

The Elizabeth Oakes Smith Society Newsletter



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EOS SOCIETY CFP for ALA and others of interest to Oakes Smith Scholars

"Ideas do not go backward, but sometimes it is well to recover a neglected thread."

The Queen of Tramps

At long last..Incorporated

EOS Society Officially Designated a Non-Profit Corporation

It's been long in coming, but the Oakes Smith Society has at last filed its paperwork with the state of Illinois and the IRS as a non-profit corporation. Heavens, we even have an "EIN."

While of course the "corporate" label might sound insidious, this move brings with it a firm organizational structure, and with that, the opportunity to become an official Author Society with the American Literature Association, where for many years we've enjoyed a more informal status, sponsoring special sessions on the work of Oakes Smith and joining other author societies such as RSAP and the Catherine Maria Sedgwick Society in publicizing and participating in their activities. With this recognition, we'll be offering a regular panel and annual meeting space to share news about special projects, plan future panels at ALA, SSAWW and other venues, and to discuss possibilities for Society support of faculty and students in Oakes Smith related research.

There is an enormous amount of work to do to complete the recovery of Elizabeth Oakes Smith, and much more to do to bring her life and work to broader audiences. Perhaps most important of all, non-profit status makes possible grant funding to support the efforts we've already begun.

Timothy H. Scherman

Rebecca Jaroff

Mary Oaksmith Nichols

Directors

New resources for scholars...

Recent Oakes Smith Criticism to Appear in Gale Nineteenth Century Literature Criticism Series

Oakes Smith's laughably tiny entry in the original Dictionary of Literary Biography series was rectified back in the year 2000, with much more detailed entries by **Susan Belasco Smith** (*DLB* vol 235) and **Timothy H. Scherman** (*DLB* vol 239).

With Oakes Smith scholarship now appearing at more regular intervals, earlier this year Layman Poupard, who produces the reference volumes now published by Gale/Cengage, approached **Cynthia Patterson**, a scholar who has published two substantial studies on Oakes Smith's magazine work, with a request to edit an Oakes Smith entry in their *Nineteenth Century Criticism* series. With other projects in progress, Patterson handed the work to Oakes Smith Society Chair Tim Scherman, and the work was completed in late fall, with Gale's new volume including summaries and reprints of "the greatest hits" of Oakes Smith criticism and biography to appear sometime in 2020.

Some of the articles to be included in the this new volume (e.g. **Leslie Ginsberg's** "Minority/Majority" and **Adam Tuchinsky's** work contextualizing Oakes Smith's position on divorce) have already been cited in our newsletters, but there are quite a few new discoveries and appearances as well. A full list of works

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New resources...cont'd

to be included or annotated in the volume follows, but don't wait until your university library makes its acquisition. This bibliography itself will be of interest to any undergraduate or graduate student interested in discovering Oakes Smith and entering the critical conversation. Many of these essays are also linked on our website, www.oakes-smith.org.

- Patterson, Cynthia Lee. "'Hermaphroditish Disturbers of the Peace': Rufus Griswold, Elizabeth Oakes Smith, and Nineteenth-Century Discourses of Ambiguous Sex." *Women's Studies* 45:6 (2016), 513-33.
- Tuchinsky, Adam. "['Woman and Her Needs': Elizabeth Oakes Smith and the Divorce Question.](#)" *Journal of Women's History* 28/1 (Spring 2016): 38-59.
- Ginsberg, Leslie. "[Minority/Majority: Childhood Studies and Antebellum American Literature.](#)" *The Children's Table: Childhood Studies and the Humanities*. Athens: U Georgia P, 2013. 105-23.
- Manning, Susan. "['Did Human Character Change?: Representing Women and Fiction from Shakespeare to Virginia Woolf.'](#)" *Partial Answers: Journal of Literature and History of Ideas*. 11/1 (January 2013): 29-52.
- Beam, Dorri. "Fuller, Feminism, Pantheism." *Margaret Fuller and Her Circles*. Eds. Brigitte Bailey, Katheryn P. Viens, Conrad Edick Wright. Durham, NC: U New Hampshire P, 2013. 52-76.
- Jaroff, Rebecca. "'I Almost Danced Over My Freedom,' Elizabeth Oakes Smith's Liberation from the Literary Marketplace." *Popular Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers and the Literary Marketplace*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars, 2007. 172-188.
- Richards, Eliza. "Elizabeth Oakes Smith's Unspeakable Eloquence." *Gender and the Poetics of Reception in Poe's Circle*. Cambridge UP, 2004.
- Syrett, Nicholas L. "The Great Life Long Mistake." *American Child Bride*. (Chapel Hill, NC: U North Carolina P, 2016): 98-117.
- Rose, Jane E. "Expanding Woman's Sphere, Dismantling Class, and Building Community: The Feminism of Elizabeth Oakes Smith." *CLA Journal*. 45/2 (December 2001): 207-30.
- Kete, Mary Louise. "Gender Valences of Transcendentalism: The Pursuit of Idealism in Elizabeth Oakes-Smith's 'The Sinless Child.'" *Separate Spheres No More*. Ed. Monika Elbert. Tuscaloosa: U of Alabama Press, 2000.
- Prins, Yopie and Virginia Jackson. "Lyrical Studies." *Victorian Literature and Culture* 27.2 (1999): 521-30.
- Woidat, Caroline, "Introduction." *The Western Captive and Other Indian Stories*. Toronto: Broadview Press, 2015. 9-35.
- Wyman, Mary Alice. *Two American Pioneers: Seba Smith and Elizabeth Oakes Smith* (Columbia UP, 1927).

