



2001

Editor's Note

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Recommended Citation

Schultz, Robert T. (2001) "Editor's Note," *Constructing the Past*: Vol. 2: Iss. 1, Article 3.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/constructing/vol2/iss1/3>

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The second volume of *Constructing the Past*, a journal of the Nu-Gamma Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta and the Illinois Wesleyan University (IWU) History Department, contains articles by students who wrote papers for the department's Seminar in the Theory and Writing of History and the Senior Seminar. The lead article, Erik Rozinek's senior thesis, explores the roles that women played in the crucial American election of 1860, which resulted in Abraham Lincoln's election to the presidency. In Kyle Painter's senior-seminar paper, he explores the relationship between American Methodism and arguments that supported slavery. The articles by Lauren Olds and Amanda Wiesenhofer resulted from their work in the Seminar in the Theory and Writing of History course. Lauren analyzes the impact that World War II had on American fashion, while Amanda examines how the Springfield, Illinois community has preserved its historical memory of the race riot of 1908.

The history faculty commends the work of these students, and we thank our student editors, Erik Rozinek and Lauren Olds, for their labor selecting and editing the papers for this volume of the journal. We also thank the Social Science secretary, Patra Noonan, for the many hours she spent transforming these student papers into the articles that appear here.

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