

## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the late spring issue of the Spring 2020 edition of the New England Journal of History. Our mission is to publish historical inquiries that inform readers from novice to scholar. This goal will be met with articles that encompass the world's events, and analyses that share reflections on pedagogical strategies. Our timely book reviews examine works that expand our knowledge base. First published in 1944 as the *New England Social Studies Bulletin*, this well-rounded journal will continue to provide historical analysis for educators who seek to bring history to life for future generations through thought-provoking interpretations and the best offerings of pedagogy.

Working under the COVID-19 quarantine creates many new challenges primarily in my work as an educator. March 13 was our last day at my charter school in Massachusetts and we rapidly created a remote platform on which to provide our students with an education. While we daily express our gratitude to our health care workers and the individuals who keep our country functioning, I think another group of critical workers has been all the tech experts who implemented the technology platforms that are enabling educators to continue to teach the nation's children. Without their expertise and I imagine tremendous hours of effort, we would not be able to continue educating our nation's students.

Our selection "From the Archives," first published in Fall 1996 is a visit to a diphtheria epidemic entitled "What meaneth the Heat of this great Anger?": The Religious Response to Colonial New England's Diphtheria Epidemic, 1735–1740" by John J. Zaborney. Exploring the religious response to this epidemic, Zaborney describes the impact of this disease on the young and notes that religious sermons focused on the actions of the parents as ministers interpreted that they were neglecting their religious responsibilities while focusing too much on achieving the material.

For this edition's *Pulse*, I am submitting "The Influenza Pandemic of 1918 in Medfield and Millis, Massachusetts," an early graduate research paper from 1998 due to its relevancy to today's

influenza pandemic. While it is unusual to publish an article from the editor, I felt that examining the experiences of the communities of Medfield and Millis, during the influenza pandemic of 1918 may offer some insight into the future. I grew up knowing about the 1918 flu because it had killed my grandfather's mother at the age of 34. Because I had badly broken my leg in 1997 and was non weightbearing for months, I thought I would stay close to home and examine how the flu impacted my local communities. This research led me to discover the great joy of studying local history as well as a later graduate thesis that culminated in my graduate degree in history. In addition, it was exciting to learn that Private Herbert Morse, my husband's grandfather, also had the flu and was brought home from Fort Slocum, New York by his father. I hope you find this article of value.

“Edward Brooke, the Tiant Family Reunion, and the Limits of Baseball Diplomacy and Détente” by John Soares highlights the complicated history of baseball, Cuba, Angola and the Cold War. Soares expands our understanding of the connection between sports and international politics with his insightful analysis of the United States' and Cuba's failed attempt to improve their relations through the exchange of baseball teams. Soares addresses the diplomacy behind the good will efforts to permit Boston Red Sox star Luis Tiant to reunite with his family still living in Cuba, then addresses how the diplomacy to continue that good will failed due to the political climate in America and the conflict in Angola. The efforts of Senator Edward Brooke and significantly Brooke's insight into the strong goals for independence in Angola which impact Brooke's decision on funding for Angola rebels demonstrate how the impact of Cold War objectives stymied the attempts of Cuba and America to improve relations.

The intersection of art and literature are conveyed by Scott Bane in his article “F.O. Matthiessen and Russell Cheney: A Focus on New England and America” which delves into the impact on Matthiessen's personal growth and writing by the long-term relationship between Matthiessen and Cheney. In addition, Bane argues that Matthiessen and Cheney influence each other as they express mutual interests in how personality shaped the communication of authors and artists in their work. Exploring the history of being gay during this time in New York, Bane explores the lives the men pursued together, the secrecy involved and the hints of local awareness and tolerance of their relationship.

Continuing our series on Presidents and their Secretaries of State, Joseph Harrington presents the relationship between John Foster Dulles and President Eisenhower as one of differences, yet their decisions during this critical time set the stage for much to come. So many international situations in this time were the seeds of larger conflicts in Iran and Vietnam, dealt with Cold War tensions by the implementation of “the domino theory,” addressed the hostilities between China and Formosa, hostilities over the Suez Canal, threatening technological advances by the Soviets and numerous other events whose currents still create deep rifts in the world. Again, we are astounded by the intensity of world events that developed during the Eisenhower/Dulles era and marvel at how this relationship kept the Cold War from destroying the world.

Book reviews explore topics of early and contemporary America. Erin Redihan reviews Lain MacGregor’s *Checkpoint Charlie: The Cold War, the Berlin Wall, and the Most Dangerous Place on Earth* and recommends this book for both the public and the serious historian since its diverse interviews present an engaging contribution to a new angle of Berlin. Leaving the Cold War time period, Conor Howard discusses Sara Georgini’s *Household Gods: The Religious Lives of the Adams Family* which examines an equally long time period. Georgini uses the Adams family as a focal point in which to explore the interplay among family, religion, culture and America’s foibles that elicits a deeper understanding of the religious lives of Americans during the late-eighteenth through early-twentieth centuries. Returning to more contemporary times, *Fault Lines: A History of the United States Since 1974* by Kevin M. Kruse and Julian E. Zelizer provide a panoramic survey of the time that makes it an ideal textbook for the classroom. Redihan compares the research of *Fault Lines* to books such as those by Rick Perlstein and James Patterson, while observing that *Fault Lines* also contributes insights for those in the academic field as well.

For details on submitting your articles and book reviews, please check out our Manuscript Submission Policy on page 158. We welcome all historical topics, pedagogical articles on the teaching of history/social studies, and reviews of books and permanent museum exhibits. Now readers can preview our current table of contents online, see detailed bios of our authors, and learn more about our

editors and staff at [www.nejh.org](http://www.nejh.org). Also, please submit any comments you may have on our articles to **[editors@nejh.org](mailto:editors@nejh.org)**.

As we continue to study the past, let us remember the importance of historians. Their research and analysis of events and persons inform the policy and decision-making of presidents and leaders around the world. Historians form think-tanks that influence public opinion, and encourage us to engage in discussions of ethics, morals, and truth. Their indispensable contributions provide context for understanding current events, and allow us to observe our common flaws, our universal strengths, and our shared humanity. Historians have also been activists, shaping movements and writing books that changed society. We hope our publication will inspire readers to engage in their communities, and to follow the timeless words of Abraham Lincoln and “strive on to finish the work we are in.”

Linda Morse  
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