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# Harpers Weekly Reports Events of 1865

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# ***HARPERS WEEKLY***

**REPORTS EVENTS OF**

# **1865**



Jack L. Dickinson  
Marshall University  
Special Collections Dept.  
March 2015

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## INTRODUCTION

In late 2014, Marshall University's Special Collection Department received a donation of 12 years of important newspapers in excellent condition. The 13 bound volumes contain a complete set of *Harper's Weekly* newspapers for the period which include the Civil War and Reconstruction (1859 – 1870.) Harper's is one of the most referenced and desired newspapers of the Civil War period, due to its liberal use of maps, engravings, and images. A significant feature is the newspaper's coverage of President Abraham Lincoln's assassination. The collection was a donation from the Denver Public Library.

Published from 1857 through 1916, this highly sought after newspaper provided a visual face to the Civil War and was the most widely read journal in the country during this period. It featured foreign and domestic news, fiction, essays on many subjects, and humor, populated with numerous illustrations.

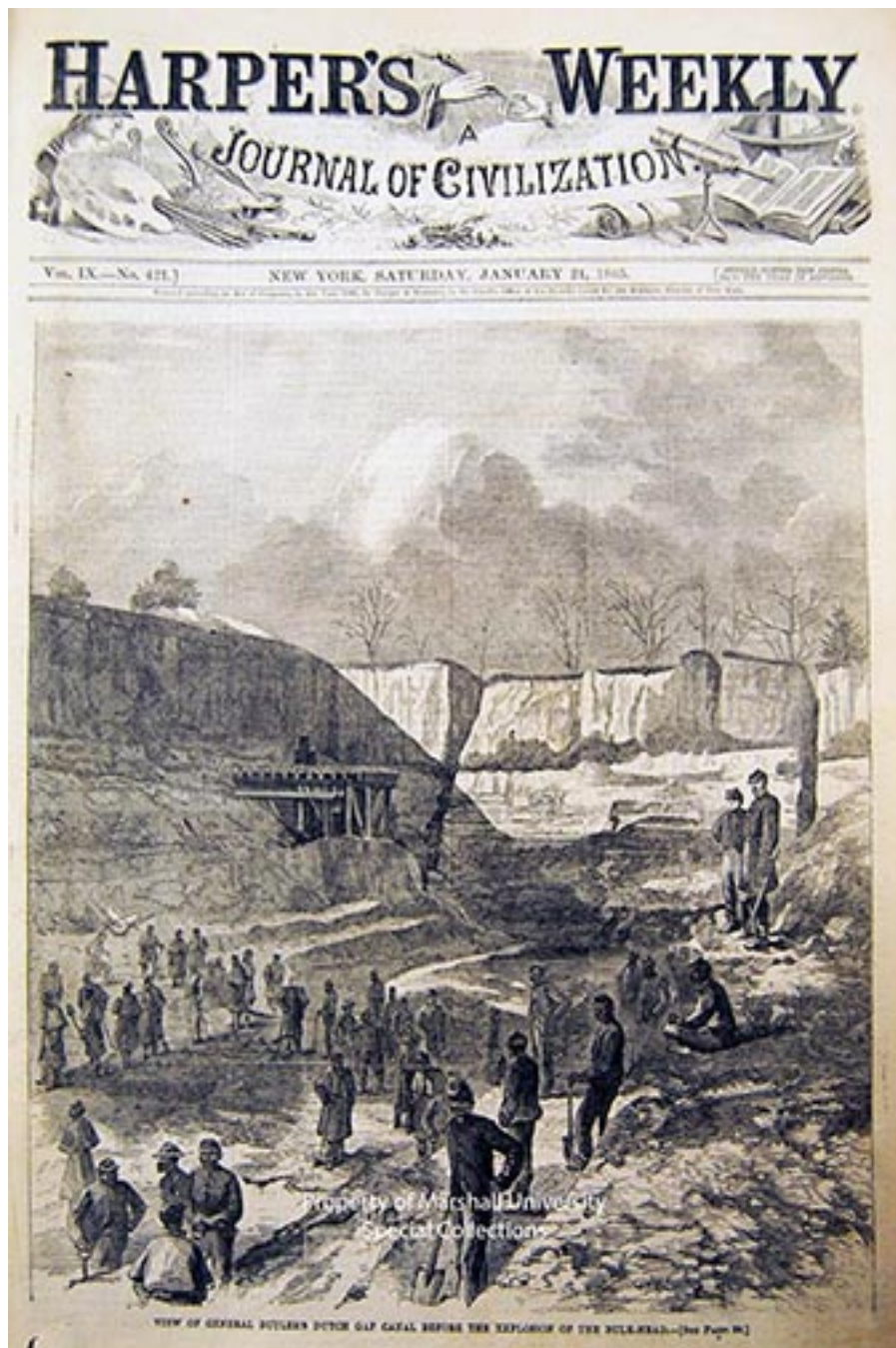
The newspaper utilized many of the most famous and well-known artists, photographers, and illustrators of the period, such as:

Matthew Brady  
A.L. Carroll  
Ed Forbes  
Alexander Gardner  
Andrew McCallum  
Thomas Nast  
A.R. Waud and his brother William Waud

Many of the images published were engravings or sketches made from the actual photos. Technology of the time was not available to produce a plate for printing directly from a photo.

This document gives a sample of *Harpers Weekly's* coverage of many of the significant events of the year 1865, the last year of the Civil War.

*Jack L. Dickinson*  
March 2015



Harper's Weekly issue: Jan. 21, 1865

Cover image: "View of General Butler's Dutch Gap Canal Before the Explosion of the Bulk-head."

The issue reported Union Gen. William T. Sherman's "march to the sea" which took place Nov. and Dec. of 1864.





Harper's Weekly issue: Jan. 28, 1865

Image caption: "Paris Fashions for January, 1865."

Harper's published at least twice a year images of the latest Paris fashions.

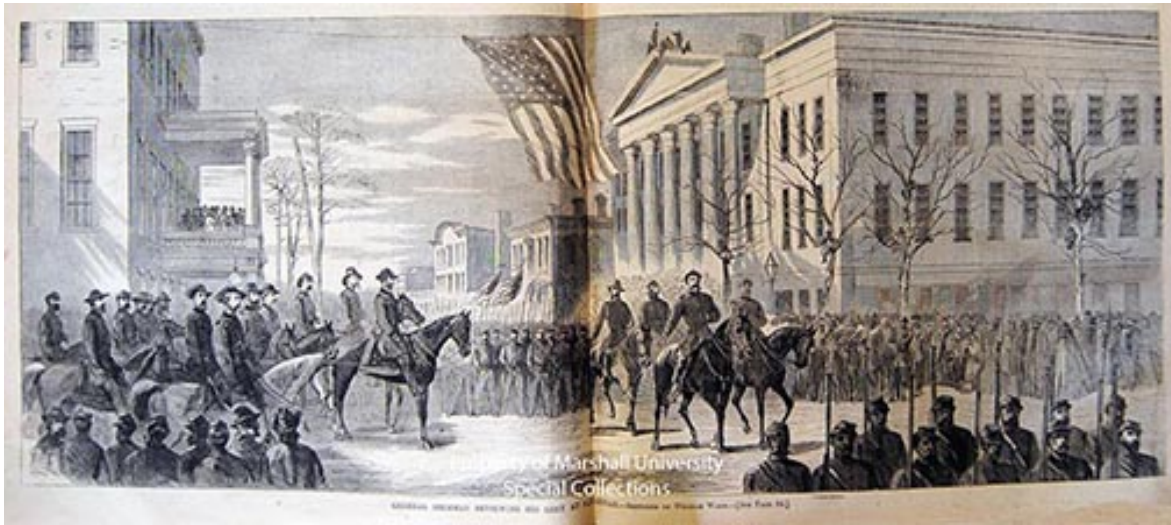


Harper's Weekly issue: Feb. 4, 1865

Image caption: "The Assault and Capture of Fort Fisher, January 15, 1865"

On Jan. 13 to 15, 1865, after an attack by US Navy ships, a Union Army under Gen. Alfred Terry mounted a land attack that resulted in the surrender of the fort, located near Wilmington, N.C.





Harper's Weekly issue: Feb. 11, 1865

Image caption: "General Sherman Reviewing his Army at Savannah, sketched by William Waud."

This was the end of Union Gen. Sherman's "march to the sea," which took place in November and December of 1864. Sherman described this 285-mile march as necessary to make the population "old and young, rich and poor, feel the hard hand of war."

**William Waud** (1832 - 1878) was an architect and illustrator born in England. He spent the first three years of the Civil War as a special artist for a competitor of Harper's: *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*. In 1864 Waud joined the staff of *Harper's Weekly* and worked along with his brother Alfred (also with *Harper's*) during the Petersburg Campaign. He covered Sherman's March in the south and Lincoln's funeral.



Harper's Weekly issue: Feb. 18, 1865

Image caption: "St. Valentine's Day"

This issue featured a short story titled "A Wife's Secret."



*Harper's Weekly* issue: Feb. 25, 1865

Image caption: “Great Fire in Philadelphia-Corner Washington & Ninth Streets”

On February 8, 1865 occurred one of the great fires of Philadelphia. It began when 3,000 barrels of coal oil stored in a warehouse ignited. The fire destroyed several blocks in every direction, and killed eight persons.





Harper's Weekly issue: Mar. 4, 1865

Cover image: "Sherman's March Through South Carolina-Road at the Swamp Crossings"

This is another scene from Sherman's March to the Sea.





