

## FROM THE EDITOR

*Paul Douglas Newman*  
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*I*t is with a heavy heart that I address you from the Editor's Desk to announce the untimely passing of Eric Ledell Smith over the summer. Bill Sisson, Chief of the Curatorial Division of the State Museum, has penned a memoriam to Eric that appears within this issue, but I wanted to take just a few lines to recognize Eric for the service he performed for the Pennsylvania Historical Association and for *Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies*. As Book Review Editor, I regularly relied upon Eric for insightful book reviews and for multiple book review essays on topics relating to African-American history in Pennsylvania. As Editor, I have counted on Eric time and again as a peer referee for article submissions pertaining to the Mid-Atlantic's African-American past, and most recently, for an article in the Spring 2008 issue of volume 75 entitled, "The 1917 Race Riot in Chester, Pennsylvania." For eight years I have depended on Eric time and again, and so have the readers of *Pennsylvania History*.

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PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY: A JOURNAL OF MID-ATLANTIC STUDIES, VOL. 75, NO. 4, 2008.

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Along with thanking Eric Smith for his service to *Pennsylvania History*, I must also thank outgoing Book Review Editor Thomas J. Kiffmeyer for his. Tom stepped down from the book review editing position after the Summer 2008 issue in order to pursue academic endeavors delayed by his service to our journal for three years. Tom was more than a Book Review Editor. He made the trip from Kentucky to the PHA Annual Meeting every year to attend panels to seek article submissions, and he regularly referred writers on Appalachian topics to contact the Editor.

Tom's replacement, I am happy to report, will be Daniel Barr of Robert Morris University. Dan is a former Klein Prize winner and the author and editor of several excellent books and articles. He comes to us with finely honed editorial skills and with great enthusiasm. Associate Editor Jeffrey Davis and I are thrilled to have Dan join the editorial team.

Finally, there are changes in the ranks of Editorial Assistants and Production Assistants. Editorial Assistants Joseph P. Heffley and Roger Thrash have left us over the last year after providing two years of invaluable assistance to Jeff and me. Valerie Lauffer has stepped in ably as my Editorial Assistant, moving up from Production Assistant, and I have hired Leah Fuller as my new Production Assistant and she is settling in quite well. Should you encounter any of these student assistants in your communication with the journal, please thank them for all they do. The journal would not be the same without them.