illustrations drawn by the author which supplement actual photographs and drawings to help tell the stories. As Nathan Blake Lynn explains in the forward, Parker grew up in Paris, Tennessee, but has lived in Paducah and Murray, Kentucky, valuing the rich history and folklore of the region his entire life. To my delight, the book begins with information about the people who were in the Jackson Purchase long before immigrants moved into the area. Parker covers the American Indian period when the Mississippians inhabited the land and writes about Wickliffe Mounds and the excavation work performed there. When the European explorers began arriving in the late 1600s, the area changed forever.

Parker includes an illustration of the Jackson Purchase map and individual county maps showing where each story explained in the book occurred. The first chapter introduces the reader to the Jackson Purchase and the second goes into detail as to how each of the counties in the western Kentucky area were established. Subsequent chapters cover topics like the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Gilded Age, the Progressive Era, World War I, the 1920s, the Great Depression, World War II, post-World War II, the 1960s, the 1970s, the 1980s, the 1990s, and the Jackson Purchase Today. Extensive resources were utilized to build the stories within the chapters as evidenced by the numerous footnotes and selected bibliography.

From prominent people, who are well known in the area, such as Chief Paduke and Irvin S. Cobb, to Civil War veterans like Ulysses S. Grant and Lloyd Tilghman, to places like Paducah's antebellum home, Whitehaven, and Murray State University, to events, such as the Fancy Farm Picnic, Parker gives the reader insights in small snippets about the chosen subject. Intertwined amongst the more known characters and places are those which are not as

recognized, but just as important to the purchase area. The arrangement of the information is such that the reader can pick up the book, read a few stories and come back to it later. It is not a novel that begs to be read in one sitting. It is a book that can be referred to over and over and re-read easily to remind us all of the rich history of the Jackson Purchase. This would be a wonderful resource for classrooms or school libraries to have on hand as even elementary age readers would find it interesting and easy to read.

Parker has completed a captivating resource of an often-forgotten region of Kentucky, as the back cover states. What a wonderful way to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Jackson Purchase (October 19, 1818 – October 19, 2018).

Dr. Melissa Webb Earnest

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Tariff Wars and the Politics of Jacksonian America. By William K. Bolt (Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 2017. Pp. xiii, 301. \$34.95, 9780826521378).

During the early nineteenth century, the implementation of tariffs fueled numerous debates in both American society and government according to William K. Bolt in his 2017 release *Tariff Wars and the Politics of Jacksonian America*. Bolt's *Tariff Wars* is part of Vanderbilt University's New Perspectives on Jacksonian America series. At the time of the book's publishing, Bolt served as Assistant Professor of History at Francis Marion University and was a former editor on the James K. Polk project. In *Tariff Wars*, Bolt aimed to highlight the important role of tariffs in the national narrative of the United States prior to the Civil War. To accomplish this task, Bolt studied tariff debates from 1816 to 1861. He argued that disputes over tariffs aided in dividing the North and the South. Moreover, Bolt claimed that the tariff debates drew the attention of the American public, triggering a spread of democracy throughout the country as people increasingly participated in politics. Bolt's *Tariff Wars* is an illuminating read, as the author explored the views on tariffs of prominent American political figures of the antebellum era such as Henry Clay, Andrew Jackson, and John C. Calhoun among many others. Furthermore, Bolt provided exhaustive examinations of each of the individual tariff debates that occurred during the timeline of the book, as he depicted step-by-step how each of these disputes played out in the Congressional arena.

