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Editor's Note

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Editor's Note

The Civil War is an enduring focus of interest and debate in American history, and it is also a major feature of Maine state history. Not all Maine residents supported the Union cause, especially when it came to the question of abolishing slavery. But, in general, most Mainers were vocal proponents of the war effort. Maine made substantial contributions to the war, from the battlefield to the home front, and the war had a lasting impact on the state's politics, economy, and people. Looking back on the Civil War from today, this era brings us dramatic stories of how Mainers rose to the occasion in a period of national crisis as well as glimpses into the ambitions, hopes, and doubts that ordinary people had about their future. In this issue, Eben Miller traces the wartime career of Nelson Dingley Jr., the Republican editor of the *Lewiston Daily Evening Journal* who used his newspaper to argue for the necessity of attacking the institution of slavery in order to ensure military victory and preserve the Union. Next, Benjamin Wyman provides a military analysis of the topographical features of the famous Gettysburg battlefield, focusing on the terrain where the left flank of the Union army, including the celebrated 20th Maine Regiment, held off Confederate forces in the battle's decisive hours. Finally, James A. Christian writes about the life and experiences of Andrew Jackson Tozier—an ordinary Maine man who was thrust into extraordinary circumstances when he enlisted in the war and eventually became the color bearer for the 20th Maine at Gettysburg.

I also want to take the opportunity to update readers on some news regarding the editorial staff and format of the journal. First of all, on behalf of the editors of *Maine History* and our partners at Maine His-

torical Society, I extend heartfelt thanks to Richard Judd for his years of editorial service, and we all wish him the best in his retirement. We would also like to welcome some new members of the editorial staff. Hannah Schmidt and Darcy Stevens, both doctoral students in the University of Maine history department, join us as Assistant Editor and Book Review Editor, respectively. Hannah studies colonial era captivity narratives in northeastern North America, and Darcy studies Revolutionary era British North America. Finally, to introduce myself, I will be serving as the Managing Editor and faculty advisor for *Maine History*. I recently joined the University of Maine history department as Assistant Professor of New England History.

The editors are grateful to our readers for their support and patience as the journal has undergone a redesign process, resulting in the delayed release of this issue. *Maine History* continues to publish peer-reviewed articles by academic historians and independent scholars, and we continue to strengthen the partnership between Maine Historical Society and the University of Maine Department of History. Thank you for reading, and we look forward to ushering in a new era of *Maine History* together.

Mary T. Freeman
Managing Editor, *Maine History*

