

Note from the Editor

The *Madison Historical Review* is pleased to present our readers with this latest edition of original historical scholarship. This year we received a record number of submissions from all over the United States, a fact that speaks to the continuing growth of the journal's academic reputation. We are proud that the *Madison Historical Review* is one of the only scholarly journals run by graduate students with a focus geared toward the publication of Master's level research. The ensuing articles represent a wide variety of graduate student scholarship, from an analysis of the political and religious conflicts found in nineteenth-century charitable relief in Ireland, to a new look at the historiography of Abraham Lincoln and the Dakota War, and an examination of how regional and social differences impacted issues of identity during the Greek War of Independence. The book reviews found in this issue are similarly diverse, and specifically review works concerned with Lenape-European relations in the seventeenth-century Delaware Valley and anti-war sentiment in Britain during the First World War. Taken together, these works provide a view into some of the topics that are currently popular among history graduate students.

On behalf of the entire editorial board, I would like to congratulate Kristin V. Brig, winner of the 2016 James Madison Award for Excellence in Historical Scholarship. Ms. Brig is a graduate student at the College of Charleston with a primary focus area of nineteenth-century labor history in the British Isles. Her article, "'Torn from Their Mother's Breasts': The Battle for Impoverished Souls in Ireland," is a fascinating study of the political and religious misunderstandings that surrounded philanthropic efforts in nineteenth-century Ireland. Ms. Brig's work is an excellent example of graduate student research and writing skills.

Over the past year, the *Madison Historical Review* has continued to grow and build off of the hard work of our preceding editorial boards. One of our new features attempts to further

integrate the journal into our own history department. While the journal does not accept submissions from James Madison University students, the new MHR Liaison Program works with JMU graduate students looking to publish their work in peer publications. This program is consistent with the overall goal of the *Madison Historical Review*, which is to encourage early publishing opportunities at the graduate level.

This issue also marks a new take on our series of interviewing history professionals. This feature began last year with our interview with Dr. Shelley Lee, professor at Oberlin College and editor on the Louis Pelzer Award Committee for the *Journal of American History*. This year, our interview feature includes a panel of three curators working at presidential museums in Virginia. I would like to thank Adam Erby, associate curator at George Washington's Mount Vernon, Emilie Johnson, assistant curator at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, and Teresa Teixeira, assistant curator at James Madison's Montpelier, for taking part in our interview series. All of us at the *Madison Historical Review* are grateful for their insight and for the opportunity to present the interview in such a way that it serves as a forum for their respective advice and expertise.

I would also like to thank our editorial board; without their hard work, the publication of this journal would not be possible. Members of the editorial board review all submitted articles and copy-edit the papers chosen for publication. The editorial board manages to carry out these tasks skillfully and efficiently in addition to their usual coursework. A special thanks goes to the copy-edit committee: Nils Martin, James Schrufer, Michael St. Jacques, and Joel Webster. Additionally, I would like to thank Laura Drake Davis for her technical support and expertise in operating the journal's Scholarly Commons website. Finally, I would also like to thank all of the history department faculty who helped in the publication of this issue. We at the journal are grateful to Dr. Evan Friss for setting up our online donation feature and to Dr. Timothy Fitzgerald for his historical consultation. All of us at the *Madison Historical Review* are especially indebted to our

faculty advisors, Dr. Philip Herrington and Dr. Andrew Witmer, for their guidance and support in the publication of this issue.

Support for this publication comes from the James Madison University College of Arts and Letters. A special thanks to Dr. David Jeffrey, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, for his continued support for the *Madison Historical Review*.

Additionally, I would like to thank our generous alumni who donated toward our publication fund. Through the backing of the College of Arts and Letters, the journal has been able to grow into the unique fixture of the graduate program that it is today, and through the generosity of our alumni, the *Madison Historical Review* remains on-track for our goal of being self-funded by 2018.

Ryan Bachman, Executive Editor