The greatest strength of Bolt's *Tariff Wars* is his depiction of how the tariff debates divided the North and South leading up to the Civil War. While Bolt asserted that these debates did not cause the conflict, he showed that they certainly did not help prevent it. As Bolt stated, the North often argued in support of high tariffs to protect manufacturers and jobs, while the

South opposed high tariffs because they believed it caused the price of goods to rise. In 1820, politicians from the North and South participated in fierce arguments over whether to pass a new tariff. Bolt claimed that the 1820 tariff debate caused sectionalism in the North and South to increase, and this dispute saw revivals in 1824 and 1828, both years in which the US government passed tariff bills into law. The tariff of 1828 came to be known in the South as the “tariff of abominations” as it set import rates at an all-time high (p. 76). Vice President John C. Calhoun argued that the 1828 tariff would cause problems for the South by make farming unprofitable, which would in turn lead to the freeing of the slaves. Bolt also covered the nullification crisis of 1832 to 1833 in detail, showing that the tariff debate caused fears of civil war to form throughout the US after South Carolina nullified the tariff of 1832. Even though Bolt argued that the tariff issue became a partisan issue between Whigs and Democrats in the 1840s as opposed to a sectional dispute, Bolt’s work still showed that the tariff debates of the 1820s and 1830s went a long way in creating boundaries between the North and South.

Furthermore, Bolt offered some evidence in *Tariff Wars* that the tariff debates caused the spread of democracy in the US, but overall, this argument proved to be one of the weaker points of Bolt’s study. The author did show that Americans lobbied and petitioned the government to either support or oppose tariffs, and that people held meetings to debate and discuss the tariff issue. However, Bolt generally mentioned these actions in passing, never magnifying them to explore them in as great of detail as he did with the Congressional debates. In the future, Bolt or another Jacksonian historian should examine these petitions and meetings further in depth to provide more informative accounts of how tariffs brought people into the political process. Also, while Bolt’s argument that tariffs did spread democracy is convincing enough, the tariff issue was not the only political topic drawing Americans into politics during the early half of the nineteenth century. Bolt’s book would be better improved if it contextualized how the tariff debates increased American participation in politics by placing these debates among other political movements of the time, such as abolition, temperance, and women’s movements.

While there are areas for the author to expand his research, Bolt’s *Tariff Wars* is still built on a significant number of sources. He cited papers of numerous politicians of the era, including James K Polk, Daniel Webster, Andrew Jackson, Justin S. Morrill, and Martin Van Buren. Additionally, to offer better geographical context to the tariff debates, Bolt utilized a variety of newspapers from across the country. He also cited pamphlets that were published during the tariff debates, which helped him to depict both sides of the argument. These sources helped to make Bolt’s *Tariff Wars* an informative addition to the historiography on economics, politics, and tariffs in Jacksonian America. Overall, it will be helpful to both students and scholars alike.

Jonathan Dunning

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Patrick A. Lewis. *For Slavery and Union: Benjamin Buckner and Kentucky Loyalties in the Civil War*. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2015. 272 pp. \$50. 00 (cloth), ISBN 978-0-8131-6079-5).

Incorporating a biography of Benjamin Forsyth Buckner within a broader analysis of loyalty in Civil War era Kentucky, Patrick Lewis offers one individual's perspective on the complicated nature of border state loyalty in *For Slavery and Union*. This unique approach allows Lewis to explicate how military and political contingencies affected one Kentuckian's ideas of loyalty and political identity. Lewis's case study fits well with recent works that more broadly discuss the complicated notions of loyalty and Union in the middle border region during and after the Civil War. Buckner's desire to protect his economic, family, and society's interests stayed consistent throughout the war; his beliefs did not change, but his perception of which institutions could best protect slavery and social order, the bedrock of these interests, did alter (p. 117).

The narrative focuses on Buckner's emergence into manhood in the 1850s and his responses to the growing sectional crisis that devolved into civil war. Lewis untangles the political and social contexts that shaped Buckner's expectations towards his life in Clark County, Kentucky. The desire for a successful career, marriage to an eligible woman, and maintenance of his masculine status and society's status quo shaped the young lawyer's decision-making. Betrothed to Helen Martin, daughter of one of Clark County's wealthiest slave-holding denizens, Buckner saw the outbreak of war as a chance to prove his worth as a potential husband while defending his personal economic interests.

