Foreword

The Hanover Historical Review is an undergraduate journal dedicated to publishing student essays and documents related to the field of history from any department of Hanover College.

In the fall of 1992, Professor Frank Luttmer selected an Editorial Board of enthusiastic students to determine manuscripts to be published and edit them for uniformity within a journal. Professor Luttmer supported the first Editorial Board in the early editing and preparation stages, while Professor Daniel Murphy oversaw the final copyediting for publishing and printing. Spring 1993 marked the inaugural issue of the *Hanover Historical Review,* and it continued annual publication through 2001. We published issues in 2009 and 2010, and then annual publication resumed with the 2016-2017 academic year, ably led by Professor J. Michael Raley through 2025. Professor Sarah McNair Vosmeier joined the HHR as advising editor after his retirement. Every year, dedicated students have served as editors and board members, continuing the tradition started with Professor Luttmer in 1992.

Throughout the 2025–2026 academic year, seven members of the *HHR* Editorial Board, led by Professor Vosmeier, met regularly: advertising the journal to interested students, conducting a Call for Papers, to anonymously reviewing submissions, and copyediting the accepted essays. Only Professor Vosmeier knew the identity of the manuscript authors, allowing the Board to anonymously evaluate submissions and suggest revision notes. This double-blind anonymity is of utmost importance to the *HHR* for fair consideration of student work, and it makes it possible for Board members to also submit their own essays.

The following criteria guide the Editorial Board's review of submissions:

1. The essay's introduction effectively presents a clear, original thesis.
2. The thesis is supported by ample primary and secondary sources that are critically interpreted by the author.
3. The author brings forward a fresh interpretation of their evidence that advances current scholarship.
4. The thesis is frequently referenced within the body of the paper and clearly restated in the conclusion.
5. Essay text, including footnotes and the Works Cited section, is formatted correctly in the Chicago Style.
6. The writing style is clear, fluid, and logical, employing strong transitions and connected phrases and clauses.

Based on those criteria, Board members choose which submissions can be published. (Often, the Editorial Board accepts a submission provisionally, providing notes for revision and resubmission.) We received so many strong submissions this year that it was especially difficult to narrow the field down to a publishable number of articles. Accepted papers went on to a

final round of copyediting by the Board in the spring term to comply with the *HHR* format and Chicago Style. Authors whose works are published in the journal are extended invitations to join the *HHR* Editorial Board in the next year.

The 2026 *HHR* contains nine essays on historical themes written and submitted by Hanover College students from a variety of disciplines penned within the 2025 calendar year.

Two were written by first-year students: Evan Neiswanger's "Can Europe Be Secure Without U.S. Involvement?" looks at Modern Europe's reliance on United States military power; and Devyn Sapper's "Godfrey Dold: 'Madison's Oldest Businessman'" reflects on the life of nineteenth-century Madison businessman Godfrey Dold.

Five essays were written by upperclassmen. Katherine Gilliland's "Pyongyang Today, Panem Tomorrow" compares modern-day North Korea to the fictional nation of Panem from Suzanne Collin's dystopian novel *The Hunger Games*; Paige Norton's "'God Will Decide My Fate': How Soldiers on the Western Front Used Christianity to Rationalize or Condemn the First World War" discusses how religion affected soldiers' understanding of World War I; Abby Smolnicky's "Postcolonialism in the Modern Prometheus" analyzes Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* through a lens of postcolonialism; Claire Walsh's "Nineteenth Century Women's Piety: Limitation or Comfort?" looks at how women in the nineteenth century grieved; and Sophie Whitham's "Environmental Injustices and Degradation of the Florida Everglades: From Pa-hay-Okee to Drainage Empire to Alligator Alcatraz" provides a history of the Florida Everglades's path to protection.

The remaining two essays are excerpts from senior theses: Elyse Wilson's "Honky Tonk Angels: Feminist Activism through the Lyrical and Personal Expression of Loretta Lynn and Dolly Parton" explores Lynn's music as a form of activism, and Creek Arthur's "Worshiping the Womb: American Feminism and Neopaganism in the Mid-To-Late Twentieth Century" analyzes the intersection between Neopaganism and the second wave of American feminism during the twentieth century. These essays reflect the efforts and scholarship of young writers, researchers, and historians.

We hope the readers enjoy this year's edition of the *Hanover Historical Review*!

Senior Editors
Sophie Whitham and Creek Arthur