

FROM THE EDITOR

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*F*or the second consecutive issue I address you with a heavy heart. Over the summer, the Pennsylvania Historical Association has suffered the loss of yet another vibrant, intelligent, engaged, and all too young member, David Dixon. I am proud to have known David and to have been known by him as a friend and colleague. I will miss his sense of humor, his wit, his intellect, his ebullient enthusiasm for life and history, and his generous willingness to pick up our bar tab. The PHA will miss his regular attendance and participation in its annual meetings and his service as a Council Member. Our Book Review Editor, and David's former student and protégé, Dan Barr, has written a Memoriam for David for this issue.

This issue also contains a new, regular feature, vaguely promised to readers by the editor in his essay found in the 75th Anniversary Special Edition (vol. 75, Summer 2008). Each issue in volume 76 will contain a feature from one of the four principal agencies in Pennsylvania dedicated to the service of public history. In this issue, Linda Ries will make a report from

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the State Archives of Pennsylvania. In subsequent issues this year, readers will hear from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, and the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Organizations. In my survey of seventy-five years of *Pennsylvania History*, I discovered that the PHA had once maintained a beneficial relationship with public historians, but that over the second-half of its existence the organization veered overwhelmingly toward academe. It is my sense that traditional academics and public historians have much to learn from and contribute to one another, and that the pages of *Pennsylvania History* ought to facilitate communication to that end.

Finally, there are old friends leaving the journal and new ones arriving. David Hsiung, Janet Lindman, Peter Mancall, Sally McMurry, and Bill Pencak are all rotating off the Editorial Board, having completed their terms of service, and then some. Hsiung, Lindman, Mancall, and McMurry all agreed to spend one extra year on the Board to assist with the ongoing reorganization, and Pencak served an extra two years. We all owe them a deep debt of gratitude for the extraordinary service they provided to us and our journal; please thank them whenever you can. Joining the Editorial Board for terms of three years each, volumes 76–78 are: Jerome Bowers of Northern Illinois University, Kali Gross of Drexel University, Nancy Gentile Ford of Bloomsburg University, Tim Shannon of Gettysburg College, and Perry Blatz of Duquesne University. Please welcome them when the opportunity arises. And last but not least, Associate Editor Jeffrey Davis wishes to announce that his trusty Editorial Assistant, Roger Thrash, has, alas, graduated from college and moved on in life after two years of excellent service. However, he has secured a promising new assistant in Nicole Belick who will aid him in the production of the upcoming Special Issue “Pennsylvania and Atlantic History” slated for summer 2009.