Harper's Weekly issue: Mar. 11, 1865

Image caption: "Junction of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers From the Cemetery Above Harper's Ferry – sketched by A.R. Waud."

Harpers Ferry (West Virginia after 1863,) located where the states of Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia meet, was a key railroad junction and location of the Harper's Ferry Arsenal, which was captured by Stonewall Jackson in 1861. It was the location of John Brown's raid of 1859. It is now a National Historic Park.

**Alfred R. Waud** (1828-1891) was an artist and illustrator, working for the *New York Illustrated News* at the start of the Civil War. He joined *Harper's Weekly* in late 1861 or early 1862. His brother, William, joined him at *Harper's* in 1864.

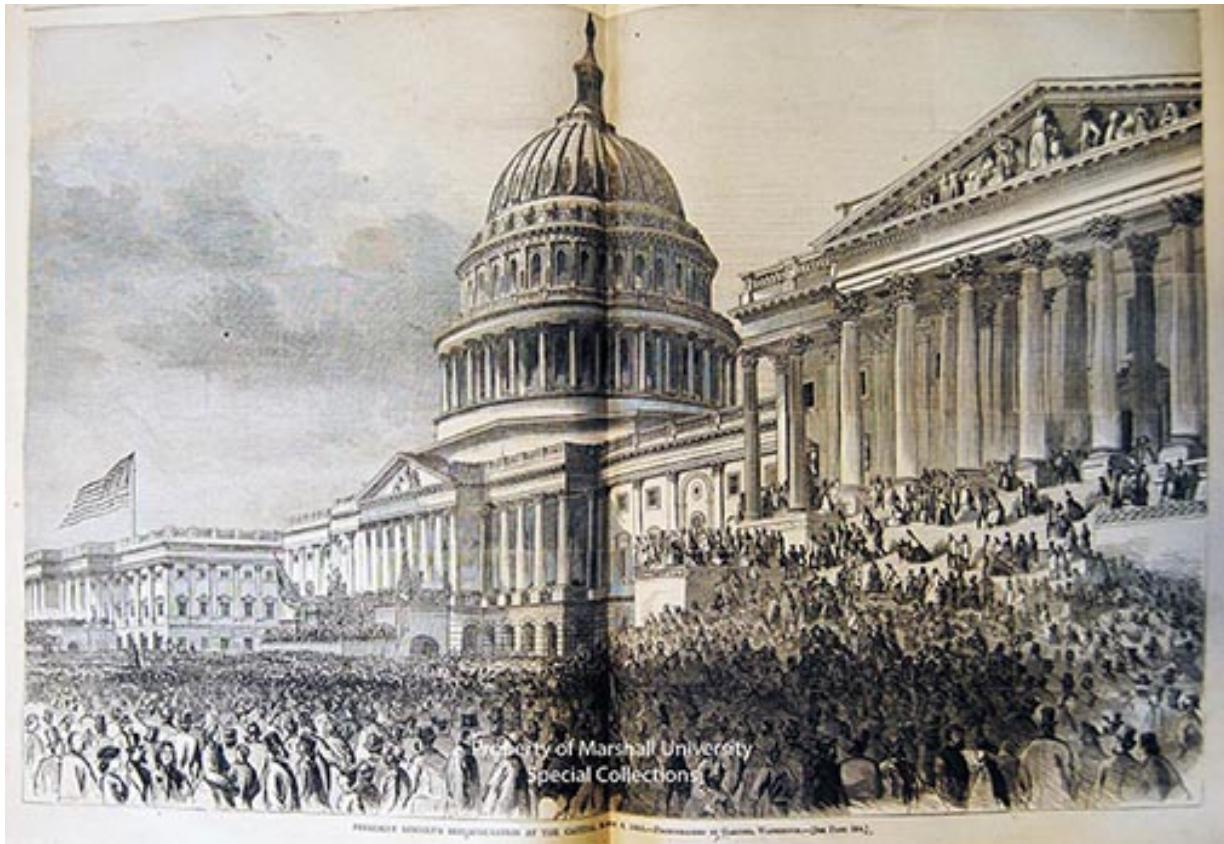


Harper's Weekly issue: Mar. 18, 1865

Cover image: "President Lincoln taking the oath at his second inauguration-  
Gardner photograph"

**Alexander Gardner** (1821 – 1882) emigrated from Scotland before the Civil War, and learned photography. He became a staff photographer under Union General George B. McClellan, commander of the Army of the Potomac. He was well-known for his photos of the Battle of Gettysburg.

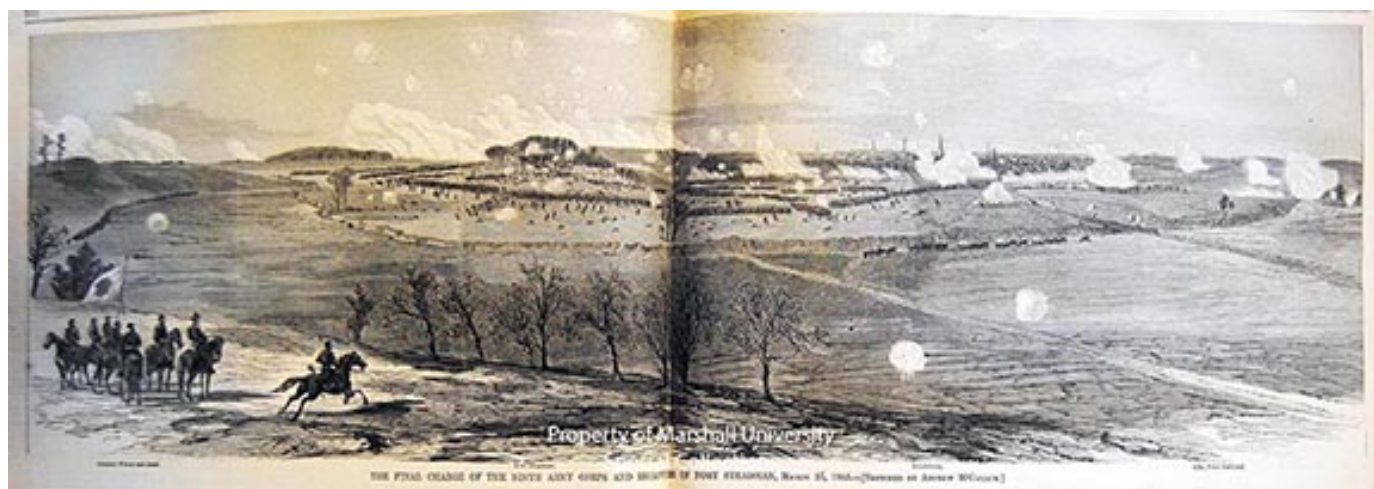




Harper's Weekly issue: Mar. 18, 1865

Image caption: "President Lincoln's reinauguration at the capitol, Mar. 4, 1865-  
photographed by Gardner, Washington."

Another photo by Alexander Gardner. Gardner worked for Matthew Brady during  
the first year of the war.



*Harper's Weekly* issue: Apr. 15, 1865

Image caption: "The final charge of the Ninth Army Corps and recapture of Fort Steadman, Mar. 15, 1865-sketched by Andrew M'Callum"

Fort Steadman was part of the defenses of Petersburg, Va. In a pre-dawn assault on March 25, Confederate forces under Maj. Gen. John B. Gordon, overpowered the garrisons of Fort Steadman and its three Union batteries. During the day, elements of the II and VI Corps (Union) assaulted and captured the entrenched picket lines and recaptured the fort. This was a devastating blow for Lee's army, setting up the Confederate defeat at Five Forks.



# HARPER'S WEEKLY.

## A JOURNAL OF CIVILIZATION.

Vol. IX.—No. 434.]
NEW YORK, SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1865.
[SINGLE COPIES TEN CENTS.  
\$4.00 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.]

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the Year 1865, by Harper & Brothers, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court for the Southern District of New York.

**THE FINAL VICTORY.**

The people are full of rejoicing. The war for the Union has been their war, fought in their interest, sustained by their patriotism—a patriotism that has withstood neither property nor life.—Let the people rejoice, then, in the final triumph, with a consciousness of their own strength, but especially with a conviction of the righteousness of their victory and a sense of overwhelming gratitude to the God of Battles. Their *Te Deum* is fitly accompanied by their *Te Deums*.

This journal having in its pictorial illustrations followed the course of events during the war, it is now with peculiar gratification that we present to our readers in this week's issue illustrations of the closing scenes of the great conflict. We give on page 247 a Map of the last battle-field of the Armies of Virginia. For this map, drawn from the official maps furnished to the corps commanders, we are indebted to the *Army and Navy Journal*. The decisive battle of Five Forks, fought by General SHERIDAN, April 1, and in which LONGSTREET's corps was swept from the field and LEE's right flank uncovered, we have illustrated on this page. This battle will go down to history as the great master-piece of General PHIL SHERIDAN. For strategy it is unsurpassed by any thing in the war. During the first stage of the battle the infantry was not disclosed. But so soon as LONGSTREET had been driven into his breast-works, then, by a sudden movement, he was flanked, and his entire command captured and dispersed. Our illustrations of the battle relate only to the operations of the cavalry. SHERIDAN was more himself than ever before. Riding up and down along his front, his fiery enthusiasm inspired the men to almost superhuman



CAVALRY CHARGE AT THE BATTLE OF FIVE FORKS.

been shot down, and two line officers, who had taken the colors from the hands of the sergeant, himself seized them and rallied his wavering line. A third sketch represents the rebels retreating across the Appomattox, by the turnpike-bridge, they having set fire to the Railroad Bridge, just above. The building shown in this sketch was the rebel Commissary Depot.

