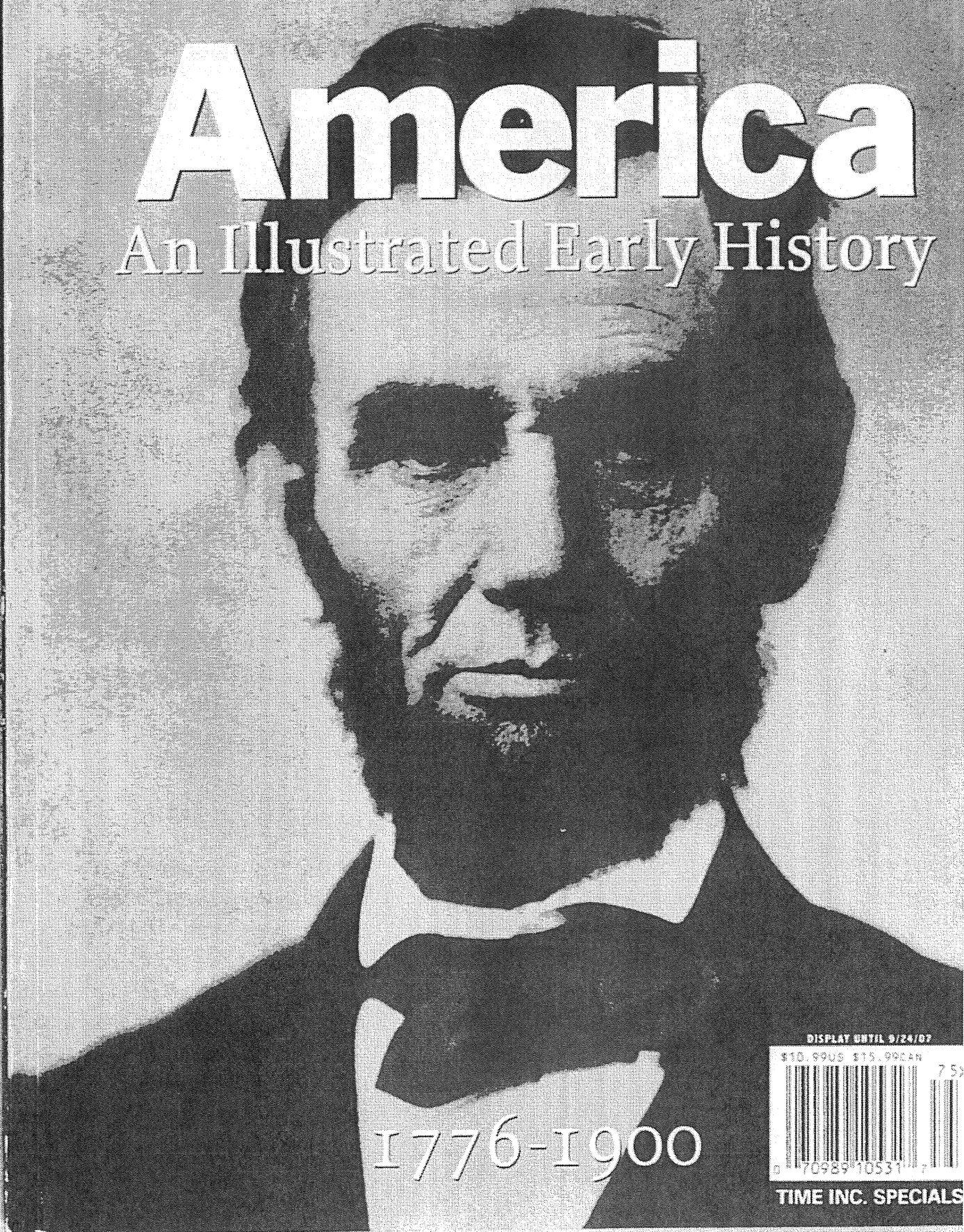


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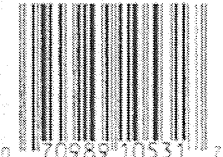
An Illustrated Early History



1776-1900

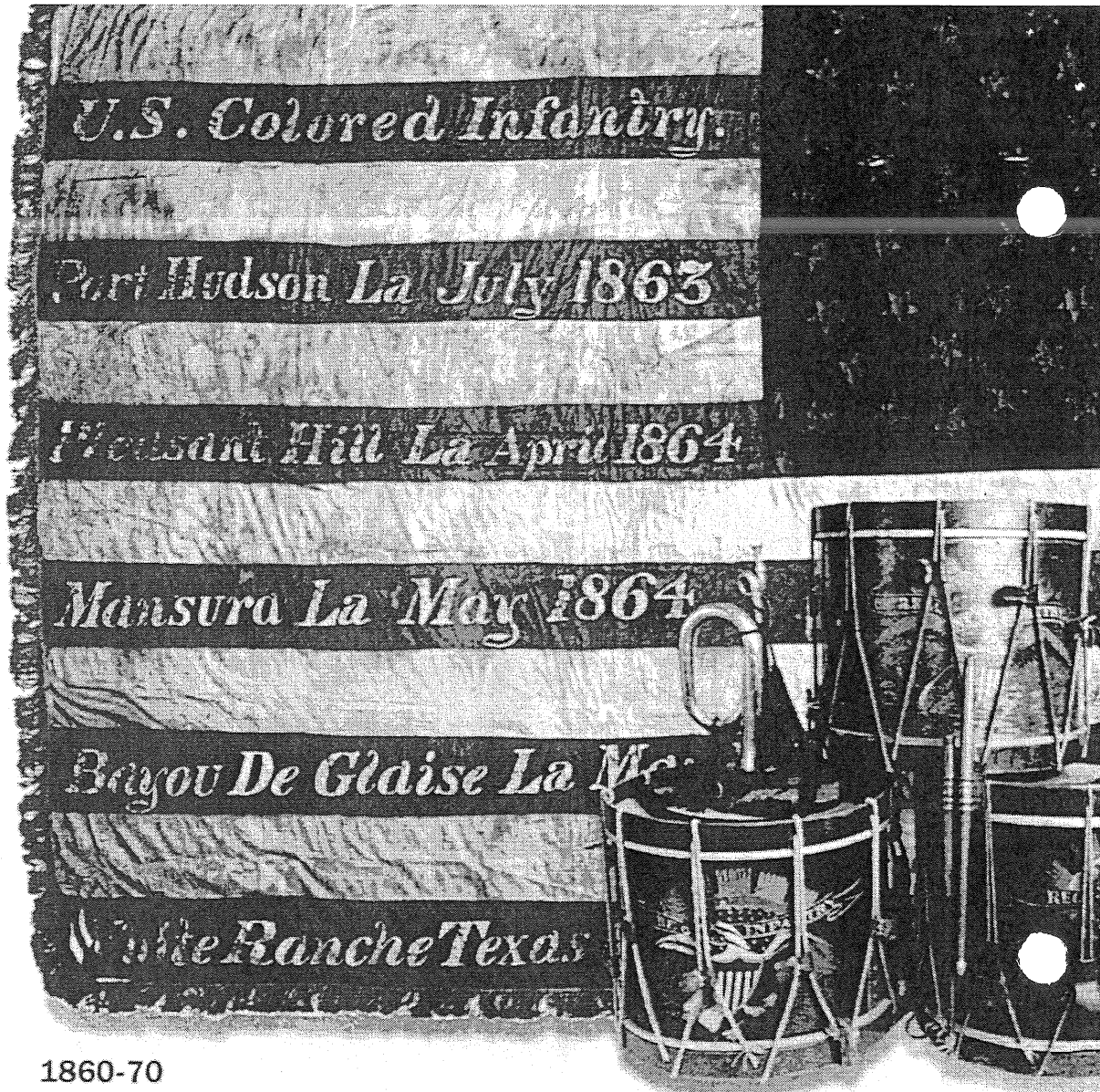
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TIME INC. SPECIALS



1860-70

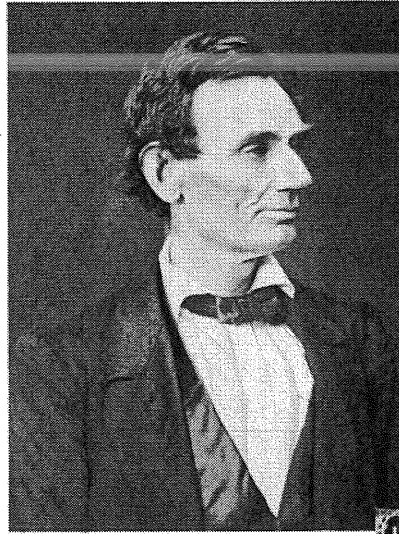
Crisis of the Union

AMERICA'S GREAT EXPERIMENT WITH FREEDOM AND LIBERTY SEEMED AN UTTER failure by 1860, as Northern and Southern states battled over the ethics and politics of human slavery. The nation's founding documents promised that all men were created equal; the practice of slavery mocked that vision. The reckoning between ideals and realities had been building for more than 80 years: now it was at hand. Yet no one dreamed just how bloody and uncivil this war between the states would become. The Civil War is a defining event in America's history, the cleansing moment that consigned slavery to the past—yet even so, it did not end the nation's sectional divisions or win full rights for African Americans. Above is a battle flag of the 84th Regiment, U.S. Colored Infantry; a black Union cadre; above right, the battle flag of the 4th Virginia Infantry.



