

Editor's Note



In a time when the fascination with the new seems to supplant interest in the old, one could well ask "Why study history?" There are many well-worn adages about lessons not learned being repeated or about precedent supplying every foundation for the future, but, to me, history is more than either of those. History offers us the opportunities to not only accept what now resides in books and other media as fact, but to also actively participate in the writing of that history.

The selections in this year's journal allow the authors - and the readers - to participate in the creation of history. "The Paper Revolution" is written by a first-hand observer of the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe. "Ulysses S. Grant: The Fighting General" and "The Fates of Lee and Davis" allow views into both sides of the Civil War. "Humanism: Friend or Foe of the Reformation?" examines early Germany during a time of upheaval and looks into the various movements for harmony or discord. And where does the reader fit in? Read these selections and don't be afraid to do your own research. What you find may add to the rich tapestry of the history of our human family.

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