



Welcome back to *New Jersey History*.

This, the first issue of *New Jersey History* to be published since 2005, is also the first published online. *New Jersey History* has a venerable record as a regional scholarly journal. It was established as the *Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society* in the 1840s, and published under that title until the spring of 1967 (volume 85), when it took its current name.

In the very first issue under that new title, the editor, Frank P. Townsend, noted that a name change was in keeping with a shift in publishing priorities. “New Jersey History” was meant to describe the journal’s content and new purpose beyond its origins as the Historical Society’s periodical of record. Townsend went on to note admirable changes he planned for the newly named publication, including illustrations and color, and hoped for improvements “still to come,” while conceding that “availability of funds” would “dictate to what extent” the journal could be further improved.

We are pleased to report that, although money remains an ever-present concern, the New Jersey Historical Commission (an agency of the New Jersey Department of State), along with Kean University, the New Jersey Historical Society, Rutgers University Libraries, and Rutgers University Press, have collaborated to resume publication of what we think will continue to be a vibrant venue for the publication of high-quality scholarly research on the history of our state. The goal of this new, digital venture is to provide an accessible vehicle for scholars interested in New Jersey history, and to deliver that scholarship in a cost-effective way.

We plan to publish online twice a year – in the fall and spring. And, as our 1960s predecessors did, we encourage you to submit your work for peer review and possible publication in the journal. Submissions should be scholarly articles (fully documented) but aimed at a non-specialized audience. We welcome essays from all disciplines, including law, literature, political science, anthropology, archaeology, material culture, cultural studies, and social and political history, bearing on any aspects of New Jersey's history. We are also interested in documents, photographs, and other primary source material that could be published with annotations. For further details email us directly at peter.mickulas@gmail.com.

Our new online setting, the [OJS](#) publishing software platform, hosted by Rutgers University Libraries, enables our website visitors to register as both “users” (i.e., readers) and potential “content generators.” By registering, visitors to the journal’s home page will be able to upload – and thus submit for consideration – essays directly to the editors, who will then manage the peer review process. Once registered with the journal, you will also be subscribers and kept informed via email about each new issue as it is published online. (Visit [this page](#) to register now.)

Volume 124, number 1 begins with an investigation by Lucia McMahon of William Paterson University into the various venues for educating young female New Jerseyans in the early nineteenth century. McMahon discovered that there were numerous opportunities for women to attend classes in a variety of school settings. Many of them presented students with rigorous curricula, and encouraged them to achieve academic distinction. McMahon's work enables us to better understand contemporary nineteenth-century ideas about the purpose of women's education.

Moving from the nineteenth to the twentieth century, our second article, by the University of Redlands's Matthew Raffety, traces the early – pre-mayoral – political career of legendary Jersey City political “boss” Frank Hague. This infamous public figure, Raffety says, managed to perfect the theater of machine politics (thus keeping in touch with his working-class constituents) while appealing simultaneously to the city's middle-class Progressives. This deft combination, Raffety says, accounts for Hague's political longevity, and anticipates the rise of later charismatic urban politicians.

From Jersey City, we move south to Trenton: in the third article, historical archaeologists Richard Hunter, Nadine Sergejeff and Damon Tvaryanas consider the rise of the state's capital city as a major American industrial center. They do so by focusing on some of Trenton's earliest successful manufacturers, the Walns, a prominent Delaware Valley Quaker family operating a textile mill on the Assunpink Creek from 1814 until the mid 1840s. By immersing themselves in archival sources as well as archaeological and geographic evidence, Hunter et al. portray in captivating detail a family-run enterprise that initially prospered, but eventually fell victim to global economic forces as well as local competition. In doing so, the authors place Trenton's nascent early-nineteenth-century industry in the context of contemporary US industrialization.

The issue's fourth essay inaugurates what we hope will be a regular feature in the new *New Jersey History*. Given the number of noteworthy and interesting talks, addresses, and other historical events held around the state, the editorial staff plans to publish the text of certain history presentations whenever appropriate. This inaugural history talk consists of an address given by Professor Michael Kazin, a Georgetown University historian, to open an exhibit at Rutgers University's Alexander Library. That exhibit, which ran from January to August of 2009, commemorated the career of Harrison A. (“Pete”) Williams, Jr., who served as one of New Jersey's US senators from 1959 until 1982. Williams's [papers](#) are now organized and open to researchers at Rutgers University's [Special Collections and University Archives](#). Kazin's remarks capture not only the importance of Williams's career to the history of twentieth-century northeastern liberalism, but to some degree what it was like to be a young politically active New Jerseyan during the Great Society era.

In addition to these full-length essays, the issue includes a new and noteworthy survey of historic canals in the state compiled and mapped by the New Jersey Geological Survey as well as reviews of notable scholarship on the history of the state.

We also should note that in its online incarnation, *New Jersey History* is an open content publication. This means that in an effort to disseminate new research as widely as possible, the journal's sponsors agree that all articles published in the journal may be copied and

shared without restrictions, as long as proper attribution is given to the author and the journal, and that all subsequent uses of the articles and images are non-commercial in character. Though authors of individual contributions retain copyright to their work, by publishing in *New Jersey History* they agree to a licensing arrangement developed by Creative Commons, a nonprofit organization working to develop new tools for sharing intellectual property. We believe this open access policy is in keeping with the core public history mission of the New Jersey Historical Commission and the state universities and agencies that sponsor the new journal. For further information about the licensing arrangement we've adopted, we encourage you to visit the Creative Commons [website](#) or contact the editors at peter.mickulas@gmail.com.

Finally, we are happy to acknowledge the following people for the invaluable assistance they provided us: Linda Langschied, Choong Hoong Liew, Jeanne Boyle, Ron Jantz, Marianne Gaunt, Linda Epps, Dawood Farahi, Marc Mappen, Mark Lender, Howard Gillette, Tammy Gaskell, Marybeth Kayne, Justin Zimmerman, Sara Cureton, Skylar Harris, Sarah Snow, Michael Siegel, Marlie Wasserman, Judy Austin, Eric Sandweiss, Conrad Wright, Karen Alexander, Patricia Anderson, Nicholas Birns, Paul D'Ambrosio, Michael Birkner, James Turk, Phillip Wolfe, Kayo Denda, Bonita Grant, John Fea, Paul Israel, Maxine Lurie, Susan Schrepfer, David Macleod, members of our new editorial board, members of the New Jersey Historical Commission, our book reviewers, and our numerous anonymous peer reviewers. Thank you for visiting the new journal; be sure to [register](#) and plan to visit – and perhaps contribute to it – regularly. We look forward to hearing from you.

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