"Both parties deprecated war; but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive; and the other would accept war rather than let it perish. And the war came."

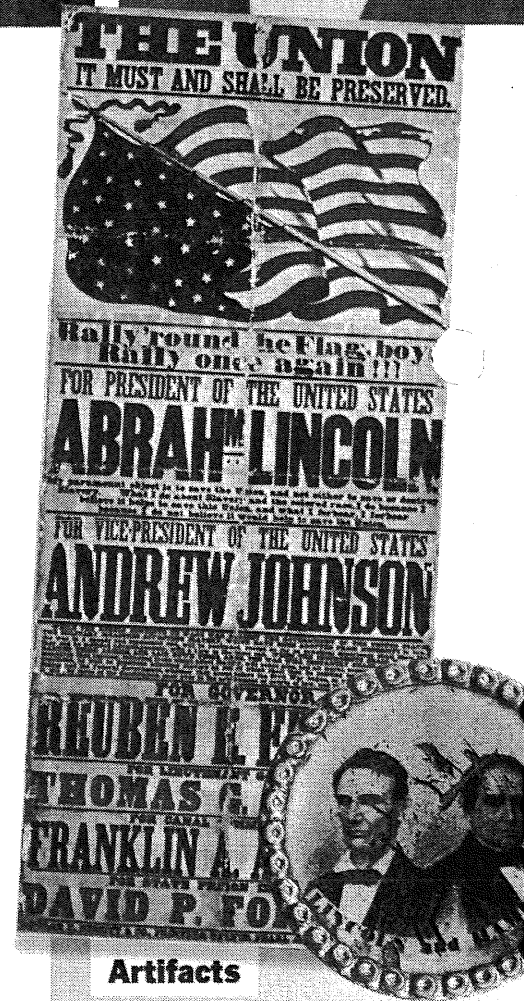
—Abraham Lincoln, second Inaugural Address, 1865



The Rise of Abraham Lincoln

Born in a cabin on the Kentucky frontier in 1809, Abraham Lincoln was largely self-educated; he worked as a boathand and storekeeper before becoming a successful lawyer in Springfield, Ill., where he married the well-to-do Mary Todd, below, in 1842. Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1846, he denounced the popular war with Mexico and did not run for re-election. Opposed to the spread of slavery, he joined the new Republican Party and ran against Stephen A. Douglas for the U.S. Senate in 1858. He lost, but his brilliance in their celebrated debates brought him national attention—and the Republican nomination for the presidency in 1860. Declaring the Union could not survive as “a house divided,” he was elected President in 1860. The 1846 portrait at left above is the earliest photograph of Lincoln; the others are from 1860 and 1865.

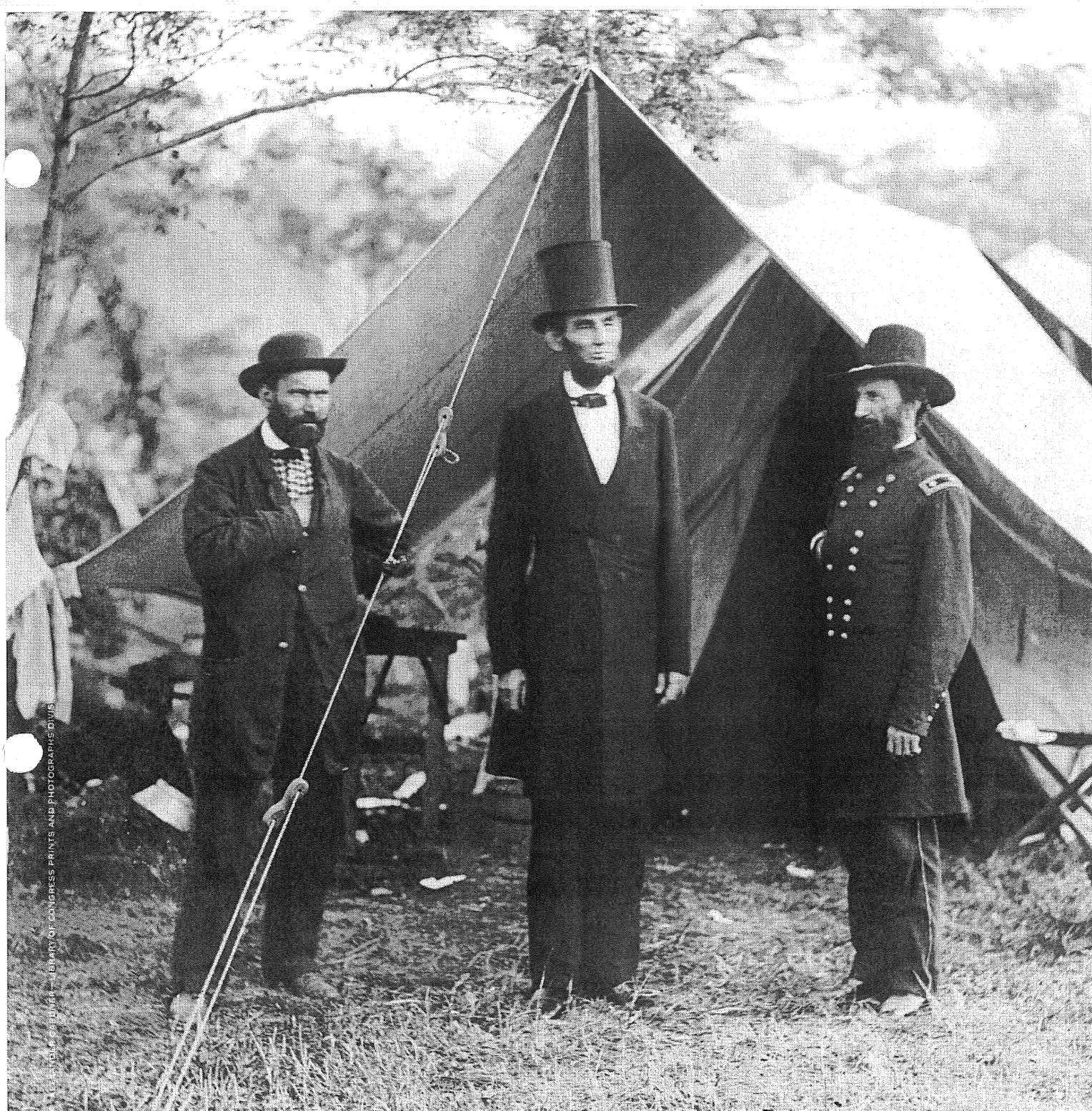
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Artifacts

