

Report of Editor, Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society

As I write this, the combined Summer/Fall 2022 issue is undergoing final copy editing at the University of Illinois Press and is on schedule for publication within the next month or so. The Press also has in hand the Winter 2022 issue. This should lead to its publication early in 2023. I will be working this month on assembling the Spring 2023 issue, keeping us on track in the accelerated production schedule. The target is to have all numbers published in the same year as noted on the cover by the end of 2023.

Submissions

We continue to receive good submissions, and several are now under review by readers. Our readers take on these tasks with no compensation. Quite often, they beat the “deadline” for reporting, thereby leading to more issue-ready articles. Their detailed reports are shared with submitters, especially those who have been asked to make revisions. These reports prove to be of great help to our contributors. These anonymous readers are providing, unselfishly and in competition with their own work, great services not only to the Journal but the study of Illinois history.

A few submissions are returned with do not publish recommendations, usually because of fundamental flaws that call for massive revision or reconsideration of the topic. More submissions, once read, land in the publish with revisions category.

Tim Draper, Special Projects Editor, met at the October 6-7 Conference on Illinois History and discussed future contributions to that department. They may not appear in every issue but remain a strong addition to the product. Aaron Lisec, Book Review Editor, continues to do excellent work under the trying conditions created by the accelerated production schedule. In some issues, you may not find as many book reviews as in the past. However, that will eventually return to the normal amount as we achieve the schedule’s goals and have time to build up more reviews.

During the Conference earlier this month, there were a number of excellent papers on Illinois topics. I approached several authors and hope to see submissions in the coming weeks.

As you may know, Kathryn J. Oberdeck, professor of history at the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, and a member of our Editorial Advisory Board, passed away earlier this summer. Our sympathies to her family and friends. She was an accomplished scholar and her loss to the field is severe.

Joining the Editorial Advisory Board a few months ago is a former Journal editor, Eileen McMahon of Lewis University. Please join me in welcoming her back to the Journal.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Robert D. Sampson
Editor, Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society