On page 245 we illustrate the entrance of Petersburg by the Ninth Corps. The first troops to enter the city were Michigan veterans, under General ELY. The rebels had been crossing the Appomattox all night, and had just brought up their rear as our troops entered. The flag was raised over the Custom-house by the Second Michigan Regiment.

On the same day General WITZEL entered Richmond, which had been evacuated Sunday night. The rebel General GARY's cavalry had been the last to leave the city. His force passed up Main Street not five minutes ahead of the Union column. The scene of the entrance of the Union army has been graphically portrayed by our artist on pages 248 and 249. KAUTZ's cavalry were in the advance, and were met by Mayor Mayo and a deputation of the citizens, who formally surrendered the city. Most of WITZEL's men were negroes, and their advent excited the greatest enthusiasm among the swartthy denizens of the rebel capital. It is estimated that one half of the population left in Richmond were negroes. Nor was the enthusiasm manifested by the citizens confined to the negroes. All seemed glad, as if they had thrown off from their shoulders an intolerable burden. The city was on fire when our troops entered. By order of General BRECKINRIDGE the torch had been applied to all the public buildings, from the Tredegar Works, on the canal above the

efforts. With such a presence among them there could be no shrinking from the fight. And it was an obstinate fight, too. But SHERIDAN knew what depended upon that action; and when night came, and his work had been well done, he knew that LEE's army had been defeated.

The same spirit which had secured the victory on Saturday was infused into the army in front of Petersburg, in the assault on the enemy's entire front on Sunday. This also we have illustrated on

page 244. We give on that page a sketch of the fort near Burgess Mill, where the Boydton Road crosses Hatcher's Run. It was out of this fort that the rebels were flanked by the Sixth Corps. On Sunday night this corps had advanced to the banks of the Appomattox, above Petersburg, having captured 2000 prisoners and about 20 guns. Another sketch on the same page illustrates the gallantry of Colonel SNIPER, of the One Hundred and Eighty-fifth New York, who, after four color-sergeants had

Harper's Weekly issue: Apr. 22, 1865

Image caption: "Cavalry charge at the Battle of Five Forks"

This pivotal battle was fought on April 1, 1865 at Five Forks, Va. Confederate Gen. George Pickett, known for his charge at Gettysburg, dug a fortified position at the crossroads, where he was routed by Union Gen. Phil Sheridan's cavalry and the Union Fifth Corps. The Union triumph heralded the end of the stalemate outside Petersburg and set the stage for the breakthrough that followed the next day. On April 2, Lee informed Jefferson Davis that Petersburg and Richmond would have to be evacuated. Lee surrendered to Grant only seven days later. Harper's called it "The Final Victory."

## ROBERT E. LEE.

THAT the general satisfaction with the surrender of LEE should beget a kind feeling for the rebel General is not unnatural. But it is a great folly to invest him with any romance. ROBERT E. LEE may be an honest man, as doubtless many of the rebels were, but beyond that he has no claim of any kind whatever upon the regard of the American people.

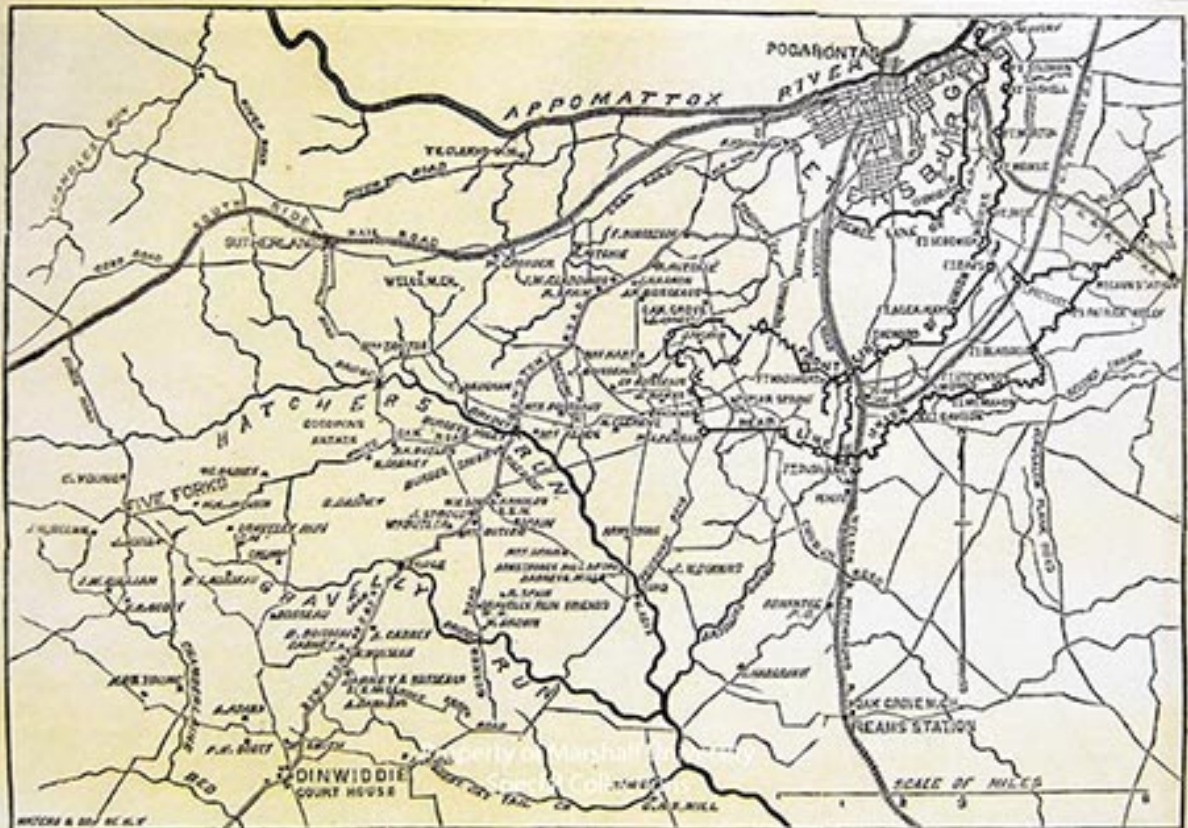
His story is very briefly told. Educated an army officer, he acknowledged the doctrine of State sovereignty, and, honestly holding it, he followed his State when she seceded. Now even if a man believed that his State had a right to secede at her pleasure, if he thought the occasion insufficient, as LEE confessed he did, he would silently acquiesce, and no more. But if the occasion were infamous, if the object of the exercise of State sovereignty at such enormous peril to the lives and happiness of his fellow-citizens were nothing but the perpetuity of human slavery, a noble and generous man would

*Harper's Weekly* issue: Apr. 22, 1865

Image caption: No image

Oddly enough, Harper's included no image in this issue of Lee's surrender on April 9 at Appomattox Court House, Va. Harper's published its first images of the surrender in their issue of May 20, 1865.





THE SCENE OF CONFLICT IN VIRGINIA.

*Harper's Weekly* issue: Apr. 22, 1865

Image caption: "The Scene of Conflict in Virginia"

One of the features of Harper's was the excellent maps of the many theaters of the Civil War. On this map, the location of the Battle of Five Forks is in the lower left corner of this map. After that victory, the Union Army marched northeast to the Petersburg defenses.