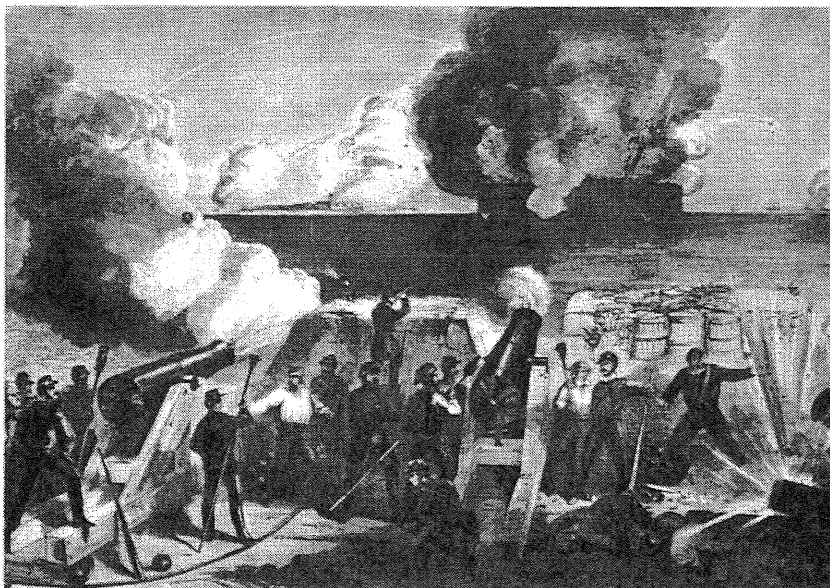
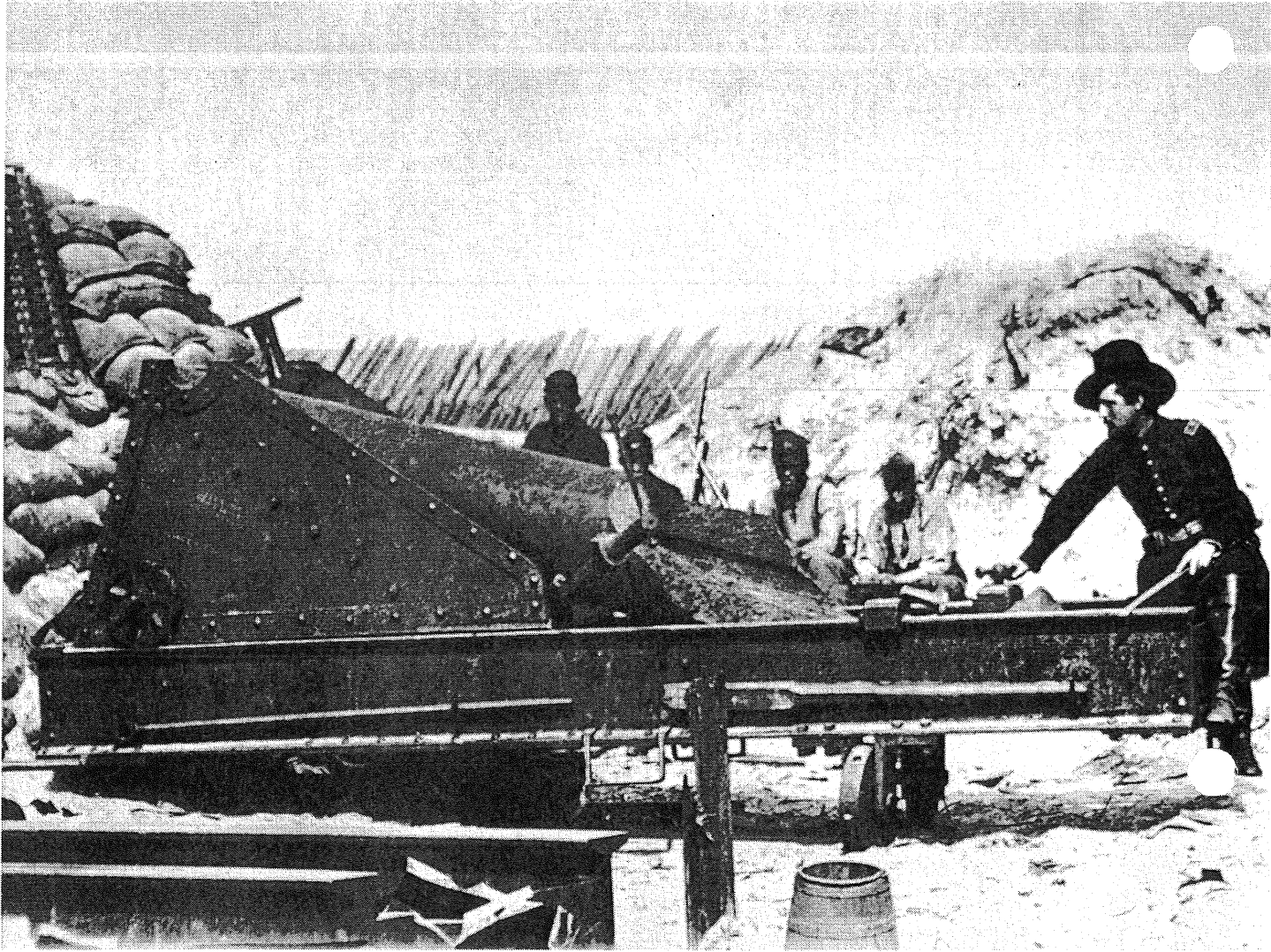
Lincoln Election Materials

Lincoln, a Republican, ran with Maine Senator Hannibal Hamlin in 1860, beating three other candidates. In 1864 his chief opponent was the Union general he fired in 1862, George B. McClellan.



Presiding over a Shattered Union

Even before Lincoln was inaugurated on March 4, 1861, seven states—South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas—declared they would secede from the Union to form the Confederate States of America. After the first shots of the Civil War were fired at Fort Sumter in South Carolina on April 12, 1861, four more states joined the Confederacy: Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina. Missouri and Kentucky were frontier “border states,” where slavery was legal; though Confederate rump governments were formed in each, the Union controlled both of them during the war. In his role as Commander in Chief of the U.S. Army, Lincoln was hard-pressed to find military leadership that could marshal the North’s overwhelming advantage in manpower, resources and industry to defeat the well-led Southern armies. Above, Lincoln poses with security chief Allan Pinkerton, left, and General John A. McClernand on Oct. 3, 1862, two weeks after the bloody Battle of Antietam in Maryland.



THE GRANGER COLLECTION

First Shots: Fort Sumter 1861

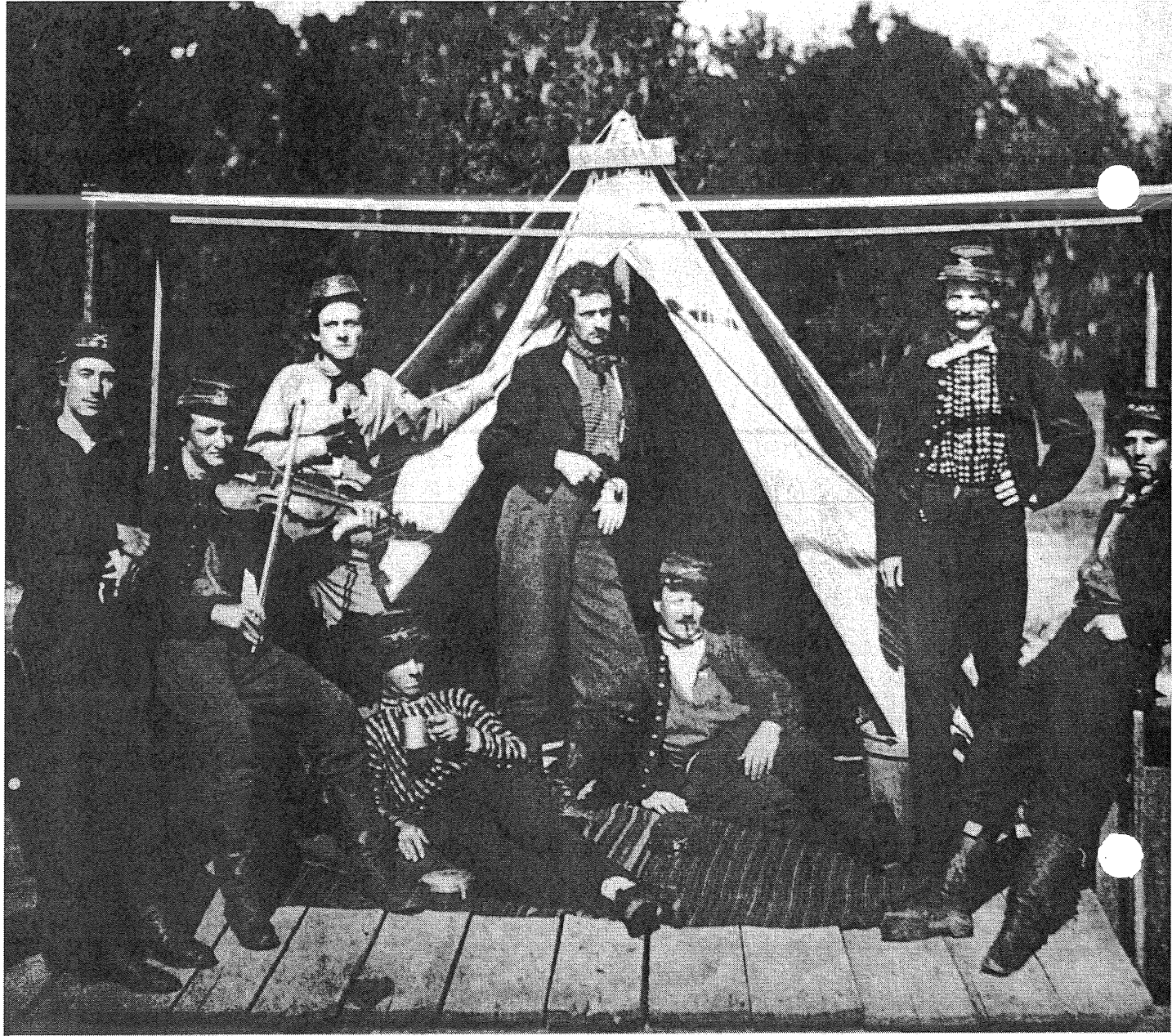
The war that would kill more Americans than any other began with a battle that took not a single life. The flashpoint was the federal armory at Fort Sumter, in the Charleston, S.C., harbor. Confederate General Pierre Beauregard began shelling the fort at 4:30 a.m. on April 12, 1861; 34 hours later, Union Major Robert Anderson (Beauregard's teacher at West Point) surrendered. In a deceptively benign start to what would be a long and grisly war, Beauregard allowed the Yankees safe conduct back to Union territory. Left, a contemporary illustration; above, Union troops at the fort after it was retaken in 1863.



The "Great Skedaddle" 1861

The bloodless Battle of Fort Sumter fed hopes that the secession crisis was more dramatic than deadly, so fashionable Washingtonians picnicked on hillsides near Bull Run Creek in Manassas, Va., on July 21, 1861, after newspapers published the time and place where numerically superior Union forces would meet Southern troops and put an end to the rebellion. But Confederate generals Pierre Beauregard and Thomas (Stonewall) Jackson sent Union troops and their admirers reeling back to the capital in a hasty retreat dubbed "the great skedaddle." Above, children eye cavalry; at right, a contemporary sketch of the battle.





