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.

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In this issue —

Native American society was organized according to matrilineal descent, which proved very difficult for Europeans to understand or respect. Under this system, all children inherited their clan affiliation from their mother and belonged to her and lived in her home. She and her maternal relatives raised them and taught them their roles in society, which derived from her clan and not from their father's.
—page 4

Like most pioneer stories, it is one of simple farmers and tradesmen looking for a better life for themselves and their children. It is a story of great loss in the Shawnee raids of 1755, when three family members were killed and another two taken prisoner. It is also a story of migration, moving from colony to colony or state to state every generation. Finally, it is a story of triumph, with the family not only surviving, but also prospering in the New World. **—page 27**

County surveyors in eastern Virginia traditionally belonged among political, economic, and social leadership. In newly formed western counties, a skillful and ambitious man from the lower social ranks, or even an immigrant such as William Preston, could leverage his way into the ranks of the elite via the office of county surveyor. **—page 44**

Slavery was alive and well in Montgomery County in 1860; in fact it was expanding rapidly. Slavery had existed in the county since its creation in 1776, but for many years it remained a relatively insignificant element of the local economy and society. The land and climate ... were well suited to a variety of agricultural pursuits. ... Producing marketable goods, then, was never a problem in Montgomery County; getting them to market was though. ... That changed when the railroad arrived. **—pages 75,76**

"The virtues of a superior man are like the wind; the virtues of a common man are like the grass; the grass, when the wind passes over it, bends." **—page 98**