

## [MHR NS 2 Call for Papers: Disaster in American History](#)

Discussion published by Katy Morris on Friday, May 22, 2020

*MHR* NS 2 Call for Papers: Disaster in American History

Deadline: 15 July 2020

Since its first volume in 1999, the *Massachusetts Historical Review* (*MHR*) has published original analytical essays, photo-essays, historical documents, and reviews for a general audience. Beginning with a new series in 2021, each issue of the *MHR* will focus on a specific theme connected with Massachusetts history, although the essays in the volume need not be limited to Massachusetts or New England topics.

The publication of the second volume of the new series will coincide with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Boston Fire of 1872. Around 7:00 p.m. on the evening of November 9, a fire erupted in the basement of a six-story building in the city's commercial district and raced up to the rafters. Firemen rushed to the scene as the blaze spread quickly across the district's crowded wooden Mansard roofs. They were hampered in their valiant efforts to hold off the inferno, however. Unable to use the department's horses, which were all recovering from a recent flu epidemic, the firemen had to push their steam-powered fire engines to the scene themselves. With poor water pressure, they could not reach the towering flames. By the time the fire quieted the following day, over 60 acres of the city lay in ruins, 1,000 residents found themselves homeless, 20,000 found themselves unemployed, and 30 lay dead.

Using the 1872 fire as a starting point, volume 2 of the *MHR*'s new series will focus on the theme of **disaster in American history**. The *MHR* invites interested authors to submit proposals for original essays concerning disaster, broadly conceived, in any era of American history and speaking to a general audience. Preference will be given to essays that connect in some manner to Massachusetts and New England. The journal welcomes submissions from authors pursuing research in history or related fields (such as American Studies or American Literature) at all career stages, including graduate students, tenured faculty members, and independent scholars.

Interested parties should submit a current curriculum vitae along with a one-page (double-spaced) proposal that outlines the subject the author seeks to pursue and its connection to the theme, the sources employed, and the intervention in relevant historical scholarship to [mhr@masshist.org](mailto:mhr@masshist.org) by **July 15, 2020**. By August 15, 2020, authors with successful proposals will receive an invitation to submit a completed

draft of their essay for consideration.

First drafts of essays selected will be due by December 15, 2020 and must be 7,500–10,000 words. All drafts will undergo a rigorous peer-review process by both MHS staff and outside readers prior to publication.

Questions? Please write to [mhr@masshist.org](mailto:mhr@masshist.org).