New media...

Oakes Smith Documentary "Moved By A Mountain" now in Production

At a faculty symposium at Northeastern Illinois University last year, Timothy H. Scherman gave a talk entitled "Documenting Research: Why I'm Making a Film about a Woman's Climb of Mt. Katahdin in 1849," presenting clear evidence of broader take-up in his research over the course of his career in on-line and visual formats than anything he'd published in printed form. With a goal of re-launching Elizabeth Oakes Smith as a more well-recognized figure in today's cultural conversation, he decided to choose the most graphically impressive moment in Oakes Smith's career to document in a film—her ascent of Mt. Katahdin, Maine's highest peak, in 1849.



Maureen Butler, voicover artist "Moved By A Mountain"

It was only in careful research of Oakes Smith's reflections on this moment in her correspondence that it became clear to the makers of the film (Oakes Smith scholar **Becky Jaroff**, veteran guide and educator **Susan Adams**, historian **John Neff** and videographer **John Ginn** of Rational Pictures, who have played major roles in the film thus far) that Oakes Smith's *physical feat* in the wilds of Maine was actually pivotal in the course change of her New York career, from *belles lettres* to activism, at the end of the 40s decade.

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New media (cont'd)...

To this point, a COR grant from Scherman's university and some of Scherman's own funds have financed 90% of the required footage, along with a three-minute movie trailer and interview clips featuring EOS scholars and the film's voiceover artist, **Maureen Butler**, at Portland Stage Company, which will be circulated on youtube in early 2020.

All three promotional videos will be shown at the Oakes Smith Society's annual meeting at the ALA conference in San Diego in May, so if you're there, please come see!

Research Opportunities...

CFP for the Oakes Smith Society and others at Conferences Upcoming...

The Elizabeth Oakes Smith Society will hold its **first official annual meeting at the ALA Conference this May** in San Diego. Please see the conference program for date and time.

The CFP for the Oakes Smith Society Panel this year is open to all scholarly work—theoretical, biographical, literary, or historical—on Elizabeth Oakes Smith. We welcome the work of graduate or undergraduate students as well as veteran scholars. The bibliography listed on page 2 of this newsletter should be useful to those relatively new to Oakes Smith scholarship who would like to submit. The Society would welcome, particularly, papers bringing less frequently cited works by Oakes Smith (e.g. *Shadowland*, or *the Seer*, *Old New York*, *The Newsboy*) or less known moments in her life and career (her life in Portland in her first two decades, or in North Carolina in her last two) into relation with known scholarship.

Abstracts of 300 words or less should be sent to rjaroff@ursinus.edu by January 24, 2020.

Other CFP of interest to Oakes Smith scholars include the following, each of which are listed and linked below to accommodate paper and electronic forms of this newsletter:

[The Margaret Fuller Society at ALA](http://americanliteratureassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/FullerSociety_ALA2020.pdf)
http://americanliteratureassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/FullerSociety_ALA2020.pdf

[The Louisa May Alcott Society at ALA](http://americanliteratureassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/CFPALA2020_Alcott.pdf)
http://americanliteratureassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/CFPALA2020_Alcott.pdf

[The Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society at ALA](https://cmsedgwickociety.org/2019/11/11/cfp-sedgwick-society-at-ala-2020/)
<https://cmsedgwickociety.org/2019/11/11/cfp-sedgwick-society-at-ala-2020/>

[The Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society Symposium](https://cmsedgwickociety.org/meetings-and-symposia/sedgwick-society-symposium-summer-2020/)
<https://cmsedgwickociety.org/meetings-and-symposia/sedgwick-society-symposium-summer-2020/>

[RSAP Sponsored and Co-sponsored Panels at ALA](http://americanliteratureassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/RSAP-ALA-2020-CFPs.pdf)
<http://americanliteratureassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/RSAP-ALA-2020-CFPs.pdf>

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Caroline Woidat's excellent cultural edition
of *The Western Captive* is available at
broadview.com, and more and more of her
work is available either on hathitrust.org
or on our website, www.oakes-smith.org