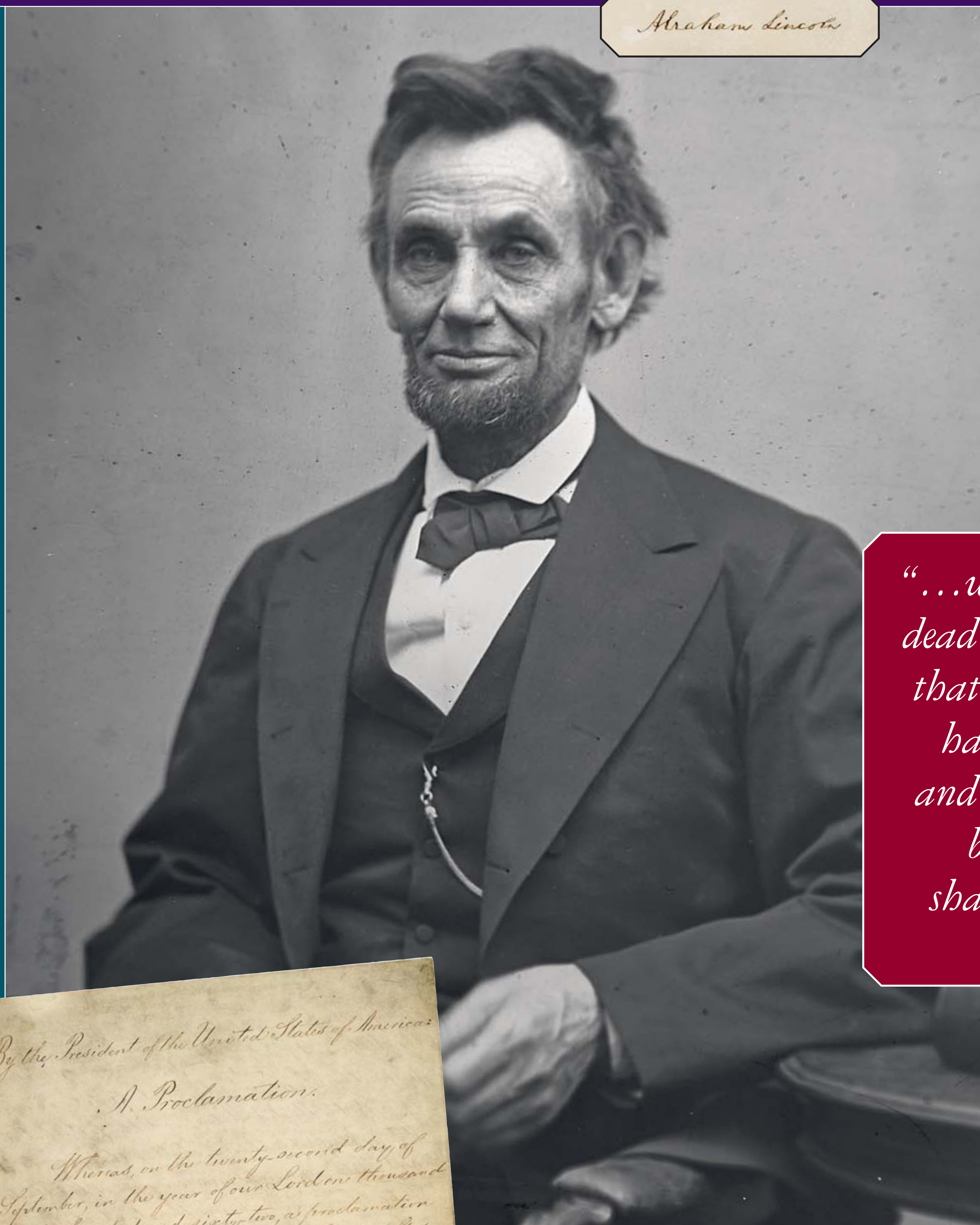


Abraham Lincoln

A P R E S I D E N T ' S V I S I O N

Abraham Lincoln



President Abraham Lincoln by Alexander Gardner, February 5, 1865.
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION

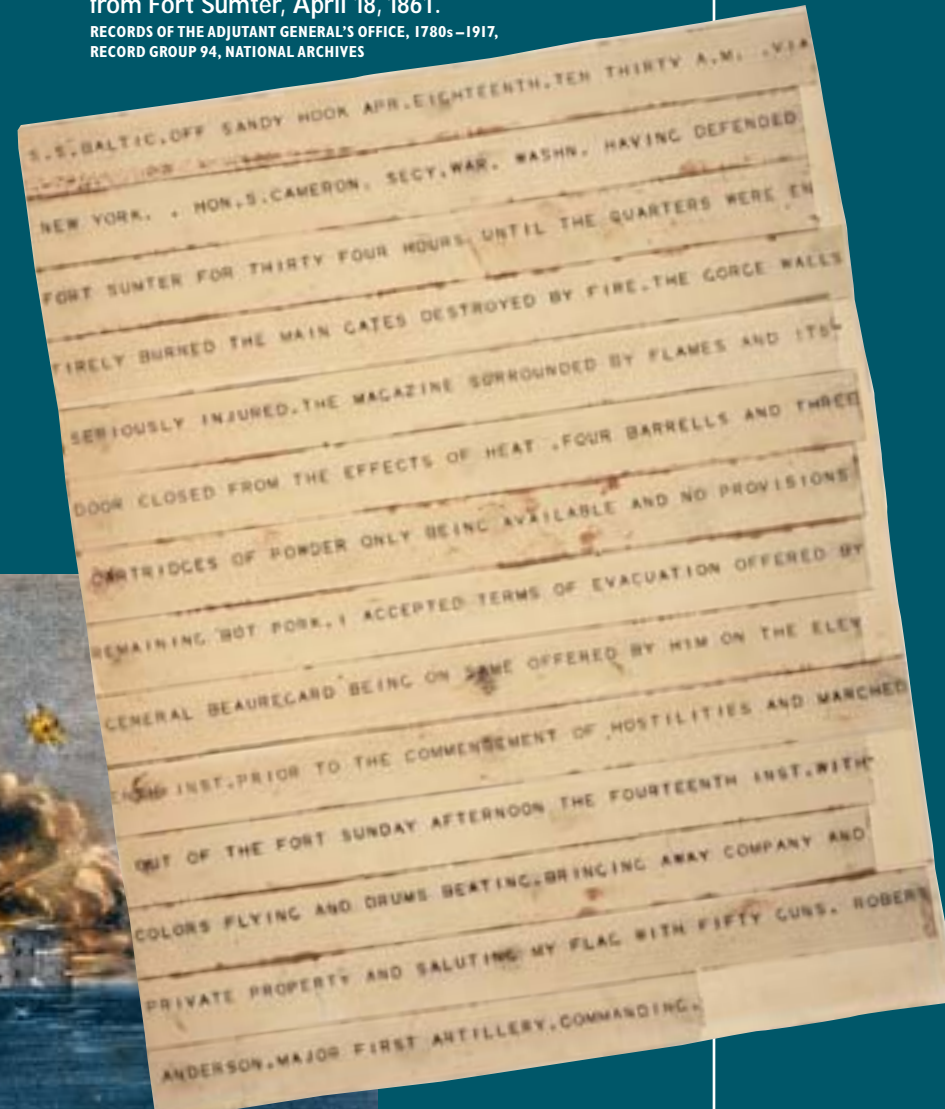


Inauguration of President Lincoln, 1861.
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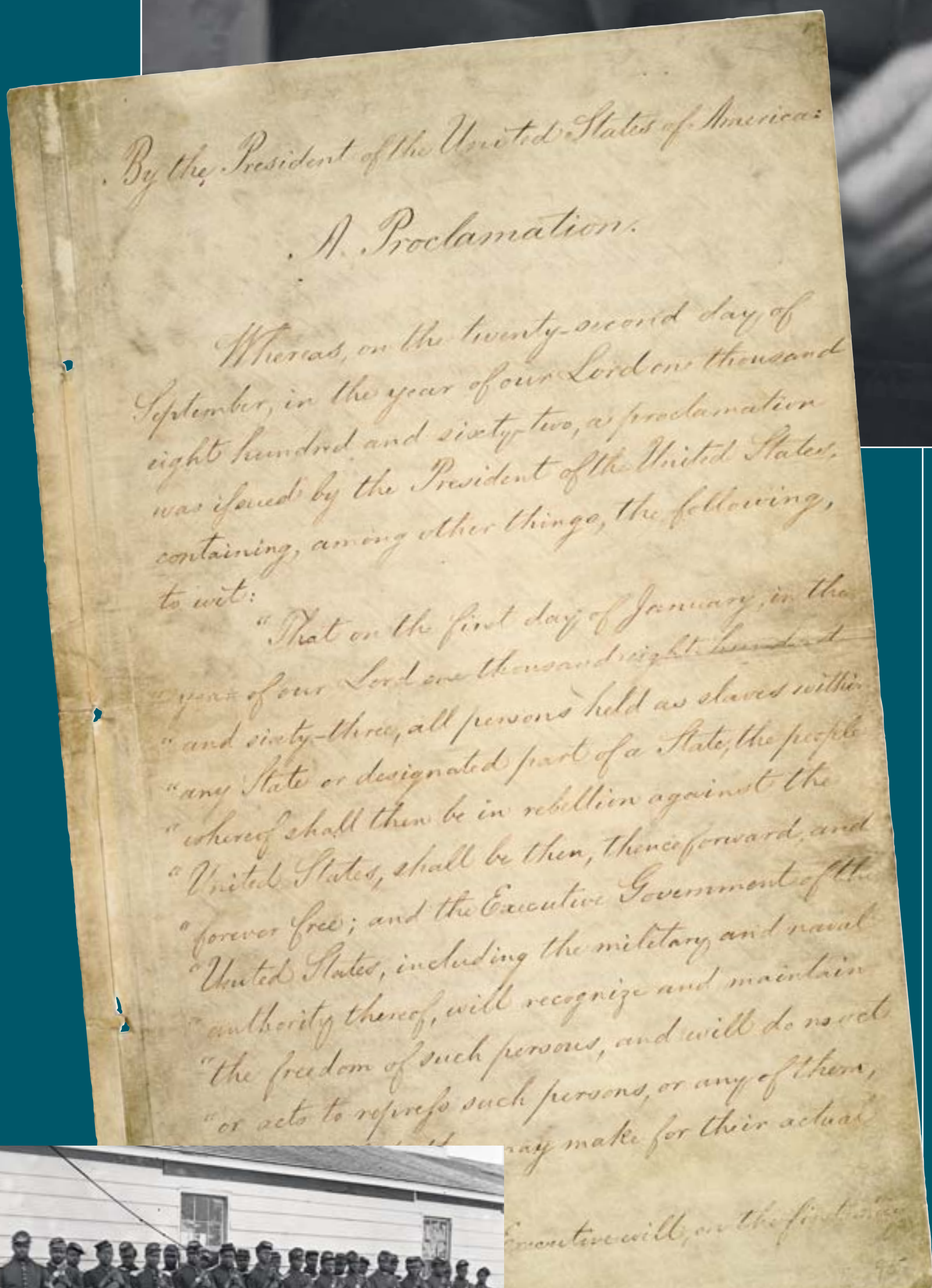
Bombardment of Fort Sumter, Charleston Harbor, 12th & 13th of April, 1861, by Currier & Ives.
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Telegram announcing withdrawal from Fort Sumter, April 18, 1861.
RECORDS OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, 1789-1917, RECORD GROUP 94, NATIONAL ARCHIVES



