

# NEW YORK HISTORY

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THE MEANING OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
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Submitted articles should address, in an original fashion, some aspect of New York State history. Articles that deal with the history of other areas or with general American history must have a direct bearing on New York State history. It is assumed that the article will have some new, previously unexploited material to offer or will present new insights or new interpretations. Editorial communications, including article submissions, should be sent to the Editorial Board via email ([NYHJ@nysed.gov](mailto:NYHJ@nysed.gov)) Suggested length is 20-30 double spaced pages (or between 6,000 and 9,000 words), including footnotes. All submitted articles must include a 100-word abstract summarizing the article and providing keywords (no more than 10). Authors must submit articles electronically, with all text in Word and all tables, figures, and images in formats supported by Microsoft Windows. Provision of images in proper resolution (no less than 300 dpi at 5" x 7"), securing requisite permissions, and the payment of any fees associated with images for articles are all the responsibility of the author. *New York History* employs, with some modification, footnote forms suggested in the *Chicago Manual of Style*. More detailed submissions guidelines are to be found on the research and collections page of the New York State Museum: <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/research-collections/state-history/resources/new-york-history-journal>

COVER ART: *La destruction de la statue royale a Nouvelle Yorck*, print, 1776. Courtesy of New York State Museum Collections.

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

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Robert Chiles, Devin R. Lander, Jennifer Lemak, and Aaron Noble

*This issue of New York History was produced during a time of historical uncertainty in our state and nation as the world dealt with the vicious COVID-19 virus. It is our sincere hope that all of our readers and contributors are as safe and healthy as possible during these trying times. And, it is our sincere hope that the schools, colleges, universities, museums, archives, libraries, and historical sites that make up New York's diverse and vital historical community can fully emerge from this disaster and continue their important work.*

*Also at the time of publication our nation is engaged in protests as well as historical debates inflamed by the brutal killing of George Floyd and the broader intransigence of racism in America. In this context, the editors echo the sentiments expressed by the New York State Education Department Board of Regents: "America's greatness lies in our diversity, our tolerance, and our willingness to accept and welcome others. These are our nation's founding principles. Sadly, these very ideals are now under attack, as some seek to divide us based on our differences. But we know that, ultimately, civility, dignity, compassion, and respect will prevail—they will unify us and will lift us up as a state and as a nation. As a society, we must do better. This is a time to come together." —The Editors*

Among the most significant contemporary debates related to American political and social identity is that of historical commemoration, encompassing timely questions of historical relevance, commemorative practice, and the modern significance of figures from the American past. From the moment copies of *Common Sense* hit the streets of Philadelphia in January 1776, Thomas Paine's life and works have remained central to the meaning of the American Revolution—and the site of conflict over the legacy of the War for Independence and the divergent interpretations of American nationhood in the succeeding centuries.

For issue 101.1 of *New York History*, we are proud to partner with Professors Nora Slonimsky and Michael Crowder from the Institute for Thomas Paine Studies (ITPS) at Iona College to present a series of thematic articles exploring the significance and commemoration of the American Revolutionary era. Inspired by conversations initiated at the ITPS Patriot's Day Symposium in April 2019, articles in this issue by Michael Crowder, Robb Haberman, Michael D. Hattem, Christopher F. Minty, and Mariam Touba explore the broad themes of commemoration and politics through multiple methodological

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lenses—particular public history. The Artifact NY feature by Nora Slonimsky utilizes material culture to analyze these themes and Alisa Wade's Teach NY provides a teaching module that helps students better integrate women into the political culture of late-eighteenth century New York City.

The issue proceeds chronologically from the Revolution into the Early Republican period via Kate Brown's article analyzing several key early decisions handed down by New York's Court for the Correction of Errors—decisions that pragmatically balanced competing class interests within the Empire State's increasingly sophisticated commercial polity while simultaneously elevating the Court to national prominence. The final full-length article in this issue considers a time when New York State once

again played a prominent role in a conflict with Great Britain: Harvey Strum's essay on antiwar sentiment among members of the New York State Militia during the War of 1812 highlights the fact that the political divides between Republicans and Federalists that began in the days following American Independence remained contentious over twenty years later.

As always, we are thankful to the journal's Advisory Board for their continued support and guidance and to the authors featured in this issue for their hard work and dedication to their scholarship. And, we remain ever grateful to our readers, whose continued interest in New York's vibrant history allows this journal to thrive.