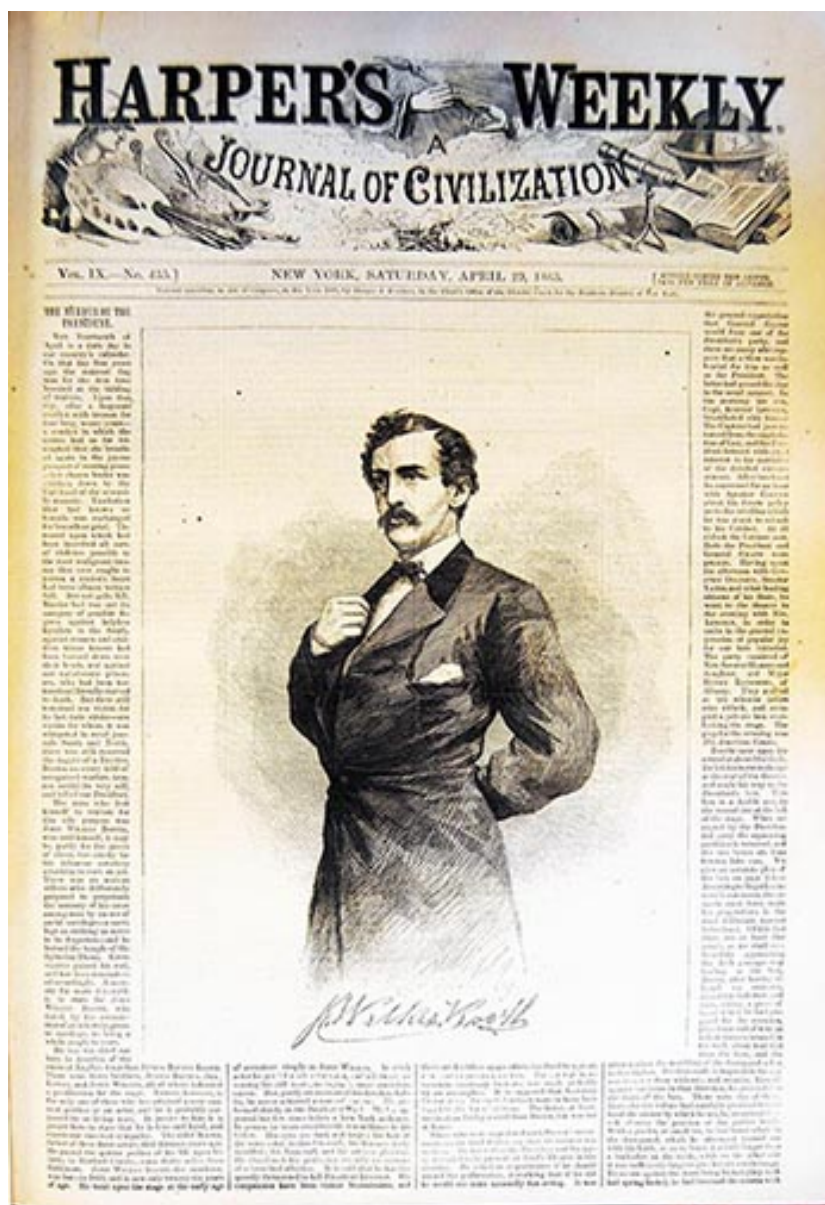


Harper's Weekly issue: Apr. 22, 1865

Image caption: "The Union Army entering Richmond, April 3, 1865"

By April of 1865, Sherman's army had taken possession of Savannah, Charleston and Atlanta. Richmond, the Confederate capitol, was the remaining large city still under Confederate control. When the Union Army broke through the defenses around Petersburg, Va., Gen. Lee sent a message to Confederate Pres. Jefferson Davis that he could no longer defend the Confederate capitol, and it should be evacuated. The Confederate Army burned a part of the city as it evacuated.





Harper's Weekly issue: Apr. 29, 1865  
Cover Image caption: "J. Wilkes Booth"

Harper's first issue to cover the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln appeared two weeks after the event of April 14, 1865. Oddly the image on the cover of this issue is of John Wilkes Booth, the assassin. The paper described the event as "a dark day in our country's calendar."



Harper's Weekly issue: Apr. 29, 1865

Image captions: (top) "The assassination of President Lincoln at Ford's Theater on the night of April 14, 1865."

(bottom) "The assassination of President Lincoln at Ford's Theater – after the act."



Harper's Weekly issue: Apr. 29, 1865

Image captions: "The Eve of War – The Dawn of Peace"

Engraving showing the death figure over Fort Sumter, marking the beginning of the Civil War, and at bottom the angel of peace. Oval figure in center is Major Robert Anderson, Union commander of the fort in 1861.

Art by **Thomas Nast**: Thomas Nast (1840-1902) was a German-born American caricaturist and editorial cartoonist who was the "Father of the American Cartoon." He began at Harper's in 1859, and his engravings were said to "vividly go beyond reporting." His distinctive signature appeared on all his engravings in Harper's:

*Th: Nast.*





*Harper's Weekly* issue: Apr. 29, 1865

Image captions: None (referred to as "Columbia Mourning over Lincoln's casket")

Another engraving by Thomas Nast. Note the grieving soldier in upper left, grieving sailor in upper right.





*Harper's Weekly* issue: May 6, 1865

Cover image: "President Lincoln at Home – photographed by Brady"

The original Brady photo is captioned "Tad Lincoln with his father looking at a photo album."

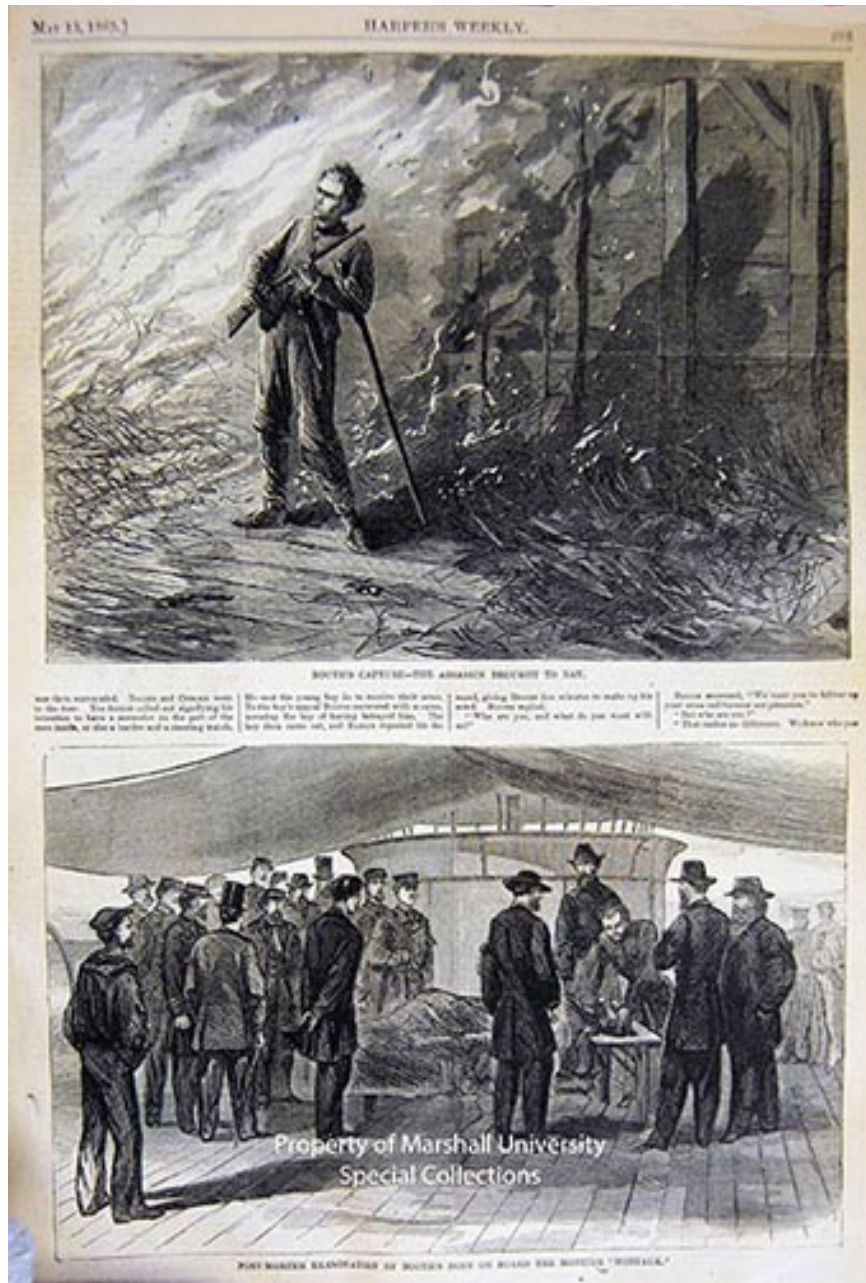
**Matthew Brady** (1823-1896) is referred to as the father of photojournalism. He is most well known for his documentation of the Civil War. In the early 1850's Brady opened a studio in Washington, DC, and began making daguerreotypes of prominent politicians. At the start of the Civil War he organized a group of photographers and staff to follow the troops as the first field photographers.



Harper's Weekly issue: May 6, 1865

Image captions: "Scene at the deathbed of President Lincoln"

Surgeon General Joseph K. Barnes attending Lincoln in the early morning hours of April 15. Lincoln was pronounced legally dead at 7:22 am on the 15<sup>th</sup>. His death was said to have been: "the cause of such mighty changes in the world's history as we may perhaps never realize."



Harper's Weekly issue: May 13, 1865

Image captions: (top) “Booth’s capture – the assassin brought to bay”

(Bottom) “Post-mortem examination of Booth’s body on board the monitor Montauk”

The pursuit and killing of John Wilkes Booth held the nation's attention for eleven days following the assassination of Lincoln. The bottom image appears to be from the lost glass plate taken by Alexander Gardner, although not credited in Harper's to anyone.

