

The Editor's Pages

The present issue includes two articles whose authors probably have never met. But together they tell us a great deal about the material and cultural growth of northern Illinois as it advanced from a western frontier stage to an advanced and diversified society. Both articles also tell us much about the rise of Chicago, though the growth of our metropolis is not the chief concern of either author.

No one can study the history of Chicago and Illinois without realizing how important Irish immigrants and their descendants have been. Harvey Strum reminds us that the generous efforts of Americans to mitigate the terrible potato famine was an important factor in the flood of Irish immigration that followed.

Our third article is a harbinger of several we have "in the works" on the historical unfolding of race, housing, employment, segregation, and desegregation in Chicago from the 1940s to the 1960s. Race and gender (your simple-minded Editor would as soon say "racial minorities and women") have become major focuses of scholarly study in recent years, and the pages of this Journal certainly reflect that fact.

The world continues to change. When the Society took full responsibility for all its publications three years ago, Executive Director Jon Austin attended to the often complicated business side of this Journal, and full responsibility for our new and widely praised sister publication, *Illinois Heritage*. When Jon departed for a new challenge, he left a small but excellent staff, fully capable, with active support from many members, of keeping the Society's programs and publications moving along on schedule.

After serving as a helpful and encouraging Associate Editor for a year, Felix J. Armfield has now moved up to our Editorial Advisory Board; this change follows his professional move from Western Illinois to Buffalo State University in New York. With Michael Batinski of Southern Illinois University serving as an excellent book review editor — proof of which is in the many fine reviews in this issue — and several members of the Editorial Advisory Board

effectively pitching in, the Journal will do without an Associate or Assistant Editor for the time being.

Normally we arrange both articles and reviews in roughly chronological sequence. But in this issue we award the first place among reviews to a book that is of personal as well as professional interest to many members of our Society: Shirley Portwood's *Tell Us A Story*. Part of it has previously appeared in our pages.

At the Society's Historical Symposium last December, we once again presented the Harry E. Pratt Award for the best article appearing in a year's worth of Journals. In this case the year extended from Autumn, 1999 through Summer, 2000. The winning author proved to be Linda V. Carlisle of Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. Her article, "'New Notions and Wild Vagaries': Elizabeth Packard's Quest for Personal Liberty" appeared in the Spring, 2000 issue. The Editor once again congratulates Professor Carlisle, and cordially thanks the three members of the Editorial Board who served as prize committee: David Bartlett of South Suburban College, Robert Hennings of Eastern Illinois University, and Arvarh E. Strickland of the University of Missouri, Columbia.