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NEWS FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PHOTOGRAPH AVAILABLE

CONTACT: Stephanie Skenyon at 603-856-0611 or Peter Wallner at 603-856-0643

PULITZER PRIZE WINNING AUTHOR TO SPEAK AT THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON JULY 16

Concord, NH—In 1862 President Lincoln, by executive order, placed the entire nation under martial law, suspending the writ of habeas corpus and ordering the indefinite incarceration and trial by military tribunal to all persons “guilty of any disloyal practice,” including the act of discouraging volunteers from enlisting.

In a special presentation on Thursday, July 16, at 7 p.m., author Dr. Mark Neely will examine Abraham Lincoln’s suspension of Constitutional civil liberties during the turbulent years of the Civil War. *Lincoln and the Problem of Civil Liberty in War* will be held at the New Hampshire Historical Society’s library, 30 Park Street, Concord. Drawing upon research for his Pulitzer Prize winning book, *The Fate of Liberty: Abraham Lincoln and Civil Liberties*, Dr. Neely will discuss the reasons behind President Lincoln’s historic decisions and the broader questions surrounding the fate of civil liberty in war.

“This is an especially timely presentation in light of the current debate in our country regarding Guantánamo, the Patriot Act, and what infringements on civil liberty are considered necessary or permissible to keep us safe,” said New Hampshire Historical Society Executive Director Bill Veillette.

Dr. Mark Neely is a Pulitzer Prize winning author of American Civil War history and, since 1998, the McCabe-Greer Professor in the American Civil War era at the Pennsylvania State University. For 20 years he served as the director of the Lincoln Museum in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Neely is the

author of 10 books on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. In 1992 he won the Pulitzer Prize for History for *The Fate of Liberty: Abraham Lincoln and Civil Liberties*, an insightful analysis of President Lincoln and his decision to suspend certain Constitutional liberties amidst the uncertainty of the Civil War. Dr. Neely graduated from Yale University with a PhD in 1973.

Admission to *Lincoln and the Problem of Civil Liberty in War* is \$5 for New Hampshire Historical Society members and \$10 for nonmembers. Advanced registration is required. To register, contact Education Services Coordinator Chris MacLeod at 603-856-0604 or cmacleod@nhhistory.org.

Lincoln and the Problem of Civil Liberty in War is presented in conjunction with the New Hampshire Historical Society's exhibition *Abraham Lincoln and New Hampshire*, on view at the Society's library through December 31, 2009. The exhibition and presentation is sponsored by Lincoln Financial Foundation and Rath, Young & Pignatelli, PA.

Founded in 1823, the New Hampshire Historical Society is the independent nonprofit that saves, preserves, and shares New Hampshire history. The Society serves thousands of children and adults each year through its museum, library, educational programs, publications, and outreach programs. For more information about the Society and the benefits of membership, visit nhhistory.org or call 603-228-6688.

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Calendar listing

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