



## Facing the King of Terrors : Death and Society in an American Community, 1750 - 1990

By Robert V. Wells

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, United Kingdom, 2006. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 231 x 155 mm. Language: English Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.In this book, death, a topic often neglected by historians, is given the attention it deserves as one of the most important aspects of personal and societal experience. Facing the King of Terrors examines changes in the roles and perceptions of death in one American community, Schenectady, New York, from 1750 to 1990. A remarkably thorough study, this work incorporates a wide variety of topics, including causes of death, epidemics and the reactions they engender, rituals surrounding dying and burial, cemeteries and grave markers, public celebrations of the deaths of important figures, reactions to war, and businesses that profit from death. Combining an in-depth look at patterns of death in society as a whole with an investigation of personal responses to such cultural customs, the book makes use of personal letters and diaries to explore how broader social changes were manifested in the lives of individuals.



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