



THE
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Editorial

Just outside of my office at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, old issues of the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* line the shelves. These volumes take up quite a bit of space: *PMHB* has been published continuously since 1877, making 2017 our 140th anniversary. In 1877, the historical profession was in its infancy; its largest professional organization, the American Historical Association, was not founded for another seven years. Students of American history will no doubt recognize 1877 for other reasons—as the end of Reconstruction and the point at which many US history courses and textbooks are divided. *PMHB* has thus witnessed the entire second half of the US history survey. Holding the journal's first volume in my hands now—the binding loose, the pages discolored—it looks very much like what it is: a historical document.

Today, *PMHB* is entirely a creature of the twenty-first century. From graduate students to professors emeritus, our authors use innovative methodologies to explore the history of all American identities and experiences. Beyond print subscribers, thousands of readers across the country access our articles online each year. *PMHB* has changed many times to maintain its relevance, and it will continue to do so. What will not change is our commitment to rigorous, evidence-based scholarship and our belief that history matters. Last November, Oxford Dictionaries named “post-truth”—the marginalization of facts in the

face of emotional appeals—the international word of the year.¹ By reading *PMHB*, and by valuing historical knowledge more broadly, you are helping to counter this trend.

Christina Larocco
Editor

¹ Amy B. Wang, “‘Post-Truth’ Named 2016 Word of the Year by Oxford Dictionaries,” *Washington Post*, Nov. 16, 2016.