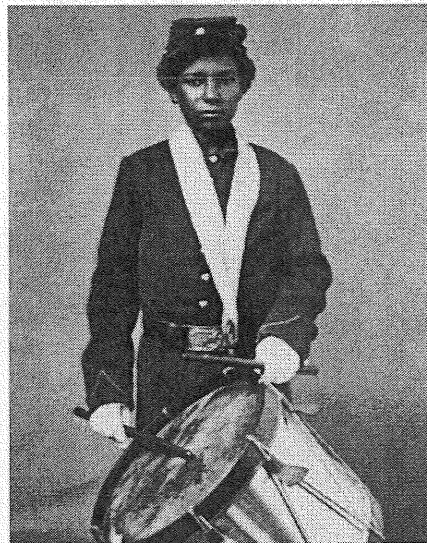
Backstage, Fiddles and Morphine

Although such generals as Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee commanded well-trained, well-equipped armies, many units that served in the Civil War were little more than ragtag bands of state militiamen who might appear for duty after the spring crops were planted, sporting mismatched uniforms and scant knowledge of military tactics. The colleagues above, part of a company of Confederate soldiers from Louisiana, seem better prepared for a drinking party than a battle. Behind the scenes, tens of thousands of women on both sides of the fray served as nurses in camp hospitals; at right, federal nurse Anne Bell tends to Northern troops. In the days before antibiotics, thousands of wounded soldiers succumbed to infection.

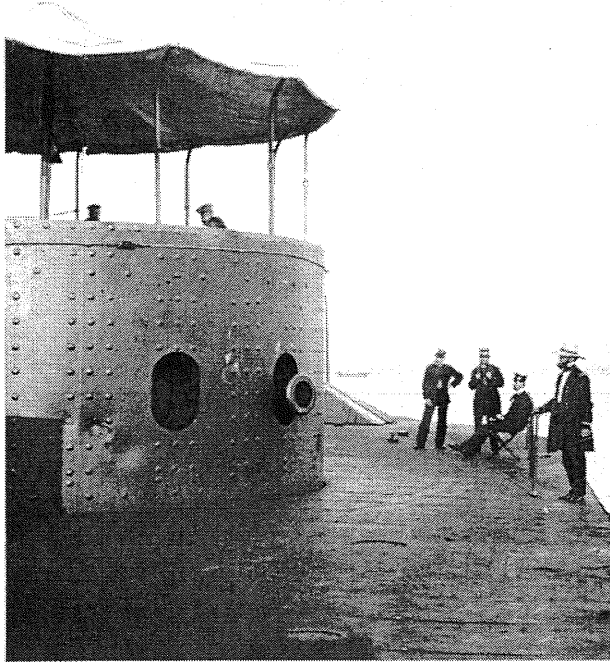


YANKEE AND REBEL, YOUNG AND OLD, BLACK AND WHITE, SUNDERED AMERICANS GO TO WAR

The largest war ever fought on U.S. soil completely absorbed the nation; boys as young as 12 donned uniforms to fight. Some Southern slaves served as Confederate soldiers, while freed slaves fought with Northern armies

**Faces of the Warriors**

Soldiers marching off to war frequently sat for a last portrait. Many such photos survive, but the names of those pictured have often been lost. At top left is a Union cavalryman in 1864. At top center is Confederate Private Edwin E. Jemison, who appears to be no older than 16; he was killed at the Battle of Malvern Hill in Virginia in 1862. Paymaster M. Howland of the 7th New York State Militia is at top right. The two Confederate soldiers at right may be brothers, since they were photographed together; their names are not known. Above is "Drummer" Jackson, a young former slave who served with Northern troops.



JAMES F. GIBSON—LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION

Battle of the Ironclads 1862

The ironclad fighting ship was one of the key military innovations of the Civil War. The March 1862 Battle of Hampton Roads, off the Virginia coast, was the world's first engagement between two such ships, the U.S.S. *Monitor* and the C.S.S. *Virginia*. The *Monitor* carried the day, but the top-heavy ship later sank in a storm. Her remains were discovered in 1973. In 2003 her revolving gun turret, clearly visible in the 1862 picture at left, was raised from the sea floor.

Slaughter at Fredericksburg 1862

President Lincoln was plagued by generals who either would not fight (such as George B. McClellan) or could not win. The incompetent Ambrose Burnside was one of the latter; trying to take Fredericksburg, Va., in December 1862, he sent six waves of Union troops across an open field covered by Confederate riflemen and artillery. In a lopsided Southern victory, 12,000-plus Union troops were killed or wounded, twice the number of Confederate casualties. Below, Union troops view Southern positions after the battle.

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Slaves Inch Closer to Freedom 1862

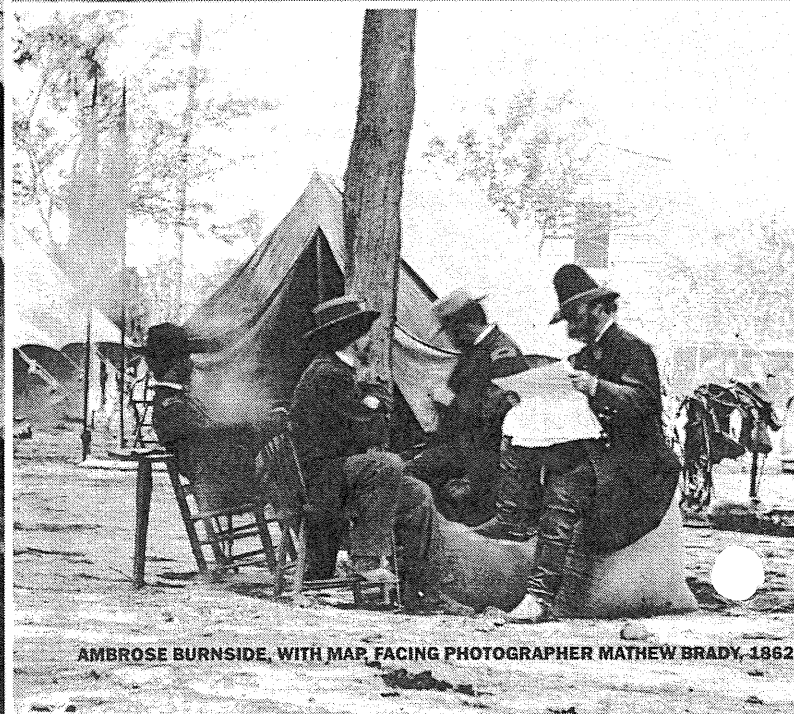
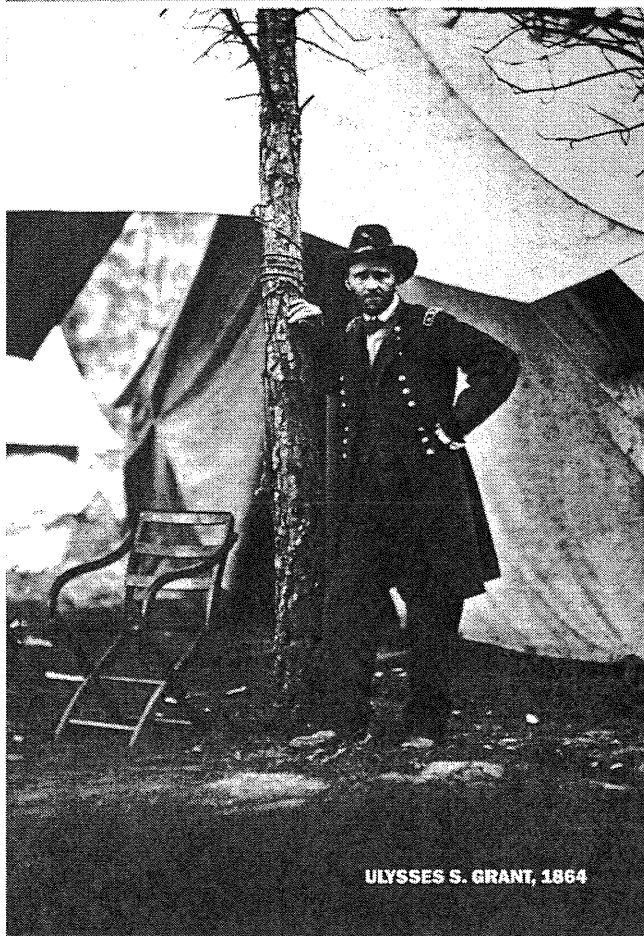
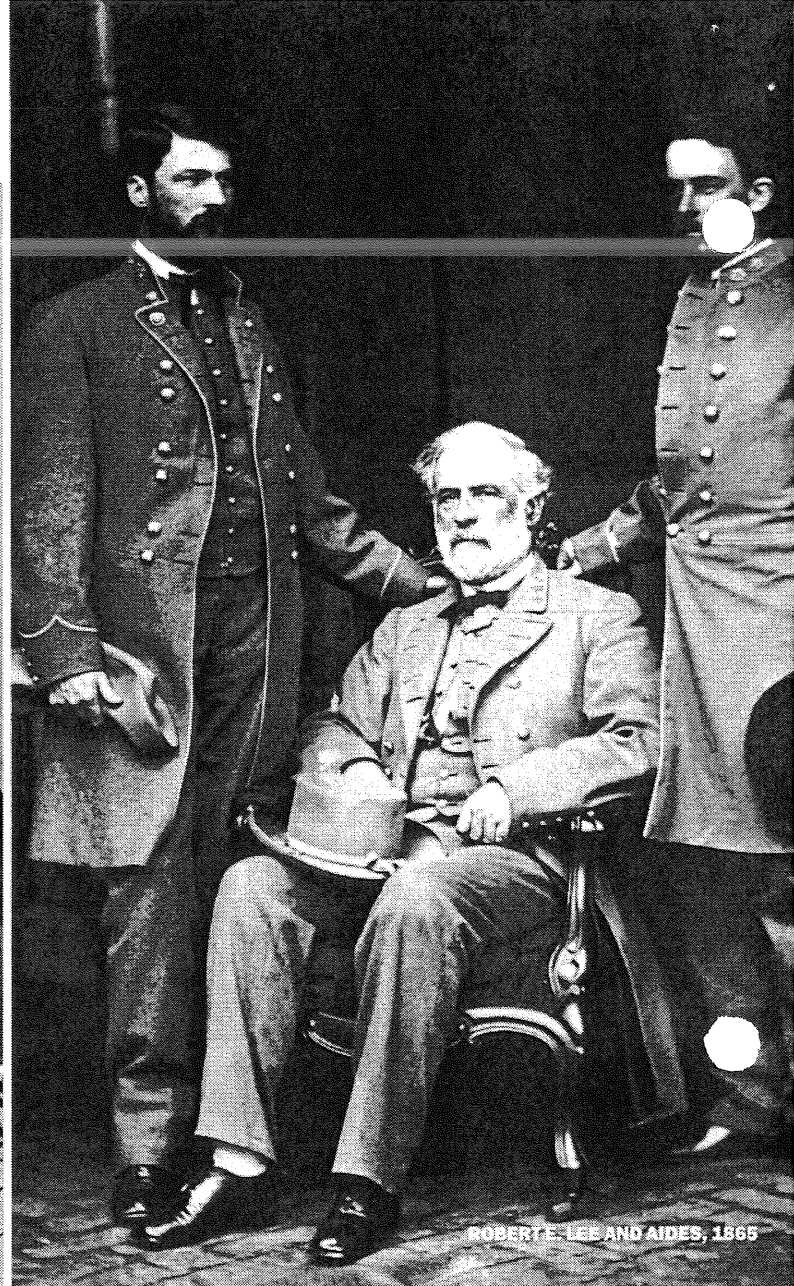
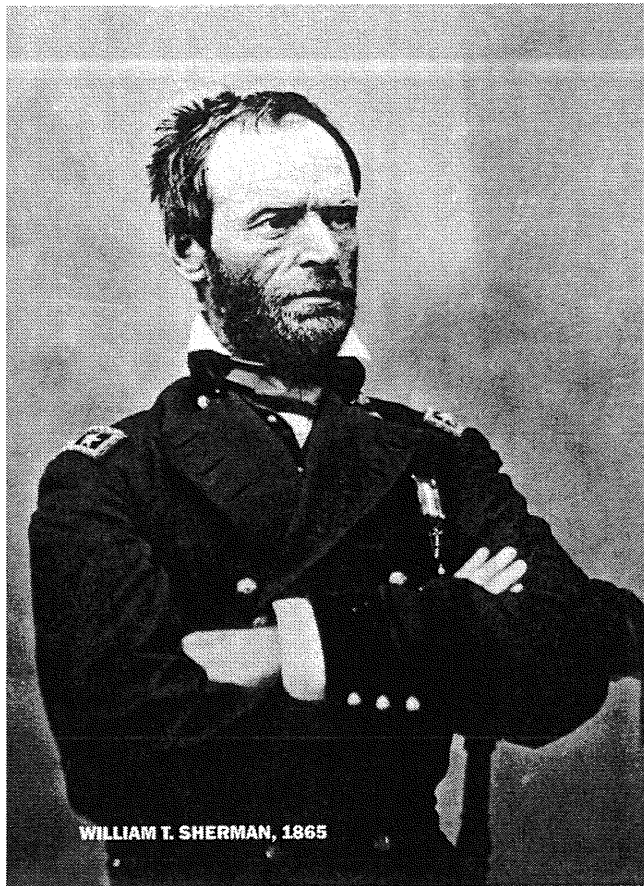
The status of the South's slaves was an ongoing crisis in the war; the Confiscation Act of 1862 freed slaves in Southern territory captured by Union forces and allowed them to serve in Union armies. Many slaves in Confederate territory began trying to make their way toward Union lines, lured by the promise of freedom. Above, a group of slaves crosses Virginia's Rappahannock River in August 1862, bound for Union ground.

