

Editor's Remarks

The Jackson Purchase Historical Society was founded in 1958. During the last sixty years, it has played a crucial role in the life of the Jackson Purchase region due to the diligent efforts of its members to preserve the area's past. The *Journal of the Jackson Purchase Historical Society* continues to be the primary channel through which knowledge of the Jackson Purchase has been disseminated. This year's *Journal* is the forty-sixth published by the members of the Society.

The 2019 *Journal* consists of five articles and seven book reviews. Richard Dwayne Parker's article demonstrates that the Night Riders in west Kentucky during the early twentieth century targeted not only tobacco farmers, who refused to cooperate with the movement against the American Tobacco Company, but also blacks and women deemed offensive by the Night Riders. Parker's writing provides readers with an analysis of Night Rider violence that takes into account the influence of race and gender, two influences sometimes missing from writing about the tobacco wars in west Kentucky.

Readers of the *Journal of the Jackson Purchase Historical Society* are familiar with the writings of Berry Craig on west Kentucky history. Professor emeritus at West Kentucky Technical Community and Technical College, Craig is probably the most prolific chronicler of Jackson Purchase history. Craig, in the 2019 *Journal*, illuminates the World-War I exploits of Sedalia, Kentucky native, Marion Wesley Page, through Page's letters and through the research of Page's granddaughter, Marion Belote O'Rourke.

Captain Page, serving as a battalion surgeon, endured intense combat during World War I and sustained serious injuries. He dedicated the rest of his career after the war to assisting the citizens of west Kentucky as a highly respected doctor. Page was awarded several major military medals long after his death in 1967. The diligent research of Page's granddaughter in archives in Kentucky and Maryland provided proof that Page served admirably and made great sacrifices during the First World War. Dr. Page embodied an uncommon form of heroism and a strong sense of duty both to his country and to his fellow human beings.

Victoria Beasley, a student at West Kentucky Technical and Community College, graciously allowed the editor of the *Journal* to publish an interview she conducted with her grandmother, Thelma Powell. The interview deals with Powell's life as a youngster living in west Kentucky during the Great Depression and at the advent of World War II. In the interview, Powell discusses the difficulties her family experienced obtaining food, medical care, and transportation, describes the reaction of west Kentuckians to the Japanese strike at Pearl Harbor, and reminisces about her experiences working at the Viola ammunition plant, located in Graves County, during the Second World War. The interview provides an enlightening look at life in west Kentucky before modernization of the region.

Oral history is an increasingly important method to apply to the study of the past, explains Melony Shemberger in her article detailing two journalism projects conducted with her classes at Murray State University. Shemberger is an Associate Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication. The two projects she explains focused on public education in Kentucky and patterns of voting. She points out that the goal of the projects was not only to enable the students to learn about oral history, but also to encourage historians to include oral history in their research. Complementing her article is Shemberger's analysis of a biography of Irving S. Cobb, Paducah's famous writer and journalist, in the book review section of the *Journal*.

Nicholas Jackson penned the final article in the *Journal*. Jackson recently completed a history degree at Murray State University. He seeks in his article to shed light on the attempt of members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to spread the ideology of the Lost Cause in Kentucky, a state that never left the Union during the Civil War, and to other southern states. Jackson concludes that the Daughters, by propagating specious ideas related to slavery, secession, and the Civil War and Reconstruction, played an integral role in shaping the biases and prejudices that many southern whites harbored long after Appomattox toward the defunct Confederacy and their ancestors' struggle to maintain slavery by sundering the Union. His article details the complexity of the Lost Cause argument and the determination of the members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to indoctrinate white southerners in it.

The book review section comes toward the end of the *Journal*. There, readers will find reviews of books dealing with a brave woman, who challenged traditional standards for females during the Jacksonian era; a Civil War officer, whose armies conquered the Mississippi Valley region; a river town in so much turmoil that it teetered on the brink of collapse; a Paducah writer, whose work earned him a national reputation; a famous novel, penned by a Kentuckian, who chronicled a dangerous world of political intrigue; a group of soldiers from Kentucky, who were sent to help keep the peace in a foreign land; and a revised version of a history of the Bluegrass state that was written by two excellent scholars of Kentucky's past. All of these book reviews are well written and provide analysis that will intrigue readers.

The writings in the 2019 *Journal of the Jackson Purchase Historical Society* add significantly to the corpus of scholarship on the Jackson Purchase region. I feel a debt of gratitude to the historians, who have written for this year's *Journal*, and say thank you to all of them. The assiduous work William H. Mulligan has invested into the Society as its president has been instrumental in moving the organization forward. Dr. Mulligan has done an excellent job in leading the Society. Other members of the Executive Committee--Richard Parker, Melony Shemberger, Melissa Webb Earnest, and Marvin Downing--also have made vital contributions to the organization. Please note that the 2019 volume of the *Journal of the Jackson Purchase Historical Society* is dedicated to the memory of Marvin's Downing's wife, Sandra Kay Downing.

James S. Humphreys
Editor