

The Smithfield Review
Volume IX, 2005

The Smithfield Review publishes book reviews. The editors plan for each issue to carry one to three reviews of books dealing with all periods of trans-Appalachian history and culture. We enlist active scholars and professionals to write the reviews. Review copies, requests to review books, and other inquiries may be addressed to:

Tom Costa, Book Review Editor
The Smithfield Review
Department of History and Philosophy
The University of Virginia's College at Wise
Wise, VA 24293

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Proposals or manuscripts to be considered for publication are welcome. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Texts may be of varying length, but should ordinarily not exceed 8,000 words. Annotations should be collected as endnotes and should follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*, latest edition.

Please address all correspondence to:

The Smithfield Review
555 Edgewood Lane
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Pres Sheffey literally pushed the door open a little farther to reveal what transpired in this region during three of the four years of civil war. That in itself makes his letters invaluable. ...He left for war with the same feelings inherent in every American recruit of every war: to defend hearth and home, and to fight for the way of life that was his country. At the same time, the Marion soldier gave to history through his letters a fascinating mixture of love and war.

— James I. Robertson, Jr. (pp. 15-16)

Ed Bodell died on March 1, 1959, at the age of 101. With his death, a small family enterprise ended. It remains as a memory preserved in the few pieces owned by family and serious collectors of this long-ago Blacksburg craft.

— Dorothy H. Bodell (p. 25)

Indeed, Peel had uncovered a rare ballad important on at least two levels: first and oldest. It was the first example of this ballad to be documented in America ... and no ballad with older roots had ever been discovered here. ... Why was Alfreda Peel on horseback in the Virginia backwoods collecting folk ballads? Peel was one of the founding members of the Virginia Folklore Society, established in 1913. One of the first priorities set by the VFS was to identify and preserve as many ballads as possible...

— John Long (p. 31)

According to the story of the deeds, four and maybe five of Blacksburg's original ten streets had names from the beginning. With one exception, they were destination names: Roanoke ... Smithfield, and Tom's Creek.

— Robert B. McNeil (p. 50)

Saltville ... stands out as a uniquely important site ... Its salt made it unique. Late Pleistocene mammals left many bones at the salt lick, and recent research connecting early human activities with those bones makes Saltville an outstanding candidate to be one of a handful of pre-Clovis sites in all of the Americas. We can plausibly argue that the first ascertainable fact of North-American history was a mastodon feast in the Saltville valley about 14,500 B.C.

— Jim Glanville (p. 81)

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