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In This Issue

STEFAN LUND examines an anti-press mob carried out by Civil War soldiers recovering at the Union hospital in Keokuk in 1863. Through his study, Lund argues that the Keokuk incident not only sheds light on why Union soldiers engaged in widespread violence against the press, but also why they got away with it.

THOMAS J. MORAIN offers reflections on the importance of history and specifically the importance of local and state history. By thinking about historical artifacts, historical processes, and historical places, he emphasizes the critical role that the study and understanding of history plays in articulating the meanings and relationships that bind the present and future to the past.

Front Cover

An illustration celebrating Union soldiers' hostility to Copperheads. Copperheads retreat from a Union cannon and gather around a Copperhead recently nominated for Vice President, while a serpentine Jefferson Davis retreats up a Southern palm tree. For more on Civil War soldiers and anti-press violence, see Stefan Lund's article in this issue. Smith & Swinney. "The soldier's song—Unionism vs. Copperheadism." 1864. Photograph. Library of Congress.

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