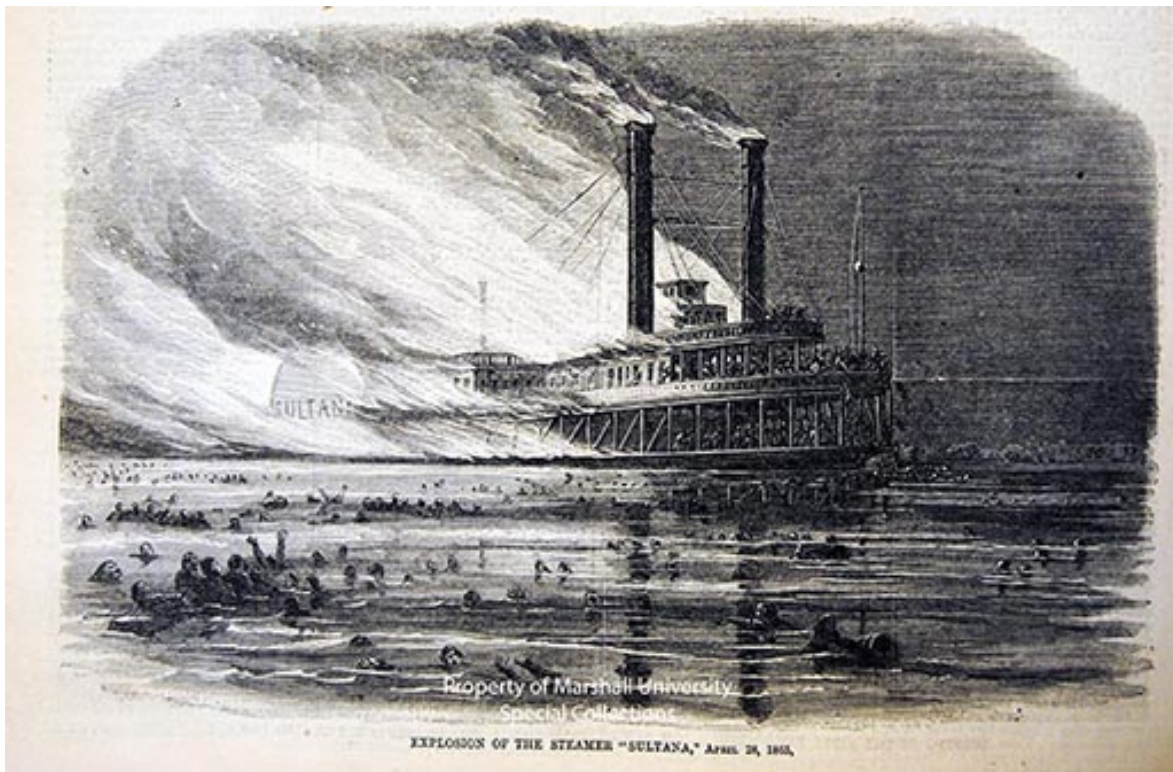




Harper's Weekly issue: May 20, 1865

Image captions: (Left) "The Savior's entry into Jerusalem" (Right) "The surrender of Gen. Lee and his army to Lieut. Gen. Grant." Center caption: "Blessed are the peace makers."

Another Thomas Nast collage, it contains the first image Harper's used of Lee's surrender.



Harper's Weekly issue: May 20, 1865

Image caption: "Explosion of the steamer 'Sultana' April 28, 1865."

This was the worst maritime disaster in U.S. history. The *Sultana* had been used on several occasions during the Civil War to transport Union troops on the Mississippi. It was approved to carry 376 persons including her crew. The boat left New Orleans on April 21 to transport Union soldiers home. It stopped in Vicksburg and picked up approximately 2,200 Union soldiers most of whom had been prisoners of war. The crew patched a known boiler problem and sailed on to Memphis. After a stop there she set out again, and late in the night of April 27 or the morning hours of April 28\* the boilers exploded, killing some 1,700. There was a small article in the May 13 issue, and with the funeral of Lincoln occupying most of this issue, this image appeared eleven pages in.

(\*The date appears in various other sources as April 26, 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>.)





Harper's Weekly issue: May 27, 1865

Image caption: "President Lincoln's funeral- Burial service at Oak Ridge, Springfield, Ill. – sketched by W. Waud."

Lincoln's body arrived by train in Springfield on May 3, 1865.

Another sketch by William Waud, one of two brothers working for Harper's.





Harper's Weekly issue: June 3, 1865  
Cover image caption: "Check Mate!"

This sketch by A.L. Carroll shows Lincoln beating the Confederacy in strategic chess, revealing that Generals Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan have backed Lee into a corner. (lower left corner of the board)

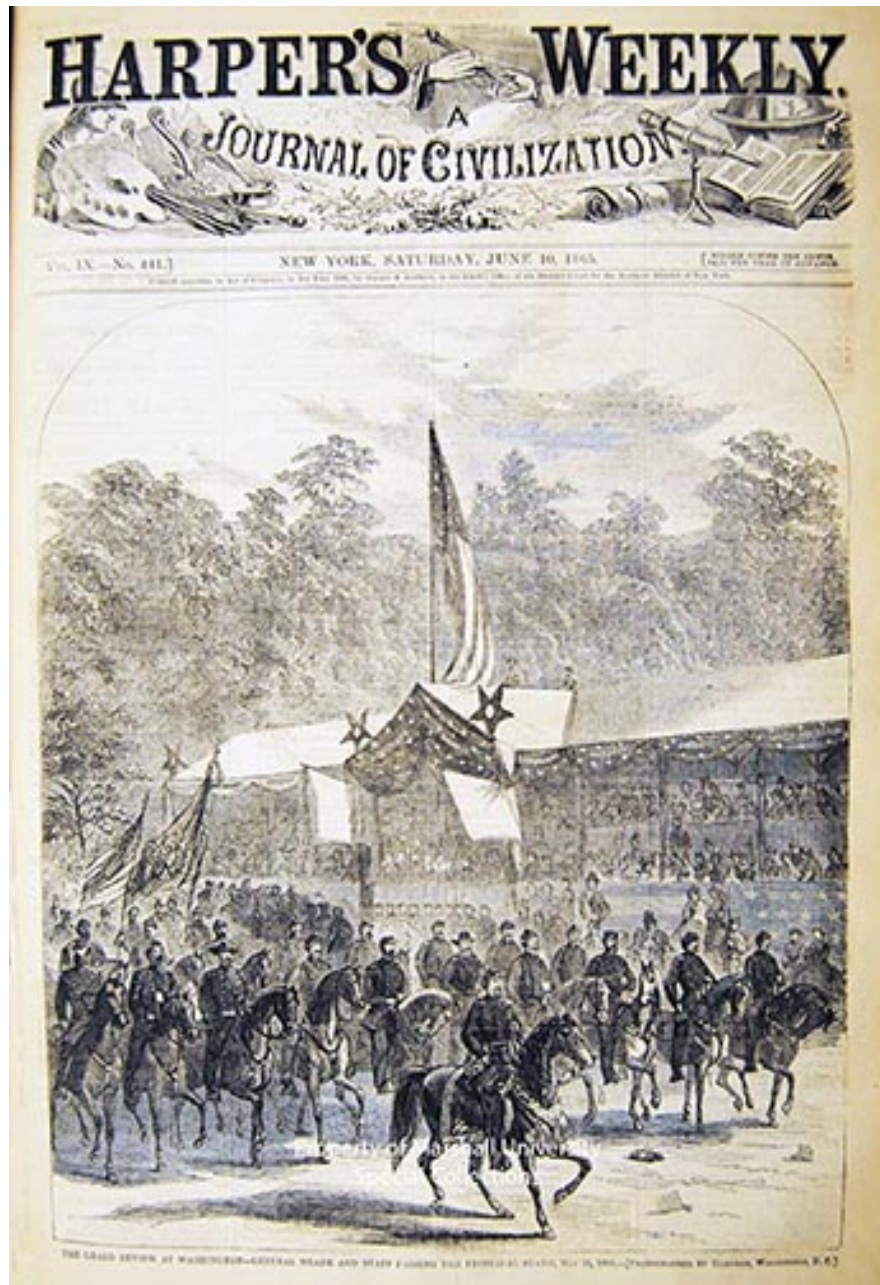


Harper's Weekly issue: June 3, 1865

Image caption: "The court-room at the old penitentiary, Washington, during the trial of the conspirators – sketched by Mr. Andrew M'Callum."

**Andrew McCallum** was a Civil War artist who did several sketches of battle scenes and other historical events in 1865 for Harper's.





Harper's Weekly issue: June 10, 1865

Cover image caption: "The Grand Review at Washington – General Meade and staff passing the principal stand – May 23, 1865—photographed by Gardner, Washington, D.C."

**Alexander Gardner** (1821-1882) was a photographer and jeweler born in Scotland. He worked with Matthew Brady until 1862. He is best known for his photos of the execution of the conspirators. He published a two-volume work: "Alexander Gardner's Photographic Sketch Book of the Civil War" in 1866.





Harper's Weekly issue: June 10, 1865

Image caption: "Victory and Death."