Sincerely,

The Editors: Robert Chiles, Devin Lander,  
Jennifer Lemak, Aaron Noble and  
Danielle Funicello

## CONTRIBUTORS

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**KATE ELIZABETH  
BROWN**

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Dr. Kate Elizabeth Brown is an assistant professor of history at Western Kentucky University. In 2017 the University Press of Kansas published her first book, *Alexander Hamilton and the Development of American Law*, which was also featured in an episode of the “Ben Franklin’s World” podcast. Dr. Brown has published articles in the *Law and History Review* and the *Federal History Journal*. She is the recipient of the 2019 National Hamilton Scholar award, in addition to numerous fellowships and research grants, including a James C. Rees Fellowship from the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington, a Larry J. Hackman Research Residency Grant at the New York State Archives, a Cromwell Senior Research Grant from the American Society of Legal History, and a fellowship at the Gilder-Lehrman Institute for American History. She is also a junior lead scholar and frequent visiting scholar at the George Washington Teacher Institute at Mount Vernon.



**MICHAEL CROWDER**

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Michael Crowder received his Ph.D. from The Graduate Center, CUNY, in 2019. He works as public historian and lecturer at the Institute for Thomas Paine Studies at Iona College, and is currently writing a new history of Thomas Paine, the American Revolution, and the origins of American progressivism.



**ROBB K. HABERMAN**

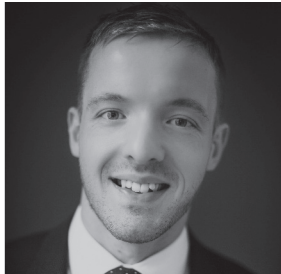
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Robb K. Haberman is the senior associate editor of *The Selected Papers of John Jay*, a seven-volume project located at Columbia University’s Rare Book & Manuscript Library. His current research explores how the legacy of the American Revolution in New York shaped politics in the early Republic.



**MICHAEL D. HATTEM**

Michael D. Hattem is Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Knox College. He received his Ph.D. from Yale University and his B.A. from The City College of New York. His book, *Past and Prologue: Politics and Memory in the American Revolution*, is forthcoming from Yale University Press in the fall of 2020. He has also served as contributing editor at *The Junto: A Group Blog on Early American History*, producer of “The JuntoCast,” the first podcast devoted to early American history, and contributor to *American Yawp*.



**CHRISTOPHER F. MINTY**

Christopher F. Minty (@cfminty) is managing editor of The John Dickinson Writings Project. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Stirling (2015), Scotland, and he specializes in the history of Revolutionary America. Dr. Minty is the author of *“American Demagogues”: The Origins of Loyalism in Manhattan* (Cornell, forthcoming) and various articles on the American Revolution. He is also the coeditor of *The Cause of Loyalty: The Revolutionary Worlds of Myles Cooper* (Lexington, forthcoming). His research has been sponsored by institutions and organizations across the Atlantic world, including the Royal Historical Society, the New-York Historical Society, the Huntington Library, and the David Library of the American Revolution, among others.



**NORA SLONIMSKY**

Dr. Nora Slonimsky is the Gardiner Assistant Professor of History at Iona College, where she also serves as director of the Institute for Thomas Paine Studies (ITPS). Nora’s research focuses on the intersection of intellectual property, commerce, and politics in Colonial, Revolutionary, and early national America. She is currently working on her first book, *The Engine of Free Expression: Copyrighting The State in Early America*, which is forthcoming with the University of Pennsylvania Press, and she won the Society for the History of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) prize for best manuscript. This project, as well as other research in the digital humanities, has been supported by the Huntington Library, the Library Company of Philadelphia, the New-York Historical Society, and the America Antiquarian Society, among others. Nora also serves as the Social Media Editor for the *Journal of the Early Republic*, and teaches courses ranging from the American Revolution to copyright and innovation in U.S. history that have digital and public history components. You can follow her on twitter @NoraSlonimsky or check out her website, [www.hamiltonsolo.com](http://www.hamiltonsolo.com).





**HARVEY STRUM**

Harvey Strum is a professor of history and political science at Russell Sage College. His most recent publications include "America's Errand of Mercy to Ireland, 1880," in *New York Irish History* and "Schenectady's Jews, Zionism, and the Persecuted Jews of Europe" in *New York History Review*.



**MARIAM TOUBA**

Mariam Touba is a reference librarian specializing in newspapers at the New-York Historical Society. Commemoration of the American Revolution is the factor that first brought her family to America: Her grandfather was commissioned to set up Iran's exhibition at the Sesqui-centennial International Exposition in Philadelphia in 1926. The pavilion was so well received that he called for his family to join him in New York the following year, and they have remained ever since.



**ALISA WADE**

Alisa Wade is an assistant professor at California State University at Chico, where she teaches early American and gender history. She received her Ph.D. from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, with a focus on the intersections of gender and capitalism in the early American republic. She was a 2016–2017 Bernard and Irene Schwartz Postdoctoral Fellow, jointly held through the New-York Historical Society and the New York School, and a 2017–2018 Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society Postdoctoral Fellow. Wade is currently revising her book manuscript, *An Alliance of Ladies: Power, Public Affairs, and Class Consolidation in Early National New York City*, which looks at women's investing and the stabilization of the city's leadership class in post-Revolutionary New York.