

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-seventh published by the members of the Society.

The 2020 *Journal* consists of six articles and six book reviews. The opening article details the life and career of Lonnie E. Maness, who taught history at the University of Tennessee at Martin and served as a long-time member of the Jackson Purchase Historical Society. Maness passed away on August 21, 2019. The tribute to him was written by his son, Davis L. Maness, a medical doctor. The writings that follow Maness's salute to his father address diverse and fascinating topics. Murray State University Professor Brian K. Clardy provides an overview of the tragedy of lynching in the United States, while Melinda Meador explores the murder of an African-American family by a mob in 1908 near Hickman, Kentucky. Meador serves as the First Assistant District Attorney in Union County, Tennessee. William H. Mulligan, Jr., president of the Jackson Purchase Historical Society and Professor of History Emeritus at Murray State University, challenges the traditional interpretation of the reasons for war between the United States and Great Britain in 1812, and Bobbie Smith Bryant, who works as a community advisor for the Kentucky League of Cities, offers her conclusions about Kentucky foodways, conclusions based on reflection and research. The final installment consists of excerpts of a panel discussion about the history of West Kentucky Baptists that took place at a combined meeting of the J.H. Spencer Historical Society and the Jackson Purchase Historical Society.

The book review section comes toward the end of the *Journal*. There, readers will find reviews of books about the eighteenth century French-controlled town of Kaskaskia in the present day Midwest, about the role of newspapers in the bank war that erupted during the presidential administration of Andrew Jackson, and about various topics related to the American Civil War. All of these book reviews are well written and will intrigue readers.

The writings in the 2020 *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. Along with him, the other members of the Executive Committee—Richard Parker, Bruce Dobyms, Ann Uddberg, and Marvin Downing—have made vital contributions to the organization. The nine scholars, who agreed to be on the *Journal's* Editorial Board, also deserve to be thanked for their willingness

to serve. Their names are listed earlier in the *Journal*. Without such a gifted group of members, the Jackson Purchase Historical Society and its *Journal* would be unable to thrive.

Please discuss with me your ideas about articles or book reviews for future volumes of the *Journal*. While traditional topics related to war, politics, and society are certainly welcome, I would also like to see the *Journal* focus on less examined subjects pertaining to race and gender, business and economics, and geography and the environment. The 2020 edition of the *Journal of the Jackson Purchase Historical Society* promises to enhance our knowledge of a region rich in history, much of which remains untold.

James S. Humphreys
Editor