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FROM THE EDITOR

Generational thinking is a topic that many articles revisited in this issue. Perhaps the most direct example of this was the editorial process. If we focus on Appalachian scholars and writers as a whole, we’re not alone in observing that many articles reminded us of how much has changed and how much has stayed the same. We looked back at how Appalachian communities and families have changed over time, particularly families associated with Appalachian experience. We asked ourselves: are they still as urgently interested in understanding the past as the previous generation was? And are they still as urgently interested in passing that history onto new generations ready to embrace it?

We had the privilege of hearing Bob Ludke, Phil Osburne, and Victoria E. Wells contribute their wisdom to this issue. They helped us understand how Appalachian scholars and writers have inherited their claim on the word “Appalachian” and how that label has evolved over time. We also had the opportunity to hear from many of our readers about the ways of talking about our region. We hope that you, as readers of this journal, are as interested in understanding the complex interplay of ideas presented here as we are. If you have ideas about how to continue the conversation or would like to contribute your own thoughts, please reach out to us at info@appalachianhistory.org.