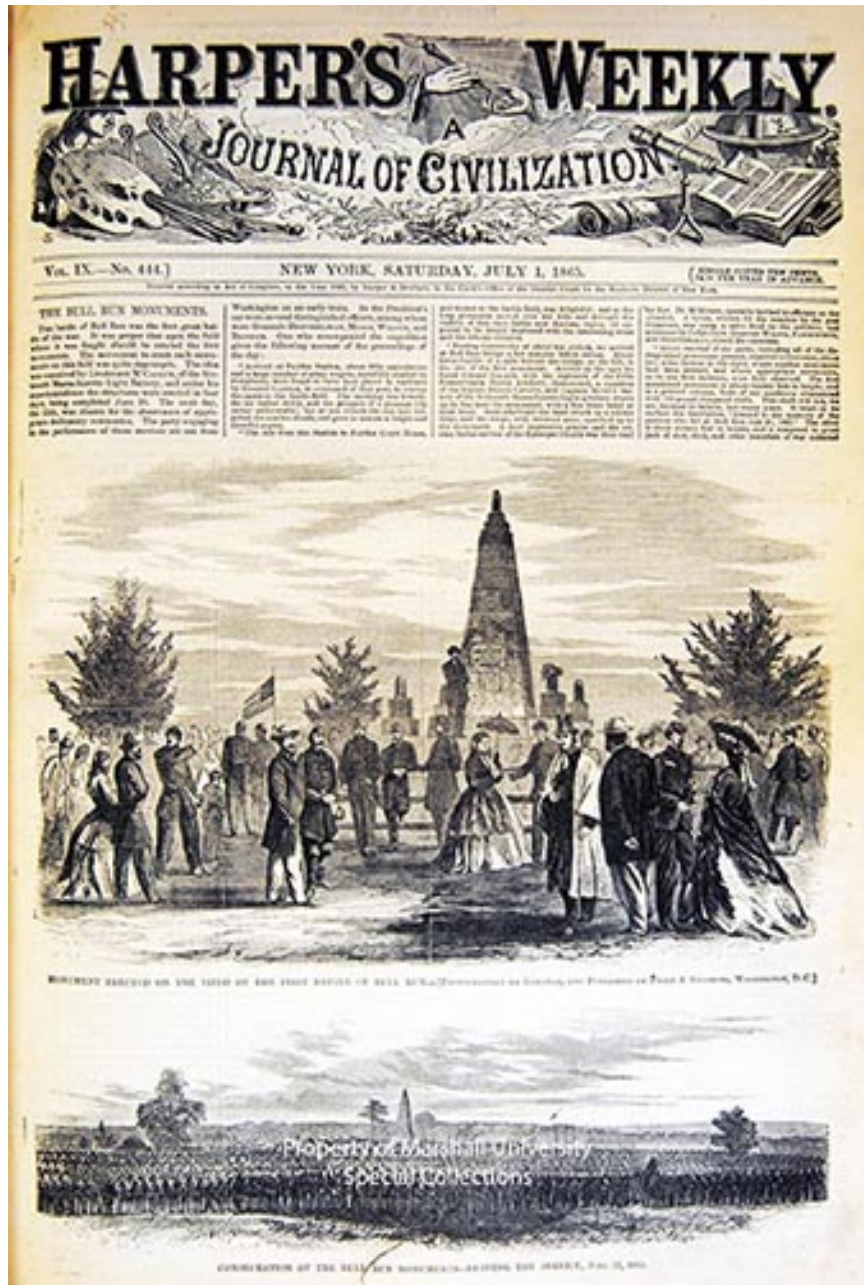
Another allegorical collage by Thomas Nast. Abraham Lincoln "our martyred president" is at the peak on top. "Everyman" is humbled before death.



*Harper's Weekly* issue: June 24, 1865  
 Image caption: "Our Arms Victorious."

Another allegorical collage by Thomas Nast. Oval image of Gen. Ulysses Grant captioned "The Conquering Hero" at top.





Harper's Weekly issue: July 1, 1865

Cover image captions: (Top) "Monument erected on the field of the First Battle of Bull Run – photographed by Gardner, and published by Philip and Solomons, Washington, D.C." (Bottom) "Consecration of the Bull Run monument – reading the service, June 11, 1865."

The top image is another famous image from a photo by Alexander Gardner.





Harper's Weekly issue: July 8, 1865

Cover image caption: "Peace – Fourth of July, 1865"

The Angel of Peace leads the soldiers returning home.

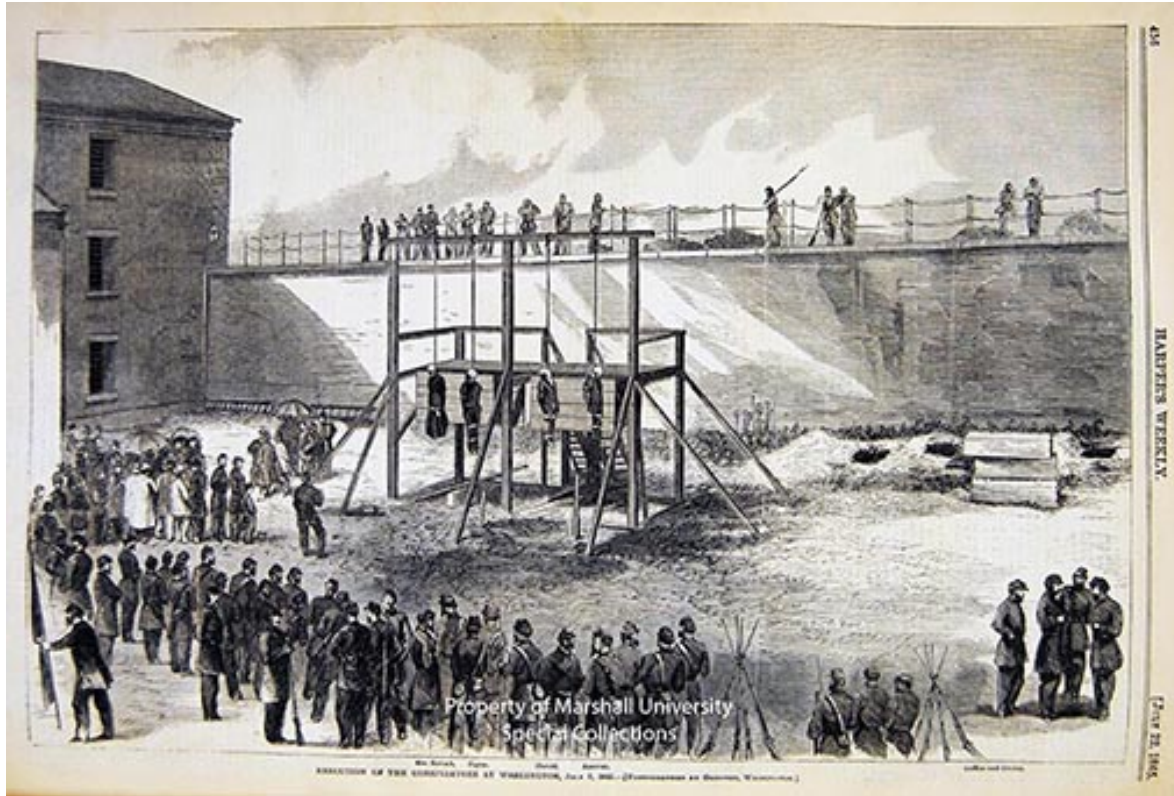


*Harper's Weekly* issue: July 8, 1865

Image caption: "Peace on earth and good will towards men." "The Fourth of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-five."

Another collage of vignettes by Thomas Nast.





Harper's Weekly issue: July 22, 1865

Image caption: "Execution of the conspirators at Washington – July 7, 1865 – photographed by Gardner, Washington."

Engraving of another of Alexander Gardner's famous photos of the capture, trials, and executions of the conspirators in the Lincoln assassination.





Harper's Weekly issue: July 22, 1865

Image caption: (Several images of the conspirators and their execution.)

Top two images are from other Alexander Gardner photos. Bottom left is from an Andrew McCallum photo.



Harper's Weekly issue: July 29, 1865

Cover image caption: "The great labor question from a southern point of view"

This is meant to illustrate the problem in the south of the freed slaves. The plantation owner is saying: "My boy, we've toiled and taken care of you long enough now you've got to work!"





*Harper's Weekly* issue: July 29, 1865

Image caption: "The destruction by fire of Barnum's American Museum, in New York, July 13, 1865 – by A.R. Waud."

Famous showman P.T. Barnum's Museum was located at the corner of Broadway and Ann Street in New York City, from 1841 to 1865. It was "a combination zoo, museum, lecture hall, wax museum, theater and freak show." The museum was the first American institution to combine sensational entertainment and gaudy display with instruction. Barnum immediately built another museum in the city, which also burned to the ground in 1868. After the second fire, Barnum turned to the circus, for which he remains well known to this day.

Barnum's  
Museum in  
1858.



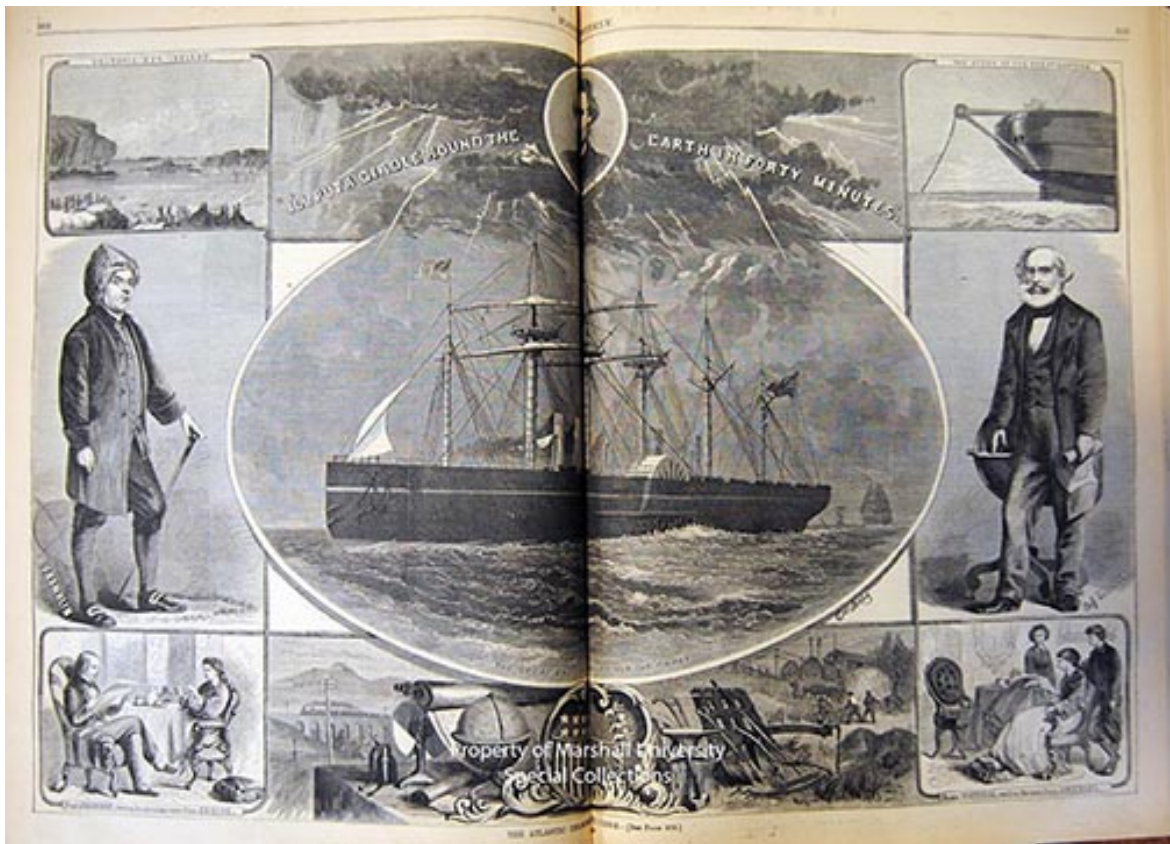




Harper's Weekly issue: Aug. 5, 1865

Image caption: (Left) "Pardon – Columbia: 'Shall I trust these men,'" (Right) "Franchise – and not this man?"