King Cotton to the Defense 1862

At right, Southern defenders at Yorktown, Va.—scene of the final British defeat in the Revolutionary War—used bales of cotton as fortifications when Union troops besieged them in the spring of 1862. Cotton was the primary crop of the South and the pillar of the plantation economy. The savvy Confederates, feigning to have more men and armor than they actually commanded at Yorktown, tied down Union troops for weeks in the siege, then fled to fight another day.



Crisis of the Union





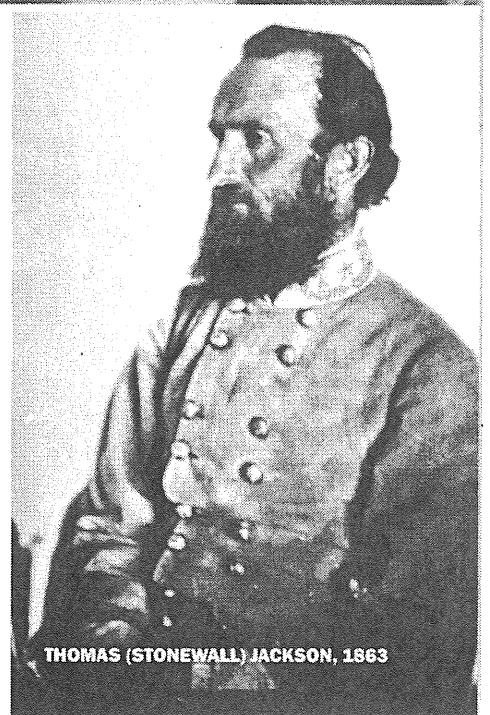
ULYSSES S. GRANT, LEFT,
BENDING OVER MAP, 1864



GEORGE B. McCLELLAN, 1861

Comrades, Brothers, Enemies

Just as it sundered the Union, the war drove fissures through the officer corps of the U.S. Army, making foes of men who had graduated together from West Point and fought side by side in the Mexican War. The Union boasted a larger population and stronger industrial base; the Confederacy countered with superior leadership. Under commanders like Thomas (Stonewall) Jackson and Robert E. Lee (who, ironically, was no friend of slavery and opposed both secession and the war), Southern forces time and again produced victories against lopsided odds. In contrast, Northern troops were led by inept officers like George B. McClellan and Ambrose Burnside until Abraham Lincoln found the tough, hard-driving campaigners Ulysses S. Grant and William Sherman, who hammered out victory.

