

The Smithfield Review
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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:

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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.

Please address all correspondence to:
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In this issue —

A brief account of Louis Philippe's earlier life and his reasons for traveling in America increases understanding of his ... uniqueness among European commentators upon the great experiment underway in the United States.

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Your Father and Brothers will do all they can to get our corn in. it will be a bad chance to get help from Samuel Weddle for another of his sons died the first of this week, and two more are sick. I want you to come home about harvest if you can.

Dear husband thou are kind and true
And every day I think of you
So my dear husband think of me
While many miles apart we be....

— page 30

There was no American navy to challenge the British Navy that dominated the oceans of the world when Massachusetts minutemen fired on British regulars at Concord and Lexington in April 1775. Recognizing its need for a navy, the Continental Congress established a Marine Committee in October 1775 and, in an act of war, took its first steps to form a navy.

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Susanna Smith Preston's wintry birth in 1739 to Elizabeth and Francis Smith of Hanover, Virginia made her a third generation American. As an educated young woman, she met William Preston, fell in love and married him, left the Hanover area to move with him to the frontier.

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By 1770, the rutted wagon road traversing the region was briefly the most heavily traveled route in all America. In the decades following independence, hundreds of thousands of Virginians moved westward to newly created states carrying with them their culture and their political institutions.

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