

NEW YORK HISTORY

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STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK—
COLLEGE AT ONEONTA

WINTER
2018

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New York History (ISSN 0146-437x) is a peer reviewed journal published four times a year by Fenimore Art Museum in partnership with State University of New York, College at Oneonta. Submitted articles should deal in an original fashion with the history of the state. Articles that deal with the history of other areas, or with general American history must have a 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. Suggested length is 4500 words.

We ask that authors submit articles electronically. Submissions as well as footnotes should be double-spaced. Provision and costs of images for articles are the responsibility of the author. *New York History* employs, with some modification, note forms suggested in the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Submissions can be sent directly to Fenimore Art Museum Publications Department publications@fenimoreart.org

The journal will process submissions as quickly as possible, but three to six months should be allowed for a thorough reading. *New York History* does not pay for author's articles.

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Editors' Introduction

Thomas D. Beal, D.L. Noorlander, Susan Goodier

This issue not only begins *New York History's* ninety-ninth year of publication, but the final year of our tenure as the journal's editors. For six years the State University of New York at Oneonta has served as the journal's editorial sponsor, but next year (2019) the journal will move to a new proprietor. Under our supervision, the journal's coverage of New York State history expanded into new subjects and offered readers themed issues devoted to the American Civil War, the War of 1812, agriculture, race, ethnicity and, most recently, women's suffrage. We also worked to make sure that only well-researched and well-written essays filled its pages. Most importantly, we helped guarantee *New York History's* survival. We are delighted that this journal, devoted to the study of New York State's past, will have a new home and a bright future.

The essays in this issue of *New York History* are particularly engaging. We begin with "Roots in the Valley: Ginseng and the New York-Iroquois Borderlands, 1752–1785," by Sherri G. Cash, who demonstrates how the ginseng trade connected colonial New York to China. While historians have long examined the rise of consumer cultures in this region, Cash is unique in showing the connection between the new, transformative goods and the export of ginseng. Colin Jay Williams then writes about a different kind of transformation—a political and legal transformation—in his essay on New York in the revolutionary era. In "Unity in a Time of War: New York's First State Constitution, 1776–1777," Williams explores the motives of New York's revolutionary leaders and their efforts in the new constitution to bind the state's traditionally fragmented regions. In "'Another Instance of That Fearful Crime': The Criminalization of Infanticide in Antebellum New York City," Marcela Micucci examines a tragic but common part of life in early nineteenth-century America: infanticide. Using evidence found in coroners' inquests, court records, and countless reports in the popular press, Micucci details the economic, social, and legal struggles

confronting many working-class women in New York City. Finally, Robert Llewellyn Tyler writes about the early Welsh experience in New York in “Migrant Culture Maintenance: The Welsh in Granville, Washington County, New York, 1880–1930.” Tyler explains just how many Welshmen lived in the Granville area, what brought them there in the first place, and how they managed to retain their Welsh identity and culture for as long as they did. He also considers some of the reasons for the decline of that particular ethno-linguistic community during and after the First World War.

This issue also includes an essay that reviews two new books on the Brooklyn Bridge Park and Central Park in New York City. Continuing an environmental theme in reviews, two authors focus on the Philosophers’ Camp in the Adirondack Mountains and on environmental law and citizen activism in a book on Westway in New York City. Citizen activism is the topic of a book review on civil rights activism in New York City, and two other authors emphasize New York City in reviews of books about Herbert Lehman and another on the subway system. A final review is of a book on the New York State women’s suffrage movement.

Producing *New York History* has been and continues to be a privilege and a challenge, and the editors cannot do it alone. Peer reviewers, colleagues, friends, and especially a hard-working and committed group of Research Assistants (Kristina Hanson, Ian T. Leggett, Shivani Patel, Kara Dunderdale, Matthew Racanello, Joshua Rosen, and Ronald Bartlett) have made valuable contributions to the issue. We thank them and the journal’s readers. If you have questions or comments about the journal’s contents, we encourage you to contact us by electronic mail at publications@fenimoreart.org.