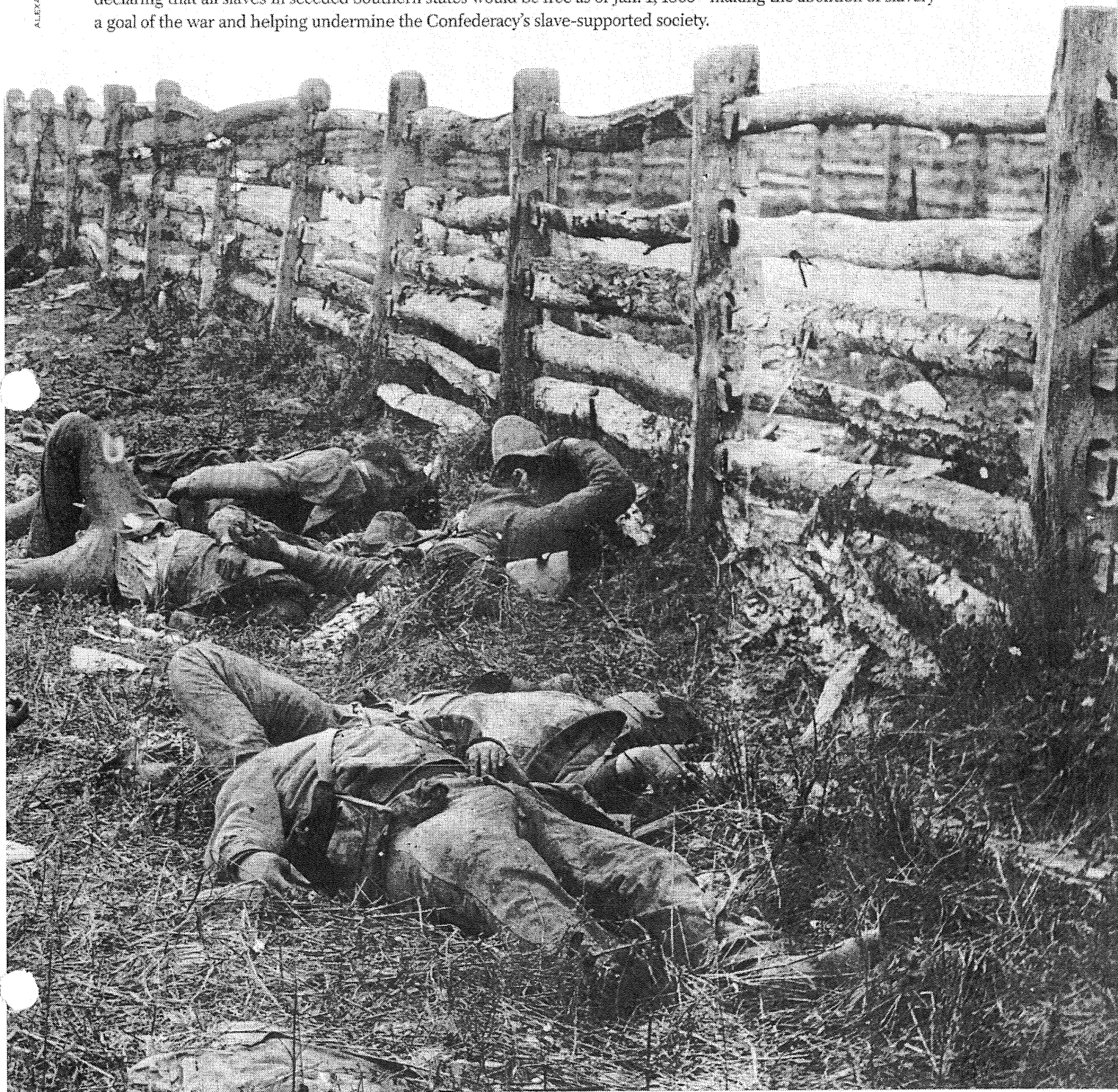


THOMAS (STONEWALL) JACKSON, 1863



The Bloodiest Day on American Soil: Slaughter at Antietam 1862

Buoyed by victory in the Second Battle of Bull Run, General Robert E. Lee led his Army of Northern Virginia into Maryland in September 1862, driving toward Washington. In response, General George B. McClellan, the vain, overly cautious leader of the Army of the Potomac, finally heeded Abraham Lincoln's pleas and sent his troops into battle. Yet even though McClellan learned of Lee's battle plan in advance through a stroke of luck, his attack was timid and poorly coordinated. The result was a confused, day-long encounter that became a bloodbath; the "butcher's bill" numbered more than 10,000 Southern casualties, including some 1,500 dead, and an estimated 12,000 Northern casualties, including 2,000 dead. Below, soldiers lie in death along the Hagerstown Turnpike that divided the battlefield. The battle was a strategic victory for the North, as Lee was forced to withdraw. Despite his overwhelming superiority of numbers and Lincoln's urging, McClellan did not pursue Lee's battered army, and Lincoln relieved him of his command in November. Even so, the successful defense of Washington gave Lincoln the opening he needed to direct a political thrust at the South. Five days after the battle, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that all slaves in seceded Southern states would be free as of Jan. 1, 1863—making the abolition of slavery a goal of the war and helping undermine the Confederacy's slave-supported society.

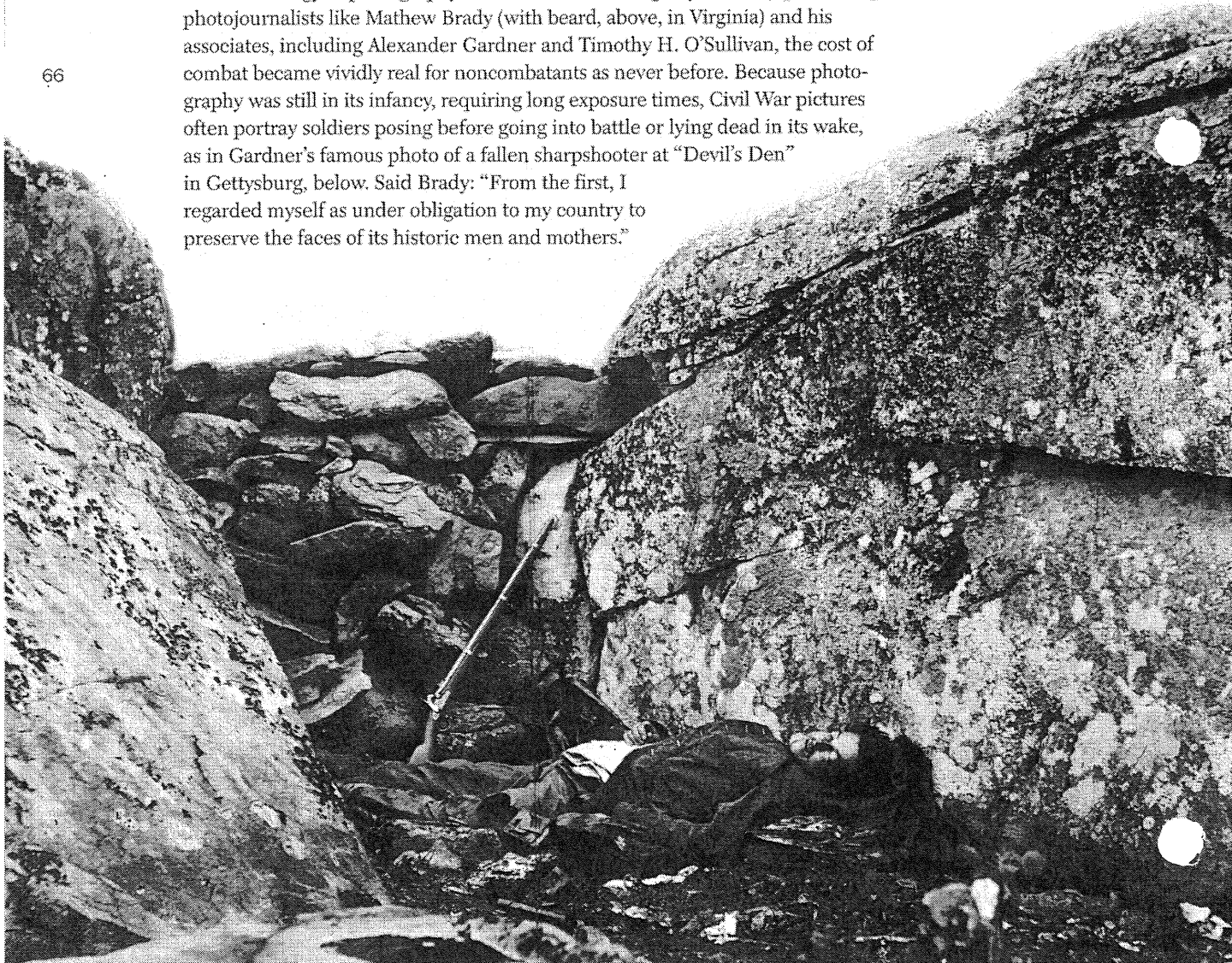




Visions of War As Never Seen Before

The Civil War burned itself into Americans' psyches not only because it divided families but also because it was the first war to be documented by the relatively new technology of photography. As recorded in all its grisly detail by pioneering photojournalists like Mathew Brady (with beard, above, in Virginia) and his associates, including Alexander Gardner and Timothy H. O'Sullivan, the cost of combat became vividly real for noncombatants as never before. Because photography was still in its infancy, requiring long exposure times, Civil War pictures often portray soldiers posing before going into battle or lying dead in its wake, as in Gardner's famous photo of a fallen sharpshooter at "Devil's Den" in Gettysburg, below. Said Brady: "From the first, I regarded myself as under obligation to my country to preserve the faces of its historic men and mothers."

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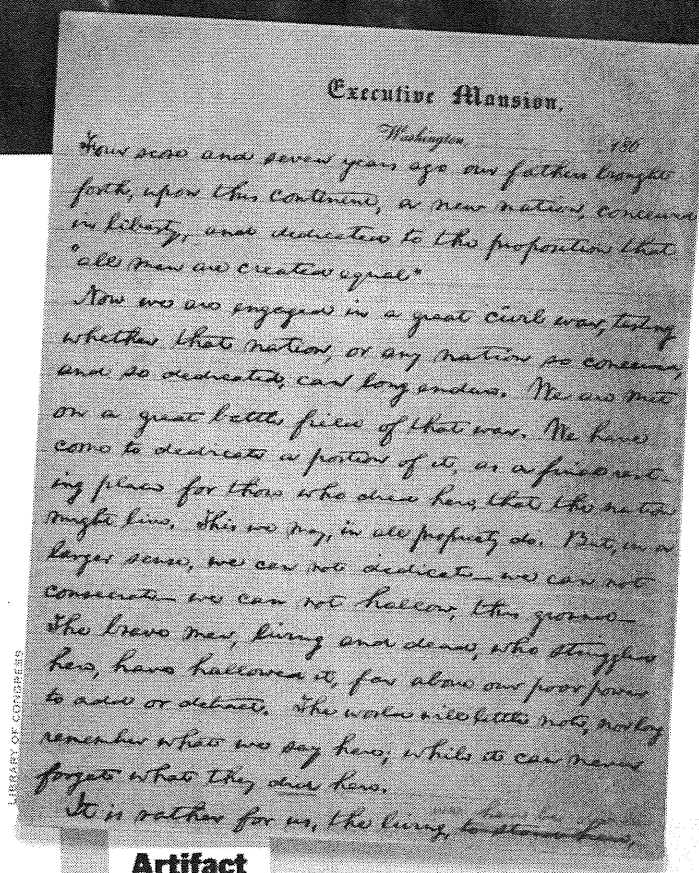




