

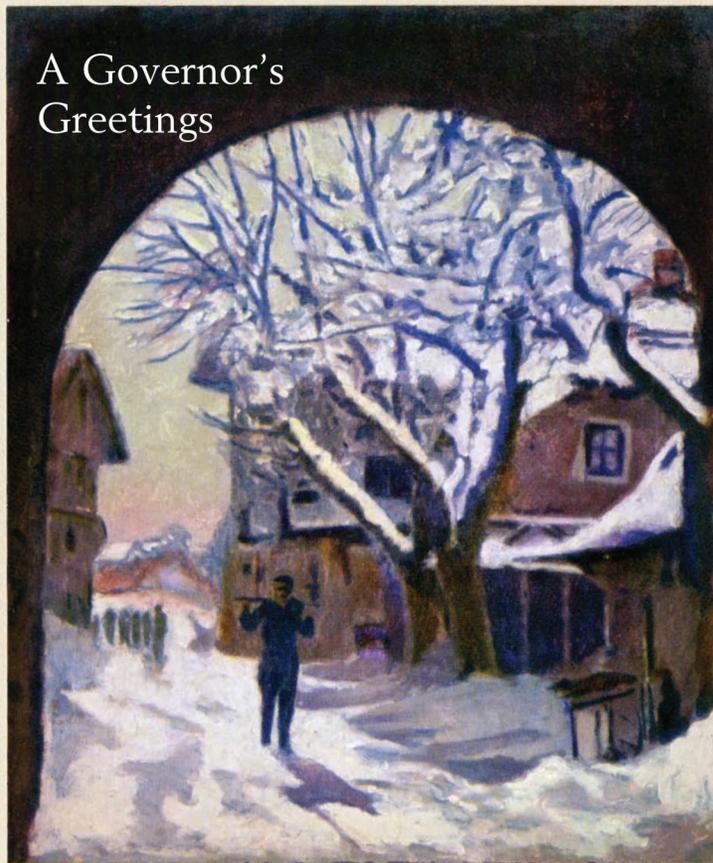
NEW YORK  
archives

Volume 19 • Number 3

WINTER 2020

\$9.95

A Governor's  
Greetings



ALSO INSIDE:

Good Roads // Brooklyn Shipyard // Redemption Diary // Flushing Remonstrance

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**Educator Guide**

**Winter 2020**

*New York Archives* magazine is a donor-funded educational product published quarterly by the NYS Archives Partnership Trust. A discounted subscription rate for educators is available. For more information, please visit us at [www.nysarchivestrust.org](http://www.nysarchivestrust.org).



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## Constructing America's Warships:

In his article for *New York Archives Magazine*, Laurence M. Hauptman details the history of the Brooklyn Navy Yard through the experiences of those who worked there. Having compiled oral history accounts of former laborers, from African American machinists to women welders and more, Hauptman's *Can-Do Shipyard* presents the rich history of the Brooklyn Navy Yard's workers who were "instrumental in the United States' achievement of victory in the war."

## Compelling Question

**How did changes in America's workforce diversity impact the war effort during World War II?**

## Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Recognize, use, and analyze different forms of evidence to make meaning in social studies (including primary and secondary sources, such as art and photographs, artifacts, oral histories, maps, and graphs).

## Link to the full article:

<https://www.nysarchivestrust.org/new-york-archives-magazine/magazine-highlights/winter-2020-volume-19-number-3>

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## Selection

### Can—Do Shipyard

By Laurence M. Hauptman



*Courtesy of the Library of Congress*

**This guide includes supporting questions to aid students in the reading of the article and analysis questions for understanding the primary sources. All educational materials are aligned to the New York State Social Studies Framework. The learning objectives are taken directly from the Social Studies Practices and the content fits within the framework.**

# LABOR DIVERSITY ON THE HOME FRONT



*Courtesy of the Library of Congress*

## Setting the Stage

Show “Hedy Lamarr: Women in World War II” courtesy of PBS Learning Media.

<https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/lamarr18-ss-wwii/women-in-world-war-ii/>

Staging Question: What were some of Hedy Lamarr’s contributions to America’s war effort? Why was she encouraged by the government to focus her efforts on selling war bonds?

## Guided Reading Questions

1. List three reasons why someone chose to work at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.
2. During World War I, what made the Brooklyn Navy Yard unique?
3. Clarence Irving, a machinist working at the Navy Yard, referred to it as a “city within a city.” What did he mean by this?
4. What facilities could be found at the Brooklyn Navy Yard? List as many as possible.
5. How did the role of women working at the Brooklyn Navy Yard change during World War II?
6. What were the conditions like for women who worked at the Navy Yard?
7. Who else faced adversity in the workplace at the Navy Yard? What was their experience like?
8. What were some of the more famous accomplishments of the workers at the Brooklyn Navy Yard?
9. What happened to the women working at the Navy Yard after World War II? What was the overall fate of the Navy Yard after the Korean War?
10. What does the experience of these workers tell you about the war effort on the home front?

## Document Analysis 1



Courtesy of Portland, Oregon, "Evening Telegram"

### The Key to Victory

Courtesy of the New York State Archives

#### Analysis Questions

1. What do you see in this cartoon? List at least three objects.

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2. Who is the man on the right? What is he wearing?

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3. Based on your observations, what is the overall message of the cartoon? Who might it be directed towards?

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4. According to this cartoon, what is the "key to victory" referenced in the title?

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## Document Analysis 2



*Courtesy of New York Historical Society*

### Analysis Questions

1. Notice the signs on the warehouse. What do they tell you about the job of the women in this photograph?  

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2. What are the women in this photograph wearing? What does this tell you about their job?  

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3. What emotions do you see in this photograph? What do your observations of these women tell you about their work lives?  

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4. Based on your observations, what was the role of women in America's war effort during World War II?  

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