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Greetings, readers,

This issue of *New Jersey Studies* arrives much later than usual, and your editor would like to begin by thanking the authors and readership for their patience and apologizing for any inconvenience incurred by the delay in publication. Producing a journal issue requires the work of multiple authors, peer reviewers, and editors, and figuring out how to best coordinate these efforts has certainly been a learning experience for me. I aim to have subsequent volumes back on a more regular publication schedule.

The present issue is hopefully well worth the wait. It is undoubtedly one of the journal's longest, and the depth and quality of the articles matches their length and quantity. Geographically, this issue's coverage extends from Monmouth County and the Shore to Hoboken and Bayonne. Topics range from New Jersey's early colonial history in the seventeenth century to its recent past in the 1980s, and study "traditional" fields such as politics and labor to creative endeavors including photography and music. Combined, articles such as these make *New Jersey Studies* a truly "interdisciplinary" journal.

Our authors too represent a variety of backgrounds including professors, public historians, archivists, librarians, graduate students, and undergraduates. *New Jersey Studies* has long provided a place for those early in their careers to publish their work, myself included, and I am happy to see that this trend continues. Whether one is just starting out in the field, or is a seasoned professional, this journal remains a good venue for showcasing your research.

Of particular interest is our Special Feature, a previously unseen work on New Jersey's historical geography by the late Dr. Peter O. Wacker. Anyone who has visited the state history section of their local library or a used book shop has likely seen Wacker's 1975 book *Land and People: A Cultural Geography of Pre-Industrial New Jersey*, and anyone who was written on early New Jersey has likely cited Wacker's research. Here, historian Robert W. Craig provides the introduction and light edits to a chapter on rural fences from Wacker's unpublished follow-up to *Land and People*.

During the coming year, New Jerseyans will celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence and the adoption of the state's first constitution. New Jersey State Parks, in conjunction with the New Jersey Historical Commission, have planned a robust series of commemorative events, which can be viewed [here](#). *New Jersey Studies* is always willing to accept research articles pertaining to the Revolution, as well as talks, research notes, and especially gallery and exhibit reviews that might bring to light all of the work local historical sites are undertaking to commemorate the Revolution. During 2026 New Jersey will also host World Cup matches and inaugurate its second woman governor; articles on the histories of sport, women, and politics are therefore also especially welcome this year. Authors can submit their work [here](#).

I thank the NJHC for its ongoing encouragement and support, the Middlesex County, Division of History and Preservation for its support of the journal, and Dr. Jonathan Mercantini for his work as reviews editor. A very special thanks goes to Heather Holt for her copy-editing of this lengthy issue.

Happy Reading,

Steven Elliott, Editor, *New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*



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