

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY





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Welcome to the 15th issue of *New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, the only peer-reviewed, *completely open-access* publication dedicated to the study of the whole history of the entire Garden State. The possibilities are seemingly endless—and yes—thanks to the New Jersey Historical Commission, the Monmouth University Department of History and Anthropology, and Rutgers University Libraries, this content is all free, all the time.

Speaking of the New Jersey Historical Commission, be sure to follow their <u>website</u> and social media to stay abreast of their latest news. Their planning for the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in 2026 is really ramping up, and they just announced a new grant program focused on supporting research and interpretive planning at public history and cultural sites in New Jersey.

But back to the journal—I find it difficult *not* to say the same thing in my letter issue after issue, because I often want to celebrate the same things! For example, I really think this issue *again* has something for everyone: academics, public historians, educators, and, really, any New Jersey scholars and enthusiasts, at all levels. Our contributors again include seasoned authors, emerging professionals, and students. The content includes discussions of everything from fossils, to the Revolutionary War, to little-known diplomats and Black history heroes, to an especially colorful look at some advertising history, and much, much more. I know you are going to be as anxious as I am not only to read this digital content, but to order the books and visit the exhibits reviewed!

Our <u>editorial board</u> and our many anonymous reviewers continue to volunteer their time to ensure that our content meets the highest standards of scholarship. I am so grateful for their time and expertise. Please reach out to me if you would like to be added to our pool of reviewers. They say "many hands make light work," and I'd tweak that a bit to suggest that many reviewers make timely and constructive reviews possible!

I would like to, as always, personally thank our reviews editor, Dr. Jonathan Mercantini of Kean University, and our copy editor, Kaitlin Severini, for their hard work, as well as Dr. Chris DeRosa, Chair, Department of History and Anthropology at Monmouth University, for supporting my work on the journal.

We continue to accept submissions on a rolling basis. Please be sure to adhere to the submission guidelines posted here.

Happy reading!

Melissa Ziobro, Editor, New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal