

Front Matter

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West Virginia University Historical Review

Morgantown, West Virginia

Fall 2021, Vol. 2

Editor

Jennifer Thornton

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*Cover image: "The Storming of Fort Wagner" (1890). Chromolithograph by Kurz & Allison Art Publishers. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Romine Award and Maxwell Prize Recipients

West Virginia University History Department

2020-2021 Academic Year

Romine Award

Laura Curry (US History)

Reide Prunty (World History)

Maxwell Prize

Riley Bowers (World History)

Lakin Davis (World History)

Anthony Kellar (US History)

Tora Ueland (US History)

John Ransel Romine '44 Award in History - This endowment supports awards for two outstanding undergraduate research papers written in history classes at WVU. One award is given for an outstanding paper in United States History and the other award for an outstanding paper in European or World History.

Maxwell Prize - This endowment supports prizes for the top history papers from each section of Hist 484 (Capstone) during an academic year.

Letter from the Editor

Morgantown, West Virginia

June 15, 2021

A year has passed since the inaugural edition of the *West Virginia University Historical Review*, and it has been a challenging one. Higher education, like all other aspects of life, has been radically transformed by COVID-19. Students and faculty have had to adjust to new technologies and instructional modalities while dealing with financial, family, and health crises related to the global pandemic. In addition, our country's persistent racial inequalities have once again been laid bare, provoking sometimes painful assessments and conversations across the country, including here at West Virginia University. Now, more than ever, it is important for young people to understand how history has shaped our world.

In the face of these challenges, our students have continued to show resilience and determination. History as a discipline—with its focus on communication, evidence-based argumentation, and critical thinking—provides a skillset with which to navigate our rapidly changing times. Each of the authors featured here demonstrates these skills. They tackle ambitious topics of historical inquiry, utilize innovative research methodologies, and develop sophisticated arguments. The award-winning capstone papers published in this volume are a remarkable testament to the intellectual creativity and rigor of their authors. On behalf of the History Department, I congratulate them on their accomplishments.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Thornton
Teaching Assistant Professor
WVU History Department

West Virginia University Historical Review

Morgantown, WV

Fall 2021

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