

LONG ISLAND HISTORICAL JOURNAL
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Compiled by Kristen J. Nyitray, June 2011

EDITORIAL COMMENT
Roger Wunderlich, Founding Editor
1988

Welcome to the first issue of the Long Island Historical Journal, a publication devised to present Long Island as America. Our aim is to place the Island's record within the framework of history, reflecting as well as contributing to the principal phases of national life. By "Long Island" we mean its four components - Nassau, Brooklyn, Suffolk, and Queens; our concept of "national life" traverses the great chain of experience from pre-colonial times to the present. As we are proud to be sponsored by the State University of New York at Stony Brook, so are we pleased that our Boards comprise a cross section of academic and cultural centers. We hope to serve as a magnet, attracting original studies by known or first-time writers who meet our standards of scholarship, style, and substance. Most issues will offer interpretive studies of varied topics and periods. Occasionally our focus will be on a single crucial concept, as in the Fall of 1989 we examine Long Island as Island - the Sound, Bay, and bridges, the whalers and fishers, the shipbuilders, traders, and mariners. We set to work with no preconceptions, no plan to gloss or glorify. We are mindful of William Pelletreau's observation, in 1874, that in the pages of his history, "those who believe that the settlement was formed entirely of God-fearing and virtuous men [and women] ... will find much ... that will fail to support these views." And we also hold with Nathaniel S. Prime, another Long Island historian, who in 1845 urged Islanders to remember their "noble ancestry," the pioneers who "took up their residence in a trackless wilderness, for the rights of conscience and the enjoyment of liberty." We pledge to be erudite but readable, to clarify rather than chronicle, and to stimulate unbiased study of a region rich in background that has not received its due attention. All who think of Long Island as home are invited to subscribe to and participate in this new and needed publication.

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