Another pair of images by Thomas Nast. Man bowing in left image is an ex-Confederate soldier; man in the right image is an African-American US Army veteran.



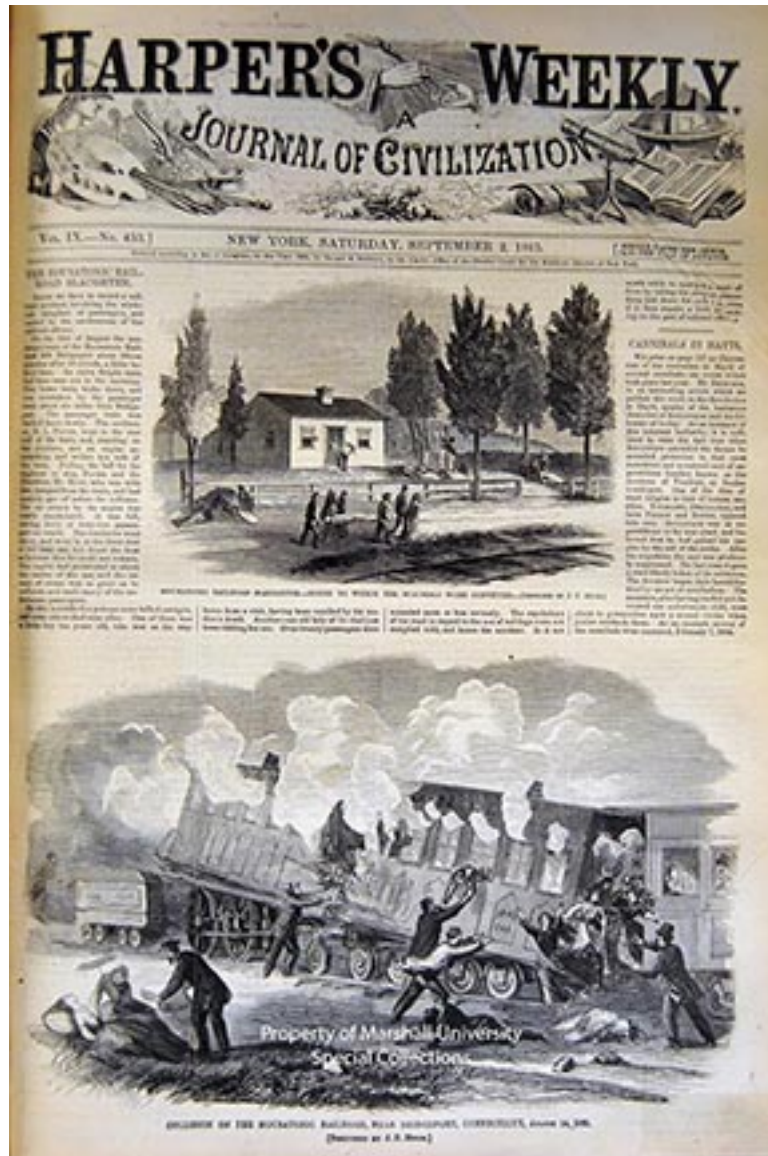
Harper's Weekly issue: Aug. 12, 1865

Image caption: "The Atlantic telegraph cable"

Images and collage by Ed Forbes.

This was actually the third attempt at laying a transatlantic cable. A permanent connection was finally achieved with the 1866 cable and this 1865 cable, which were laid and repaired by the ship *SS Great Eastern*, captained by Sir James Anderson.





*Harper's Weekly* issue: Sept. 2, 1865

Cover image caption: "Collision on the Housatonic Railroad, near Bridgeport, Connecticut, Aug. 14, 1865 – sketched by J.J. Hugo."

Before the days of block signals and centralized traffic control, train collisions were a common occurrence. This wreck in Connecticut claimed eight lives and injured dozens. It was caused by a passenger train encountering a north-bound freight train whose locomotive had become disabled.





Harper's Weekly issue: Sept. 2, 1865

Image caption: "Newly-arrived immigrants at Castle Garden, New York City – sketched by A. R. Waud."

Castle Garden, within the Battery in New York City at the tip of Manhattan, was where 11 million immigrants came into the United States from 1820 through 1892, the year Ellis Island opened. More than 100 million Americans can trace their ancestors to this early immigration period.

Another collage of images by A.R. Waud.

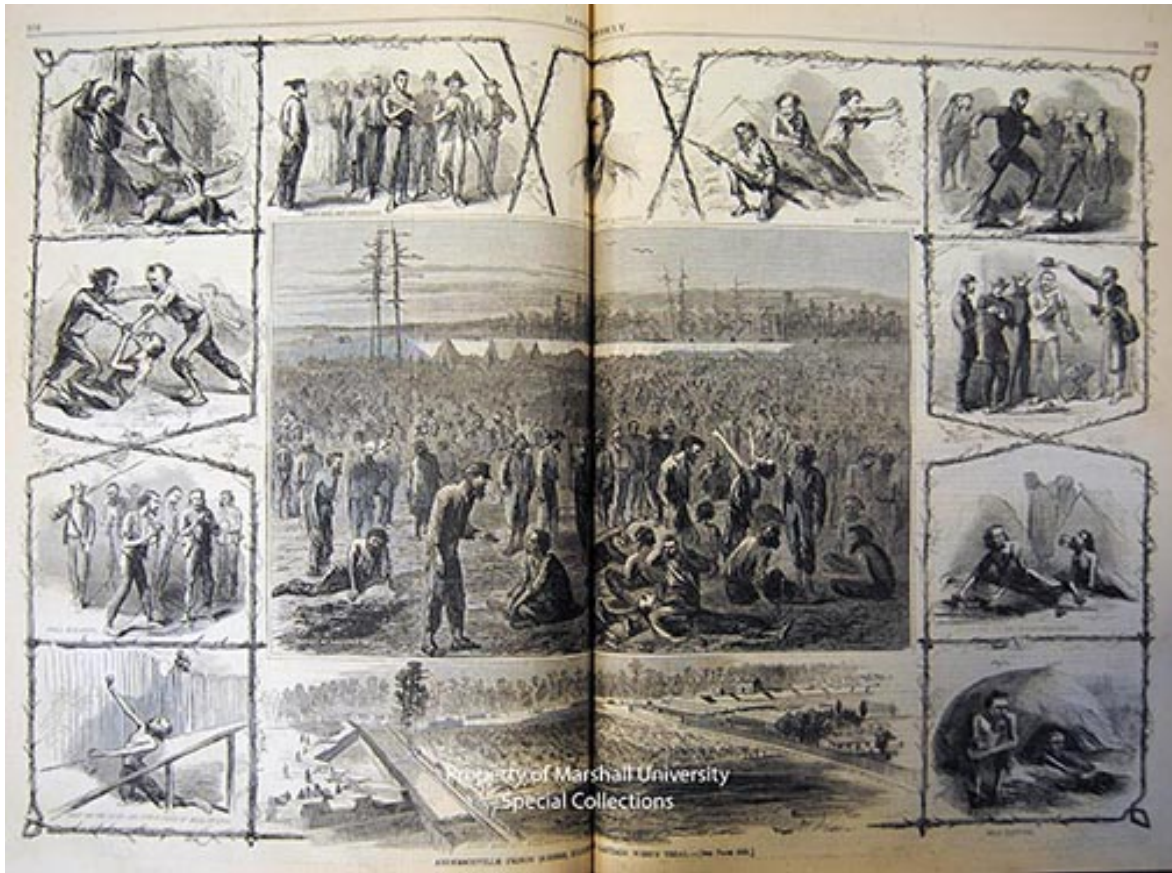


Harper's Weekly issue: Sept. 16, 1865

Cover image caption: "The court-room in which Captain Wirz, the Andersonville Jailer, is being tried at Washington."

Confederate Captain William Henry Wirz was the only ex-Confederate tried and executed for war crimes.





Harper's Weekly issue: Sept. 16, 1865

Image caption: "Andersonville prison scenes, illustrating Captain Wirz's trial."

Several Civil War photographers and artists created scenes of the Andersonville horrors, many from descriptions given by survivors. Sketches on this page are not credited.





Harper's Weekly issue: Oct. 14, 1865

Cover image caption: "President Andrew Johnson pardoning rebels at the White House – sketched by Mr. Stanley Fox."