Lewis adeptly interweaves the deep-seeded presence of slavery in Kentucky with Buckner's desire for stability to explain that "Buckner sided with the Union *for the benefit of* slavery rather than siding with the Union *despite* slavery" (p.2). Buckner's loyalty to the Union, Lewis argues, was contingent upon the protection of slavery, an institution that provided white Kentuckians with social and economic autonomy. His vision of Union incorporated both slavery and the nation. It is thus not surprising that after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Second Confiscation Act and announced the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation in 1862, Buckner offered his resignation from the army. Lewis shows how Buckner interpreted these orders as transforming his role from a defender of a slave society into an active agent for the destruction of slavery, the very institution that he had enlisted in the federal army to defend (p.103). Having already proven his masculinity through heroic efforts at Shiloh, the army no longer served any of Buckner's personal purposes, leading to his resignation in April 1863 (p.116). Lewis explains that other Kentuckians similarly enlisted in the federal army with the belief that it fought for

stability and reunion. Tensions within Kentuckians in the Union Army developed when the goals of individuals diverged from those of the federal government.

Lewis draws heavily on letters that Benjamin Buckner sent to his fiancé during his military service from 1861-1863. After resigning from the army and marrying Helen, however, Buckner's letters ceased, ending that fruitful source base, an issue that Lewis is quick to point out (p. 10). Unlike the early years of the war, however, Lewis lacks the rich sources for Buckner's personal life in the latter Civil War years, forcing him to paint a broad picture of Kentucky in 1864 and 1865. Accordingly, Lewis uses this period to foreshadow Buckner's postwar political activism rather than dealing with it on its own terms as an era of meaningful wartime developments.

The well-documented nature of Buckner's postwar political activity allows Lewis to situate the former major at the nexus of the contest between federal loyalty and Kentuckian's conservative interests. After the war, Buckner and fellow conservative legislators used their political power to legalize the continuation of white supremacy, maintaining their pre-war goals despite wartime transformations of federal policy (p. 122). Emancipation did not necessitate social equality for African-Americans, and Buckner sought to maintain at least a modicum of the antebellum social order that he had enlisted in the federal army to protect. The wartime shattering of the Union coalition continued unabated after 1865, as Buckner refused to associate with Union veterans' organizations because of their political relationships with the Republican Party, which opposed Buckner's conservative goals for Kentucky (p. 195). Lewis reminds us that Buckner's efforts to retain white supremacy after the Civil War were not new, but were merely continuations of his desire for social order that demanded his enlistment in the Union Army in 1861.

The Civil War changed the context in which Benjamin Buckner sought order and white supremacy, but his goals remained consistent. Patrick Lewis has written an accessible biographical account of Buckner that cogently articulates the complicated nature-and surprising consistencies-of individual loyalties in the Civil War era. Not only does Lewis unpack Buckner's loyalty to conservative unionism, but he reminds scholars that individuals interpret their surroundings and act upon their personal beliefs. Accordingly, individuals, like Buckner, must remain at the center of historical analyses.

Stephen Powell

Mississippi State University

Jones, *On A Burning Deck, The Road to Akron: An Oral History of the Great Migration*, Vol. 1, and *On A Burning Deck, Return to Akron: An Oral History of the Great Migration*, Vol. 2. By Tom Jones (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017, Pp. vi, 277 and 300. \$24.95 and \$18.95, 978-1545565766 and 978-1544025377).

Tom Jones' self-published two-volume work, *On a Burning Deck*, tells the story of the migration of the author's family from rural Western Kentucky to Akron, Ohio. The author resided in New Braunfels, Texas, wrote *Waldo Maccabees*, and worked as a copywriter before publishing these two volumes. The narrative follows the lives of Haskell and Florence Jones from their childhood to their deaths in 1991 and 1984 respectively. Jones constructed the volumes using over fifty hours of unpublished interviews alongside newspapers, the documents of historical societies, and archival research. Volume one covers the lives of the Joneses from birth to the end of 1919, and the second volume continues the narrative from 1920 until the death of Haskell and Florence Jones.

