This winter issue completes the seventh volume of Kansas History produced in the Department of History at Kansas State University. To remind our readers, the work of publishing the journal is bound by an agreement with the Kansas Historical Foundation and Kansas State University. Work at K-State began in January 2012. I am delighted with the working relationship I have with the foundation, and it is my objective to continue the high-quality publication of Kansas History.

Of course, it would be impossible to continue this work on campus without considerable support from the university. The Department of History has made it possible to hire graduate and undergraduate editorial assistants. In addition, the department has provided great office space and computer hardware and software support. Jeffrey Morris, the vice president for communications and marketing, continues to provide the funding for the journal designer, Mariah Winkowski. I think we all agree that the designs of the issues are attractive, to say the least, and we have Mariah to thank for that.

I am lucky to have Virgil Dean as the consulting editor; I truly enjoy our friendship and working relationship. Professor Kelly Erby (Washburn University) continues to do a fantastic job as book review editor. Beginning in June, Dr. Ginette Aley signed on to become the associate managing editor of the journal. Ginette is an accomplished, published historian in her own right, and we are lucky to have her on staff. Brittany Tanner, one of the undergraduate student editorial assistants, graduated in the spring, and now teaches geography and Kansas history at Neodesha Middle School. The journal has two new undergraduate assistants, Molly Black and John Dotterweich. Jennifer Zoebelein, our graduate student editorial assistant, graduated in the spring with her PhD, and now works in the National WWI Museum and Memorial in Kansas City. Lisa Highsmith, a student in the department, has taken Jennifer’s position, and has bolstered the journal’s social media presence. Follow us on our Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/kshistoryjournal/, or on Twitter, https://twitter.com/kshistoryjrnl. Lisa has also helped in creating podcasts featuring our authors. Episode 1, “The Hull Baby Case & Women in 1870s Kansas,” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3sex-Ua0A&feature=youtu.be, features Professor Kelly Erby. A second podcast in the works will feature Professor Jay Price and his discussion of the rise of evangelicalism in Wichita.

We continue our good fortunate with Connie Oehring as our copy editor, and Mary Mortensen on board doing the indexing of this volume.

Regardless of the work of this talented staff, the journal is only as good as the articles submitted to it. Volume 40 is filled with fine historical pieces, which shows the appeal of writing about the great history of this state. Reflective of the exceptional work found in the pages of the journal is this year’s recipient of the Langsdorf Award for the best article published in 2017.

Ian H. Munro’s “C.H.J. Taylor and Black Empowerment in Post-Reconstruction Kansas, 1877-1887,” reveals how at the end of Reconstruction African American leaders in Kansas developed new strategies of empowerment that did not rely primarily on the Republican Party. Repeated demands for nominations of blacks to elective posts ultimately resulted in the election of E.P. McCabe as state auditor in 1882. However, after McCabe’s removal from the Republican slate in 1886, blacks in Wyandotte County, under the leadership of C.H.J. Taylor, had to deploy new methods of coalition building with labor in conjunction with discrediting the dominant Republican narrative of black dependence. As Professor Munro, William Jewell College, demonstrates, despite an oppressive and hostile racial environment, African Americans succeeded in gaining positions in the administration of the new city of Kansas City, Kansas, and influenced the Kansas state elections of 1886.

It is surely one thing to publish the accomplished writing of historians such as Ian Munro, but quite another to keep the lights on in the journal office. Today, Kansas State University, like public institutions throughout the state, endeavors mightily to continue its educational mission despite the reductions in state support. The work of the journal carries on in part because of the contributions made to it by generous donors. Still, I continue to work to build outside funding support of the journal so that it will have the means to continue publishing the history of Kansas for another century.

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