

The next two Journal issues—Summer and Fall of 2023—will be combined. For those keeping score at home, it will exhaust the remnants of the backlog we inherited more than a year ago plus two that arrived after April 2021. The articles include a pioneer Black aviatrix, a Chicago woman who gained national prominence through her work in the city’s post office and in Republican politics, the early curriculum of the University of Illinois, and the “orphan trains” of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Tim Draper will have a bibliographic essay for the Special Projects section.

This package will be sent to U of I Press in January after Tim’s essay arrives. By combining the two issues, we not only speed the accelerated schedule up a bit but buy ourselves some time. The Winter 2023 package is not due until June. That should allow some more book reviews to build up as well as the “accepted list” of articles to increase. For Winter 2023, we have two in hand—one is ready to go now; the other will be soon. Beyond that, there are six more in the hands of readers or under revision. My expectation is that at least three to four of the group will pass muster. After the first of the year, I expect the second submission (the first was from Jim Barrett) will arrive from a University of Illinois faculty member. The book reviews are strong. The Special Projects section offers new opportunities, and the article submissions keep arriving.

During the Conference on Illinois History last October, several presenters were asked to submit their papers—expanded to article length—to the Journal for consideration. We have two in hand—one accepted for publication, the other in the hands of a reader. Another presenter is in discussions on framing her research into article form. We will continue to pursue this method of author recruitment along with others. We are averaging about one to two submissions to the Journal per month.