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NEWS FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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CONTACT: Elizabeth Dubrulle, Director of Education and Public Programs (603-856-0604; edubrulle@nhhistory.org) or Jenn Walton, Education and Public Programs Coordinator (603-856-0645; jwalton@nhhistory.org).

Exhibit Opening, Lecture on Veterans Day

CONCORD, NH—The New Hampshire Historical Society announces special Veterans Day programming on Saturday, November 11, including the opening of a new exhibition of World War I propoganda posters and a presentation of the illustrated lecture "New Hampshire at War."



As part of this year's centennial commemoration of America's entry into World War I, the Society continues its exploration of the war's impact on the Granite State with a new exhibition, *Making the World Safe for Democracy: Posters of the Great War in New Hampshire*. Featuring 15 posters from the Society's collection, the exhibition examines the use of this popular art form to shape public opinion and mobilize American citizens to fight a distant war.

Europe plunged into World War I on July 28, 1914. Long isolated from the conflicts of Europe, many Americans were not eager to enter the war. The United States remained neutral until April 6, 1917, when Congress declared war on Germany. Just a week after the declaration of war, President Woodrow Wilson created the Committee on Public Information with an entire division—the Division of Pictorial Publicity—dedicated to the creation and distribution of poster propoganda.

Poster propoganda offered several advantages—it was inexpensive, visually appealing, and sent a clear, strong message. The posters were designed to evoke a range of emotions from patriotism, loyalty, duty, and thrift, to hatred of the enemy. With powerful images and a few well-chosen words, these posters urged the people of New Hampshire and the nation to support the war effort by enlisting in the army, navy, and Red Cross, purchasing liberty bonds, or conserving food and raw materials.

Making the World Safe for Democracy opens on Saturday, November 11, the anniversary of the armistice agreement that ended World War I. In honor of Veterans Day, the Society is also offering a special presentation of the lecture "New Hampshire at War" at 2 p.m. on November 11. This program covers all major conflicts that have affected the Granite State from the colonial period to the present. It highlights New Hampshire's contributions to the war efforts and famous New Hampshire residents who participated in the conflicts. This presentation includes a 45-minute illustrated lecture and a brief guided tour of the "Citizen Soldier" section of the *Discovering New Hampshire* exhibition.

Making the World Safe for Democracy: Posters of the Great War in New Hampshire will be on view at the Society's headquarters, located at 30 Park Street in Concord, until October 2018. "New Hampshire at War" will be presented on Saturday, November 11, at 2 p.m. Museum staff will also be leading guided gallery tours of the Society's historic Park Street building and the *Discovering New Hampshire* gallery at 2 and 3 p.m. on November 11. These programs are all included in the price of admission, which is \$7 for adults. Society members and children 18 and under are admitted free of charge, as are active military personnel and their families with ID.

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.