The author structures the narrative of the work so that an introductory chapter, providing the broader contextual information of the period or location, is followed by a transcription of Tom Jones interviews of Haskell, Florence, and their family members. The contextual information provides grounding necessary to understand the life of the Jones family. The author began the book by discussing Graves county at the turn of the century. He describes the challenges of race relations and education in the rural community, where "educators were undereducated, underpaid and overworked" (vol. 1, p. 28). In the boom that came with manufacturing for World War I, Haskell Jones migrated to Akron, Ohio to work at the various rubber factories in the city while he lived in incredibly cramped quarters with his fellow workers. Haskell returned home to sign up for the draft to serve. When he was not drafted, he sought work as a carpenter at Camp Knox, although Haskell openly stated that he "couldn't saw a board straight in a vise" (vol. 1, p. 194).

The second volume of Jones' work begins with the Jones family struggling to make ends meet in the post-World War I recession. Haskell sought work across the southern United States before finding steady income as a train conductor in Paducah, Kentucky. Even with the recession, "the only employment challenge in Paducah was actually finding people who were willing to work" (vol. 2, p 32). In 1922, the Jones family returned to Akron, Ohio as Haskell Jones reentered the rubber factories shortly before the employees unionized and the Akron rubber workers became the standard bearers for the rubber industry's push for higher wages. During the Great Depression, workers within the rubber industry faced challenges as some retained their positions but had to work reduced hours throughout the depression. In 1941, Haskell Jones became the sole policeman in Akron's neighboring town Tallmadge, Ohio until 1944. Following his work as the police officer, Haskell Jones started working as a home furnace

repair man. The connections Haskell made with the community working these positions created the groundwork for Haskell to become elected to the Tallmadge city council in 1947, where he served for eight years. Haskell Jones received a citizen of the year award in April 1990, “for his service as the last marshal, first chief of police, village road superintendent, head of civil defense, volunteer fireman, city councilman, member of the city charter commission... and, even after his ‘retirement,’ city electrical inspector and member of the city planning and zoning commission” (vol. 2, p. 240).

Tom Jones constructed his narrative using many primary resources alongside a few secondary sources to provide additional contextual information. Jones’ largest source is the oral interviews he conducted of the Jones family over the course of several years prior to their deaths. Jones utilized newspaper articles from Akron, Ohio, and Mayfield and Paducah, Kentucky to provide the local contextual information during the Joneses’ life. Tom Jones utilized archival sources in Kentucky, Arkansas, and Ohio, such as the special collections of Akron Summit County Public Library, the University of Kentucky Libraries, and the Arkansas History Commission. In writing about the Joneses’ time in Akron, Ohio as it changed to meet increased production, Tom Jones relied on the minutes of the Akron City Council. Tom Jones used each of these primary sources to construct the necessary information for the reader to understand the challenges that Haskell and Florence Jones faced in their lives.

While Jones succeeded in shining a light on a working-class family following the turn of the century, the two volumes do have some drawbacks. The work contains some grammatical and spelling errors. The structure of the work could have been improved if the author would have taken a more biographical approach in his writing which would have allowed the author to utilize his other primary sources more intensively to create a more fluid narrative. Besides these drawbacks, Tom Jones’ work in *On a Burning Deck* provides insight into the successes and challenges of many families following the turn of the century in both Western Kentucky and Akron, Ohio.

Tracey Newport

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Kentucky’s Rebel Press: Pro-Confederate Media and the Secession Crisis. By Berry Craig (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2018. Pp. 244. \$45.00, 9780813174594).

Berry Craig, emeritus professor of history at West Kentucky Community and Technical College, has turned to his two academic loves, the Civil War and journalism, as the author of *Kentucky’s Rebel Press: Pro-Confederate Media and the Secession Crisis*. This and his recent *Kentucky*

Confederates: Secession, Civil War, and the Jackson Purchase, are published by the University Press of Kentucky, which, thankfully, will continue to publish books on Kentucky history and other state-related topics despite the loss of state appropriated funding in the last legislative sessions.

This lively book has a statewide scope and adds to other Civil War histories, such as J. Cutler Andrews' *The North Reports the Civil War* and *The South Reports the Civil War*, David Sachsman's *A Press Divided*, Harold Holzer's *Lincoln and the Power of the Press*, and Lorman A. Ratner and Dwight L. Teeter's *Fanatics & Fire-Eaters*, that focus on the role of newspapers in stirring public passions for conflict. Craig generally agrees with their conclusions that the reporting of the press during that period was very partisan, a characteristic he finds increasingly the case in the media today.

