

## Moving Into a New Age

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## Editorial

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While the weather has been freezing in most of the country, including Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the home of the Civil War Book Review, this issue of the Review is hot (I'm sorry, please forgive me for trotting out this old line, I just could not resist). This issue debuts a new feature and we are also prepared to announce some upcoming changes that I think the readers of the Review will really enjoy.

The author interview this issue is with Dr. Elizabeth Varon, the Langbourne M. Williams Professor of American History at the University of Virginia. We discuss her recent book *Appomattox: Victory, Defeat, and Freedom at the End of the Civil War*. Dr. Varon delves into the importance of Appomattox in all possible ways, militarily, socially, and politically, and see why it resonates still today.

The featured reviews run a gamut of topics about the war. While not about the war, Mark Cheatham's *Andrew Jackson, Southerner* explains the development of politics and society that eventually led to the war. *Marrow of Tragedy*, by Margaret Humphreys, explores a topic that is becoming very important in Civil War studies today, medical care during the war. The collection of essays edited by Jonathan Earle and Diane Mutti Burke shows how violent and personal the war was in Kansas and Missouri in *Bleeding Kansas, Bleeding Missouri: The Long Civil War on the Border*. Finally, Susannah J. Ural's *Don't Hurry Me Down to Hades: The Civil War in the Words of Those Who Lived It* gives a look at what the people who lived during the war thought about the upheaval going on around them.

One new section of the review is a featured fiction review. The first review is of *Silent We Stood* by Henry Chappell. This book is about the Underground Railroad in Texas. Many people get their first taste of the Civil War from

historical fiction, and as a clearing house of all books written about the Civil War era, the Civil War Book Review will now help to highlight what new books are out there. We are looking for qualified fiction reviewers, so if you are interested please contact the Review.

We have two wonderful feature columns this month. Our Civil War Treasures Column, written by Tara Laver, the Curator of Manuscripts at the Louisiana State University Special Collections, deals with the problems of marriage in her column "Love is a Battlefield: Courtship and Marriage in the Civil War." Frank J. Williams' column, Looking at Lincoln, focuses on a new book by Thomas Boger, *Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination: The Untold Story of the Actors and Stagehands at Ford's Theatre*.

Finally, the Book Review is preparing to enter the video age. Soon we plan to switch our author interviews over to video interviews and post them to the website. We will still post a full transcript, but with this new age of media that we are in it feels like the right time to make the transition to video. We hope to have more than just the author interviews on our video channel so stay tuned to see what is next!