The pardoning of ex-Confederates was a controversial issue of 1865. Stanley Fox sketched many battlefield and other scenes for Harper's in 1865.



*Harper's Weekly* issue: Oct. 21, 1865

Cover image caption: "Trial of Captain Wirz, the Andersonville jailer, in the Court of claims, Washington, D.C. – sketched by Jos. Hanshew."

The upper sketch depicts the finding of Dr. Mudd hiding in a cannon barrel aboard the ship *Thomas A. Scott*.





Harper's Weekly issue: Nov. 4, 1865

Image caption: "Surrender of Gen. Lee's army, April 9, 1865 – from sketches by Col. Battersby of the 1<sup>st</sup> New York Cavalry."

Col. Jenyns C. Battersby commanded this unit briefly in 1865. The unit was recruited in New York City and contained many Germans, Hungarians and Poles.





*Harper's Weekly* issue: Nov. 25, 1865

Image caption: (Top) "Execution of Captain Henry Wirz – adjusting the rope-  
photographed by Gardner." (Bottom) "Execution of Wirz – lowering the body  
photographed by Gardner."

Two sketches from the Alexander Gardner photographs.

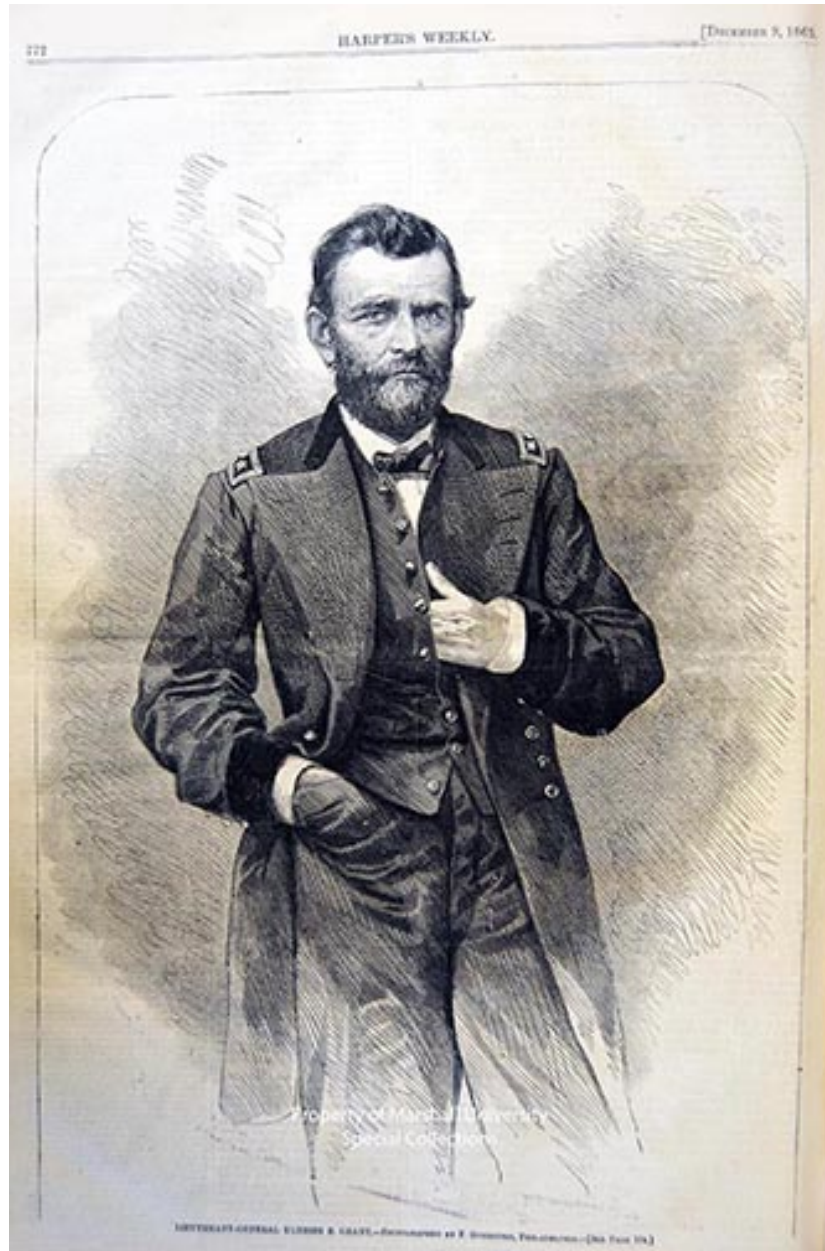


Harper's Weekly issue: Dec. 2, 1865

Image caption: "Solution of labor question in the South."

In this engraving, the "Inquiring Stranger" on horseback asks: "Well, now that the war is over, what are you people going to do for a living?" The ex-slaves on the left say they are going to draw rations, the "ex-dominant race" on the right say they are going to run---run for Congress, or notary public.





Harper's Weekly issue: Dec. 9, 1865

Image caption: "Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant –photographed by  
F. Gutekunst, Philadelphia"

**Frederick Gutekunst** (1857-1917) was a photographer from Philadelphia. He was famous for images of Walt Whitman and Grant.

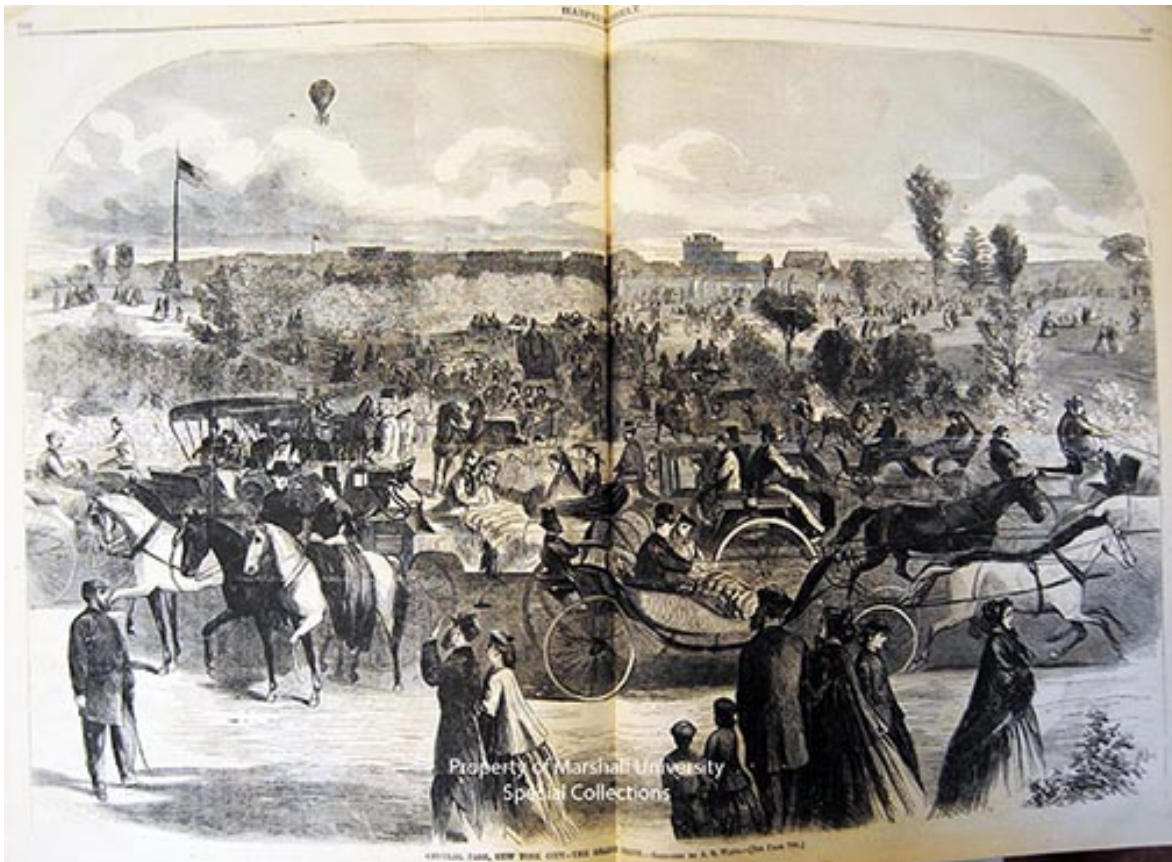


Harper's Weekly issue: Dec. 9, 1865

Image caption: “National Thanksgiving Dec. 7, 1865”

This collage by Thomas Nast includes the proclamation by President Andrew Johnson, creating the Thanksgiving holiday as the first Thursday in December.





Harper's Weekly issue: Dec. 16, 1865

Image caption: "Central Park, New York City – The Grand Drive – sketched by A. R. Waud."

"The Drive" was described as "a spacious Macadamized road for vehicles, with a foot path on either side." It ringed the entire circle of Central Park.



Harper's Weekly issue: Dec. 23, 1865

Image caption: "The Freedman's Bureau at Richmond, Virginia – sketched by J. R. Hamilton."

The Freedman's Bureau was a U.S. federal government agency that aided "distressed freedmen" (freed slaves) during the Reconstruction Period. The Bureau's powers were extended to help find lost families for African Americans and teach them to read and write.





Harper's Weekly issue: Dec. 30, 1865  
 Image caption: "Merry Christmas to All"

Another excellent allegorical collage by Thomas Nast. Notice some of the players in the bottom stage scene are Grant, Sherman and other Union generals, and on the floor of the stage are the heads of Lee and other Confederate leaders.