Although many of the pro-Confederate newspapers in Kentucky were located in western Kentucky, especially in the Jackson Purchase where rebel sympathy was strongest in Kentucky after hostilities began, their copies have not survived, so Craig is forced to rely on the coverage of papers later available on microfilm, such as the Unionist *Louisville Journal* and the secessionist *Louisville Courier*, which included the viewpoints of the regional press. Perhaps the most bellicose of the Jackson Purchase newspapers was the *Columbus Crescent*, which resurfaced briefly after its editor joined the Confederate army as the *Daily Confederate News* edited by Len G. Faxon, who fervently wrote: "We want to kill a Yankee ... must kill a Yankee – never can sleep sound again until we do kill a Yankee, get his overcoat and scalp" (p. 23). Among the other Jackson Purchase rebel papers were the *Southern Yeoman* from Mayfield, the region's most reputable paper, the *Paducah Herald*, and the *Hickman Courier* published in Fulton County, which Craig says may have been the earliest Kentucky paper to declare for secession.

Given the strong rebel sympathy that existed in the Jackson Purchase, these rebel papers, unlike other papers in Kentucky where loyalties were more divided, truly represented the views of their readers. Their voices would be silenced early in the war once Union troops established their presence and military leaders moved to censor opposition newspapers. Several editors, such as John C. Noble of the *Paducah Herald*, enlisted in the Confederate military and returned after the war to Paducah as publisher of the *Herald* with the firebrand Faxon as editor, off and on until 1874. Most of the other Jackson Purchase rebel papers failed to survive the war with the exception of the *Hickman Courier*, which merged with two other nearby local papers in 2017.

George Humphreys

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Committed to Victory: The Kentucky Home Front during World War II. By Richard E. Holl
(Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2015. Pp. 396. \$45.00, 9780813165639).

Committed to Victory: The Kentucky Home Front during World War II by Richard Holl, history professor at Hazard Community and Technical College, joins David Bettez' *Kentucky and the Great War: World War I and the Home Front* in establishing that the last century's two world wars advanced the role of the federal government in Kentucky. The impact of the Second World War was more profound partly due to the longer period of the American involvement, starting well before Pearl Harbor when the country produced goods needed to fight the Axis powers through 1945, and continuing into the postwar period with the country's acceptance of the leading role in keeping the peace rather than pull back from foreign entanglements after World War I.

Holl describes in considerable detail the economic mobilization efforts initiated by President Roosevelt and the federal wartime bureaucracy he established to put the nation on a wartime footing. Before America joined the war, industries in the state were identified that would be essential in that effort. Given the lag in economic modernization, the Illinois Central Railroad which planned to spend \$8 million to upgrade its rolling stock was the sole Jackson Purchase establishment that made the list. The only major western Kentucky factory on the list was the massive Ken-Rad plant in Owensboro (later acquired by General Electric) that was a major source for vacuum tubes used by radios and other electronic equipment.

Nevertheless, once America became a belligerent, residents of the Jackson Purchase soon found themselves involved in many ways. As demands for more agricultural output increased, the value of farm products in Fulton County rose from \$1.5 million in 1940 to more than \$3.4 million in 1945. The war proved to be a great stimulus for areas of the region that produced cotton. Many will recall these years for a short-lived return to hemp production in the Jackson Purchase needed after Japan occupied the Philippine Islands and it was needed for rope and bagging.

