



August 2026

DOI: 10.14713/njs.v12i1.421

Greetings, readers,

It is my pleasure to present the next edition of *New Jersey Studies*. It arrives amid a busy 2026 in the Garden State, a year that has already seen the state inaugurate a new governor, host World Cup matches and watch parties, and honor the 250th anniversary of independence and the adoption of the state's first constitution. In the second half of the year, we look forward to further commemorations, culminating in the 250th anniversary of the Crossing of the Delaware this December. The journal remains eager to receive submissions that invite us to consider the state's Revolutionary past in new ways, as well as talks, research notes, and gallery and exhibit reviews that might bring to light commemorative efforts taking place around the state.

Even during this semiquincentennial year, however, it is important to acknowledge that New Jersey's history transcends its status as the Crossroads of the American Revolution. The present issue does so as it highlights the state's rich cultural history. Three articles herein examine the works of nineteenth-century New Jersey photographers, with each author approaching their subject from a different perspective. The other articles also engage in some way with the state's cultural heritage as they look at literary figures, religious architecture, and the surprising legacy of a toy factory. Chronologically, this issue ranges from the eighteenth century up through the 1970s, a breadth of coverage that is matched by the diverse backgrounds of the authors, which include graduate students publishing their first pieces alongside distinguished scholars with many previous contributions to the journal.

As always, publishing another edition of *New Jersey Studies* would not have been possible without the efforts of peer reviewers, the copy editor, and the editorial board. This issue is the first that complies with new accessibility obligations by including an "alt-text" description for all images, and I extend my gratitude to the authors for their assistance in ensuring that their articles met these new requirements. Lastly, I thank the NJHC for its ongoing encouragement, the Middlesex County, Division of History and Preservation for its support of the journal, and Dr. Jonathan Mercantini for his work as reviews editor.

Happy Reading,

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



Supported by Middlesex County, Division of History and Historic Preservation