A Great Battle—and its Memorable Aftermath 1863

The most significant battle of the Civil War began when an advance column of rebel troops invading Maryland and Pennsylvania stumbled onto a Union position outside the crossroads town of Gettysburg, Pa., on July 1, 1863. By the next day, the brilliant General Robert E. Lee had nearly completed a double envelopment of the Union forces. But on July 3, Lee blundered, sending a division of more than 15,000 men under Major General George Pickett in a direct charge against Union lines on the high ground of Cemetery Ridge. Pickett's Charge, if one of the most valiant actions in U.S. military history, left more than 10,000 rebels killed or wounded. Attempting to salvage something from the disaster, two more Southern divisions followed Pickett's and were similarly cut to pieces. When the battle ended that evening, more than 36,000 Americans were dead, wounded, missing or captured. One day later and some 900 miles away, Union General Ulysses S. Grant captured the Confederate stronghold at Vicksburg, Miss., handing control of the Mississippi River to the Union. The twin victories were the war's decisive moment: the Union was clearly stronger in men and arms than the rebels.

President Abraham Lincoln, seen above in the only picture that shows him at Gettysburg, delivered a memorial address on Nov. 19, 1863, in which he called on Americans to rededicate themselves to the nation's founding ideals and portrayed the war as a great test of whether a nation "conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal" could long endure.

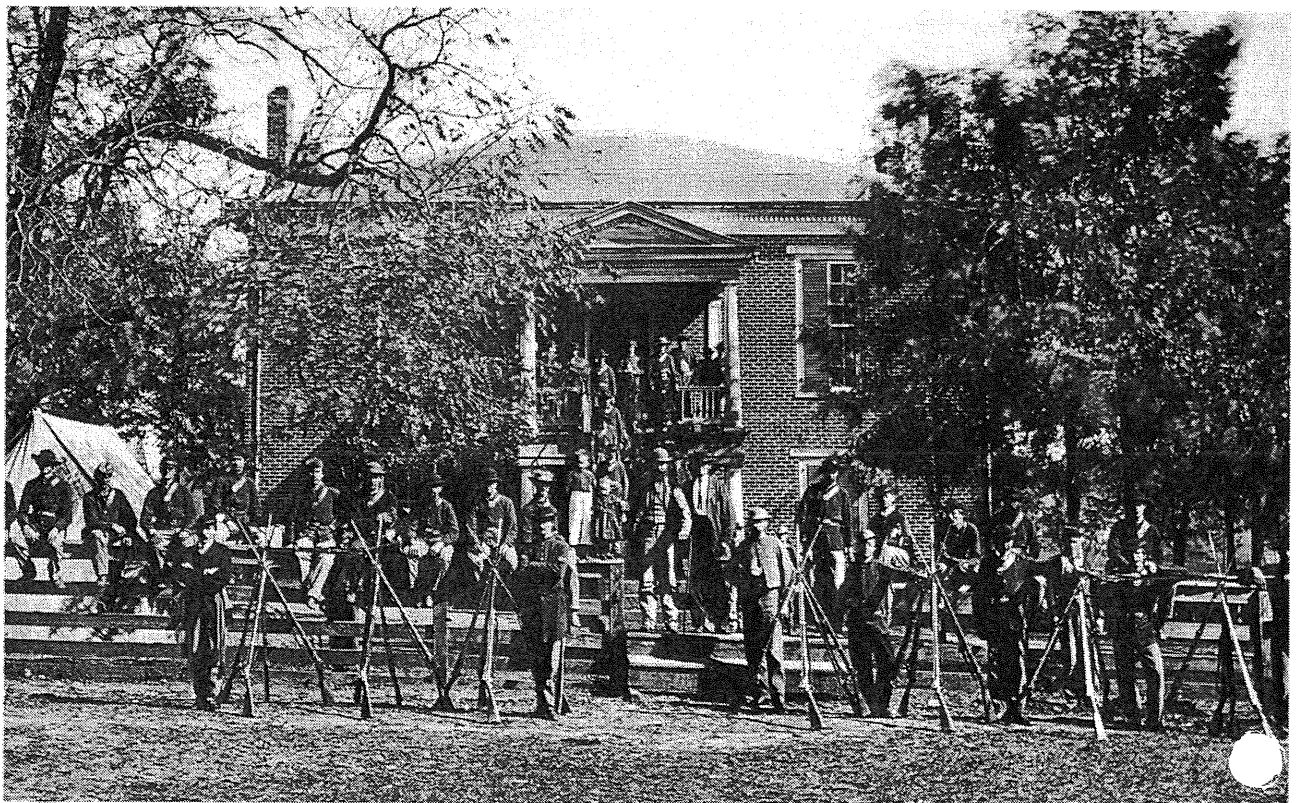


Artifact

Manuscript, Gettysburg Address

Lincoln spoke for less than two minutes at Gettysburg; this manuscript in his hand, one of five that exist, includes only 10 sentences and 272 words. The legend persists that Lincoln wrote this profound document in haste on the train to the battlefield; in reality, he carefully revised his remarks in advance, as was his custom all his life.

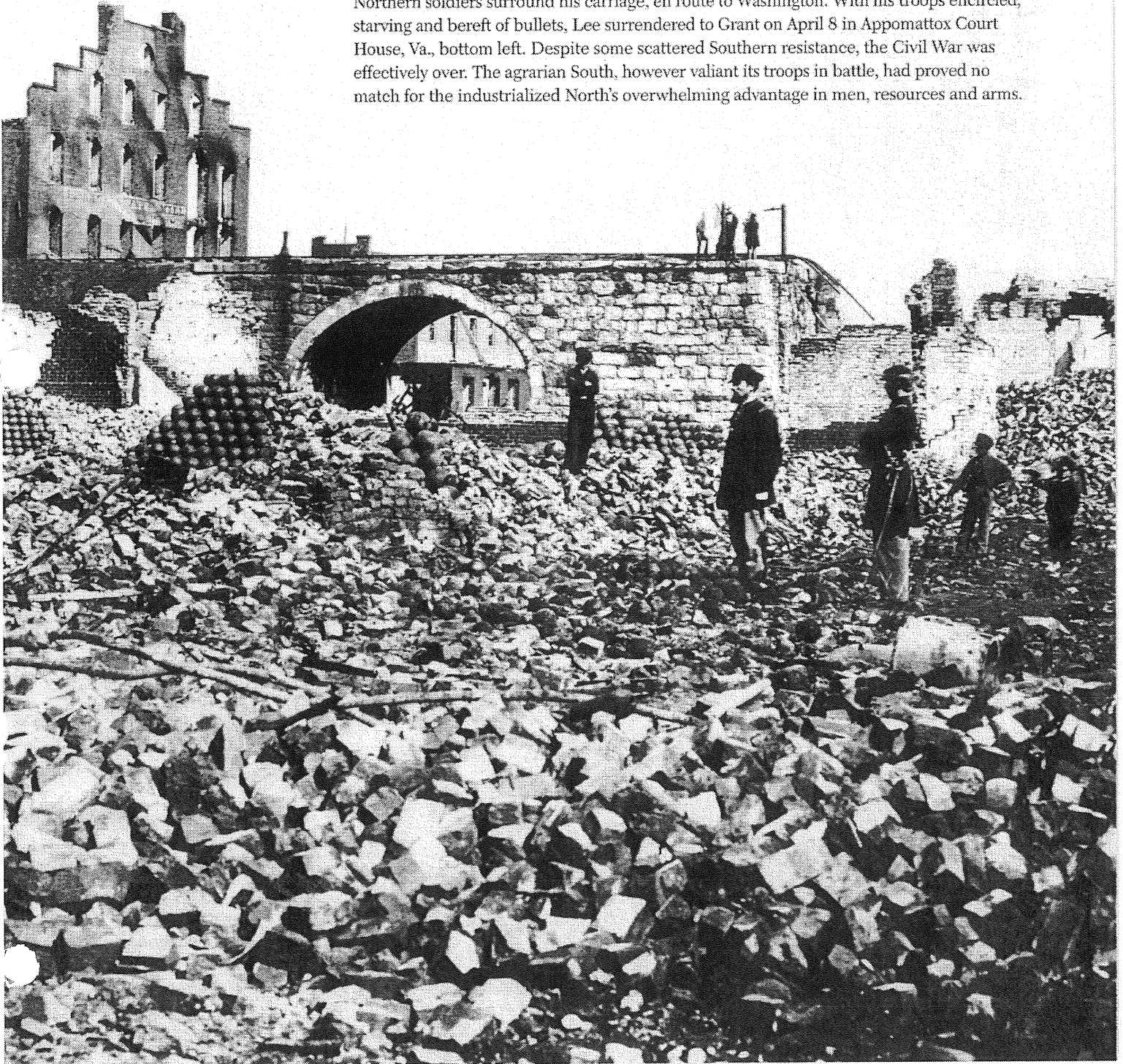
68



A Vanquished South Agrees to Surrender 1865

The last 12 months of the Civil War brought destruction on a scale never seen before in human conflict. Union top commander Ulysses S. Grant, the tough general Lincoln had been seeking for so long, believed that chewing up Southern troops in battle and torching Southern resources behind the lines was the only way to end the conflict. The first strategy cost the Union more than 66,000 casualties in just six weeks in the fall of 1864, but inflicted even heavier losses on the South, now out of manpower. The second was pursued by General William T. Sherman. Calling for "devastation more or less relentless," he laid waste to much of the state of Georgia, entering and burning its capital, Atlanta, on Sept. 1-2, 1864. Marching east to Savannah and the sea, Sherman then hooked north toward Virginia and General Robert E. Lee's army, already besieged from the other direction by Grant's forces.