Kentucky did benefit from its location that made it an unlikely target for enemy air attacks and a congressional delegation, particularly in the case of Senate Majority Leader Alben Barkley from Paducah, skilled with "bringing home the bacon" in the competition for new military bases and wartime industries. Paducah initially failed to land an aluminum smelting facility due to Kentucky Utilities inability to provide sufficient of electrical capacity (a problem that would soon be rectified by the massive hydroelectric output from the TVA Kentucky Dam project completed in 1944), but it was selected for the Kentucky Ordnance Works located on 9,000 acres west of the city which at the time was the world's largest producer of TNT. This plant was crucial to the construction of the Paducah airport. It took 6,000 workers to build the

plant which employed about 1,200 people. Viola, a small town in rural Graves County, was home to a Navy facility that built anti-aircraft, incendiary, and tracer shells.¹

Several military bases were located in or near the Jackson Purchase. Camp Tyson, located near Paris, Tennessee was the nation's only training installation for barrage balloons. Although Tyson did not survive in the postwar period, Camp Campbell located between Hopkinsville and Clarksville, Tennessee did. Campbell trained approximately one-fourth of Army artillery and armored personnel on its 36,000 acres. Like Tyson, Campbell was scheduled to close, but the advent of the Cold War and the Korean War made the continued existence of Fort Campbell possible. However, the author fails to make the postwar connection between Kentucky Ordnance Works and the gaseous diffusion facility (aka "Atomic Plant") approved near the start of the Korean War at Paducah which provided jobs for several thousand workers and required massive demands for local coal and electricity.

The author does a good job of detailing the many ways the war effected Kentuckians beyond the tens of thousands of men and women called to service and their families left behind. Wartime employment opportunities pulled many away from the Jackson Purchase, and many chose to remain causing a serious loss in population that plagued throughout the 20th century. Some communities such as Paducah were forced to cope with the many problems caused by the sudden location of large numbers of people from nearby factories or military bases. Concerned that too many soldiers were left on their own devices, Paducah organized a USO and sleeping facilities for the soldiers at Camp Tyson and workers associated with the ordnance works.

Holl provides considerable information about wartime labor-management relations, the impact on women working in factories, expanded entertainment opportunities for a civilian population needing escapes from the tensions of war now with the disposable income that the war economy brought, and the increased importance of organized sports (most notably the University of Kentucky men's basketball team coached by Adolph Rupp). His chapter on rationing, price controls, and black markets made for good reading. A point of interest here is the role that the Jackson Purchase Mississippi River cities of Hickman, Columbus, and Wickliffe played in the distribution of counterfeit gasoline ration cards.

This reader found the discussion of Kentucky politics somewhat awkward and disappointing. Firstly, the discussions of the 1935 and 1939 gubernatorial races appear out of place in a book focusing on the World War II period. The author's statement that Keen Johnson, a Lyon County native, "became Kentucky's first wartime governor" (p.129) is awkward at best given the many other governors who served during previous wars. In addition, the assertion that political developments during the war as "politics as usual" seems undeserving if

¹ For and in-depth exploration of the Navy facility at Viola, see Joseph E. Brent and Maria Campbell Brent, "History of National Fireworks Company Shell Loading Plant at Viola, KY," *Journal of the Jackson Purchase Historical Society* 43 (July 2016): 90-132.

for no other reason that Kentucky voters elected Simeon Willis as its first Republican governor since Flem Sampson in 1927 and the last until Louie B. Nunn in 1969. Missing from the discussion of the Willis administration is that it departed from the state's usual politics, with Democratic majorities in the general assembly, the governor was an exception to the tradition of strong chief executives that prevailed until legislative independence was achieved at the start of John Y. Brown's term in 1983. Rather than deference to a governor's choice of legislative leaders, Democrats turned to two western Kentucky rising politicians, Harry Lee Waterfield from Hickman County in the Jackson Purchase and Earle Clements from Morganfield as their leaders in the House and Senate respectively. Clements was the driving force behind rules changes that stripped Willis' Republican lieutenant governor of his traditional powers as the presiding officer in the Senate. Holl glazes quickly over Willis' failure to redeem a major campaign pledge to repeal the state income tax and subsequent sidelining in writing the state budget in the 1944 session. Willis deserves credit for a number of advances during his tenure, but Holl appears reluctant to balance his assessment of the governor to include his failure to unite factions in the GOP especially when it came to finding his successor. Several potential candidates refused to run, and the one he did back lost to the candidate of a rival faction who was easily defeated by Earle Clements who provided the state with the dynamic leadership that was lacking during the Johnson and Willis terms.

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