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**NEWS FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Photographs Available

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Riots and Disasters in the New Issue of Historical New Hampshire

CONCORD, NH— Early October will bring the publication of a new issue of *Historical New Hampshire* that highlights tales of the Granite State which evoke the drama of the past and explore some classic New Hampshire stories.

This issue features an article by **Mike Pride**, editor emeritus of the *Concord Monitor*, who writes of the 1861 newspaper riot in Concord that shook the city and raised questions about freedom of the press in wartime. The pro-southern *Democratic Standard* disparaged President Abraham Lincoln, belittled the efforts of Union troops on the battlefield, and emphasized the bonds that united white men, both North and South. In the aftermath of the First Battle of Bull Run, scores of Concord residents joined soldiers of the First NH Volunteer Infantry to form a mob that destroyed the newspaper's office. John B. Palmer, the paper's proprietor, brooded for the rest of his life over what he viewed as a gross violation of the principle of freedom of the press

before committing suicide in a Concord boardinghouse. The *Democratic Standard* riot set off a wave of newspaper abatements in the North during the Civil War.

Also presented in this issue is the story of the tragic Willey slide, as Plymouth State's Professor **Marcia Schmidt Blaine** explores the enduring power of the Willey family's story of nine people who died in a landslide in the White Mountains in 1826. In a desperate and ultimately ill-judged attempt to escape the flood and landslide bearing down on them in the midst of a massive summer storm, the Willeys fled from their house in the middle of the night only to meet with disaster steps from their own front door. Ironically, their house survived intact, just as they had left it, and it became one of the first and most popular sites of disaster tourism in the country. As dreadful as the Willey slide was, it brought thousands of people to the White Mountains in the nineteenth century and added to the region's allure of mystery, adventure, and danger while simultaneously highlighting the unparalleled beauty and power of nature.

Both articles are richly illustrated, including rare surviving copies of the August 8, 1861, issue of the *Democratic Standard* that touched off the riot, as well as illustrations of the Willey slide created by some of the foremost artists of the 19th century. Many of the images showcase items in the Society's own collections.

Historical New Hampshire is a benefit of membership in the New Hampshire Historical Society. Copies are available for purchase for just \$5 at the New Hampshire Historical Society, located at 30 Park Street in Concord; through the Society's online store at nhhistory.org; or by calling 603-228-6688.

Founded in 1823, the New Hampshire Historical Society is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to saving, preserving, and sharing New Hampshire history. Nowhere will you find a more extensive collection of objects and archives related to New Hampshire's history. The Society shares these vast collections through its research library, museum, website, publications, exhibitions, and youth and adult educational programs. The Society is not a state-funded agency. All of its programs and services are

made possible by membership dues and contributions. For more information about the Society and the benefits of membership, visit nhhistory.org or call 603-228-6688.