The Confederacy was doomed: its capital, Richmond, Va., fell on April 3, 1865. Below, Union troops survey the ruins. President Jefferson Davis fled but was captured; at top left, Northern soldiers surround his carriage, en route to Washington. With his troops encircled, starving and bereft of bullets, Lee surrendered to Grant on April 8 in Appomattox Court House, Va., bottom left. Despite some scattered Southern resistance, the Civil War was effectively over. The agrarian South, however valiant its troops in battle, had proved no match for the industrialized North's overwhelming advantage in men, resources and arms.

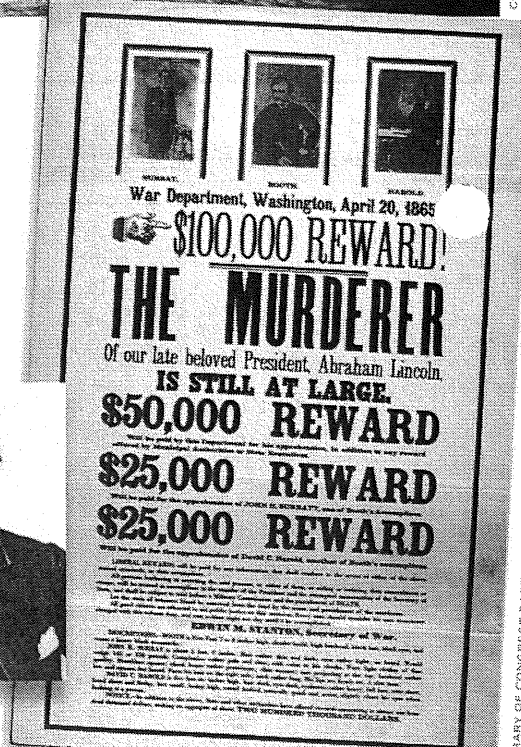
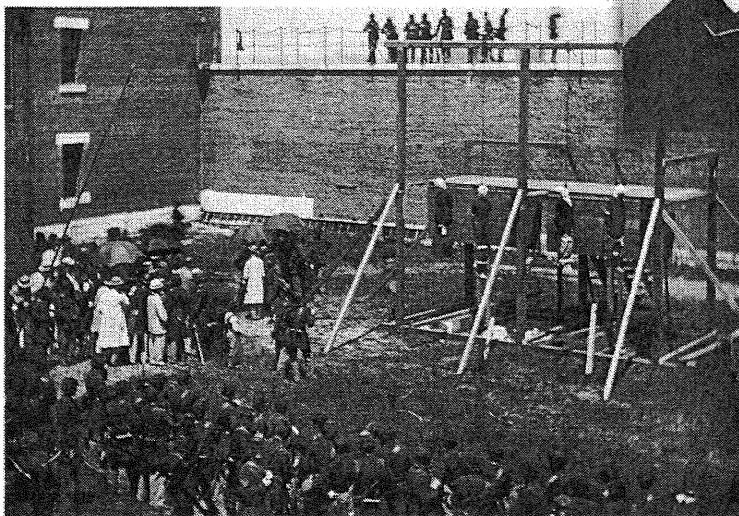




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In His Moment of Triumph, Abraham Lincoln Is Killed 1865

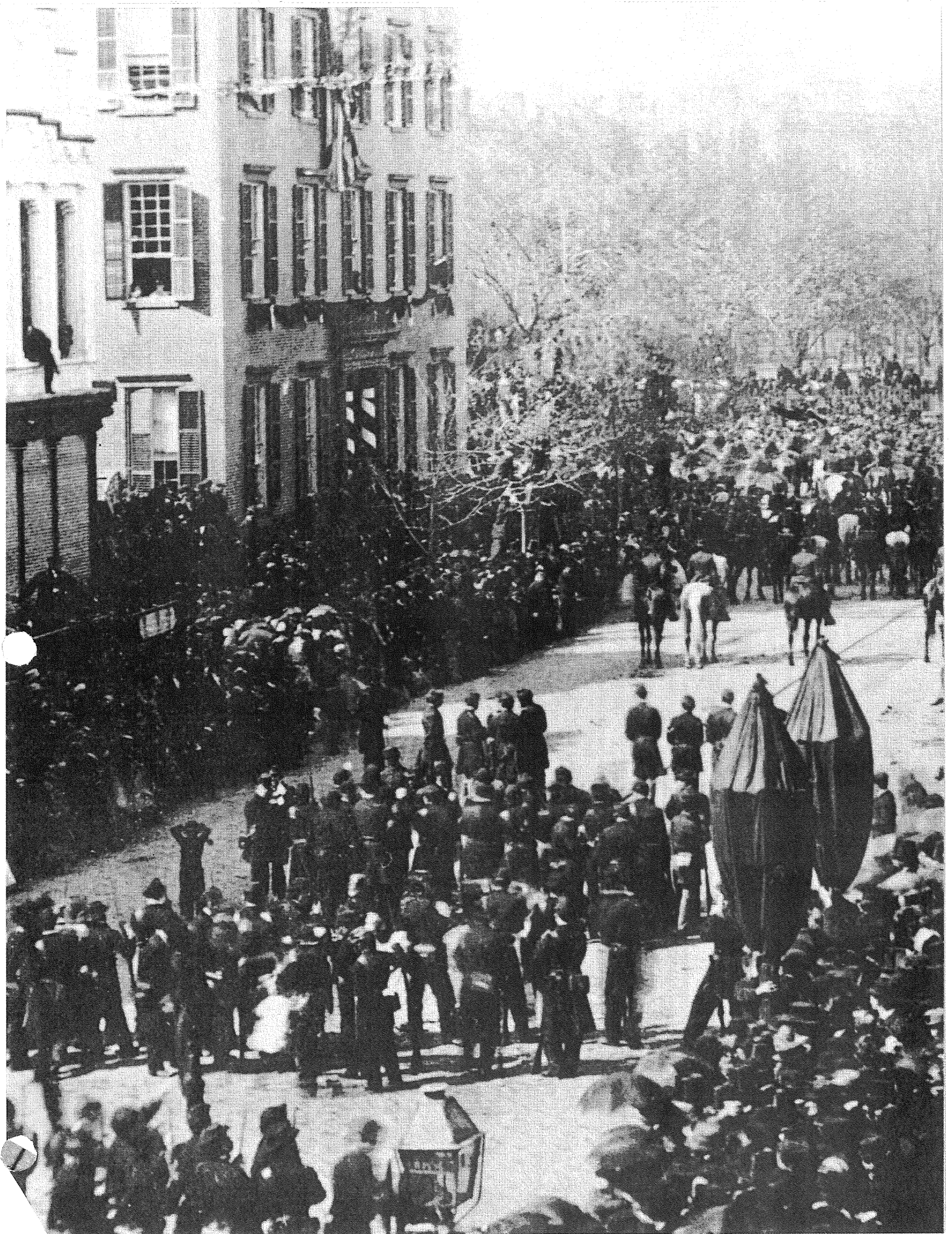
A jubilant crowd gathered outside the White House in the twilight of April 11, three days after Robert E. Lee's surrender, and demanded to hear their victorious President speak. Abraham Lincoln obliged, urging mercy for the vanquished South. It was his last public address. In the crowd was actor and Confederate sympathizer John Wilkes Booth, who was already plotting to murder the President. Three days later, as Lincoln attended a play at Ford's Theatre, above, Booth fired a single shot into his brain. Lincoln's assassination plunged the North into mourning; his coffin toured the nation on its trip to burial in Illinois. At right, the funeral cortege marches down Fifth Avenue in New York City. The two heads watching the procession from a second-story window at the left of the picture are those of future President Theodore Roosevelt and his brother Elliott.



Artifacts

"Wanted" Poster, John Wilkes Booth

Lincoln's assassin, above left, was aided by a cohort of Confederate sympathizers. Booth fled to Virginia and was sheltered by Southern soldiers but was fatally shot during his capture on April 26. Four of his fellow plotters were apprehended and tried; they were hanged, left, on July 7, 1865.



"I am tired of fighting ... My people, some of them, have run away to the hills and have no blankets, no food ... Hear me, my chiefs! I am tired; my heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands I will fight no more forever." —Chief Joseph of the Nez Percé, 1877

