

The Smithfield Review
Volume II, 1998

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

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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:

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In This Issue:

“Blacksburg had its beginnings as part of a 7,500-acre survey originally known as the Patton tract... Although settlers were beginning to carve a life for themselves out of Virginia's backcountry wilderness as early as the 1740s, the Patton tract was not formally subdivided until Patton's nephew, William Preston, completed his surveys in 1753. By that time the area was being called Draper's Meadow after George Draper, one of the area's first settlers.”

— *James Paxton, page 6*

“The economic base along the frontier ... revolved around agriculture and the export of cash crops. The main cash crops grown in the New River Valley were hemp, flax, corn, and wheat ... ”

— *Scott Crawford, page 31*

“In the year 1775, Col. Floyd went to Kentucky, where he made many surveys of all the best Lands on Elk horn Creek... He returned to Smithfield after unparalleled sufferings.... [They] purchased a schooner, had it fitted up for a privateer, and gave the command to Col. Floyd.... He sailed to the West Indies, obtained a very rich prize.... He thought his Fortune was made in the rich Cargo he had taken. On his return whilst nearly in sight of the Capes of Virginia he was overhauled by a British Vessel of War, captured, taken to England, put in irons, and imprisoned.... Floyd begged his way to Dover, where he found a Clergyman who was in the habit of concealing all American fugitives and procuring a passage for them to France....

“Sawyers had requested her to walk with him in the garden to which she consented, and whilst there agreed to marry him. In an hour thereafter Col. Floyd arrived at Smithfield much to the surprise and joy of his Friends. Miss Buchannans last engagement was immediately cancelled, and in the month of November 1778, she married Col. Floyd....”

— *Letitia Preston Floyd, pages 42-43*



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