"...we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

— THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS, NOVEMBER 19, 1863



Emancipation Proclamation, January 1, 1863.
PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATIONS, 1793-1993, GENERAL RECORDS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, RECORD GROUP 1, NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Wilson Chim, a Branded Slave from Louisiana by Kimball, N.Y.C., ca. 1863.
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Faced with the greatest crisis in the history of the nation, Abraham Lincoln invoked the New Testament when he declared, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." He committed his presidency to preserving the Union. The winning electoral votes were barely counted, however, before South Carolina seceded, soon followed by all the states of the Deep South. When the Confederates fired on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor in April 1861, Lincoln called on the states for 75,000 volunteers. The Civil War had begun.

President Lincoln was a brilliant writer whose letters and speeches successfully rallied northern legislators and public opinion to the Union cause. But as hopes for rapid victory evaporated, the president maintained his resolve to restore the nation. Through four bloody years, Lincoln exerted his authority as commander-in-chief, appointing generals, drafting soldiers, suppressing draft riots with armed troops, and establishing martial law where it was needed. He demonstrated his skill as a statesman when he issued the Emancipation Proclamation in January 1863. The Proclamation granted freedom to all slaves within rebel territory, transforming a war fought to restore the Union into one fought for liberty.

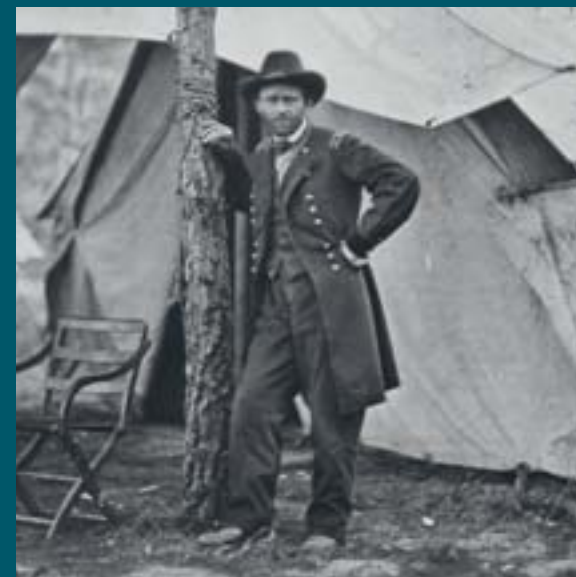
Lincoln was reelected in 1864 as Union military victories heralded the war's end. His initial outlines for Reconstruction suggested a swift and tolerant policy for readmitting the Confederate states, but he never had a chance to work with Congress to fulfill his plans. Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865, barely a week after the Confederate surrender was signed. His greatest legacy remains the Thirteenth Amendment, ratified in December 1865, which abolished slavery forever.



Battle of Gettysburg [1863] by Prang & Co., ca. 1887.
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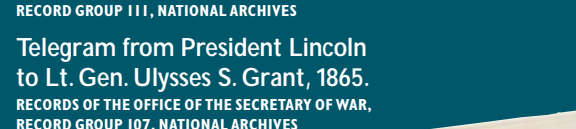
On the Battlefield at Gettysburg by James Gibson, 1863.
RECORDS OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL AND SPECIAL STAFFS, 1850-1952, RECORD GROUP 165, NATIONAL ARCHIVES



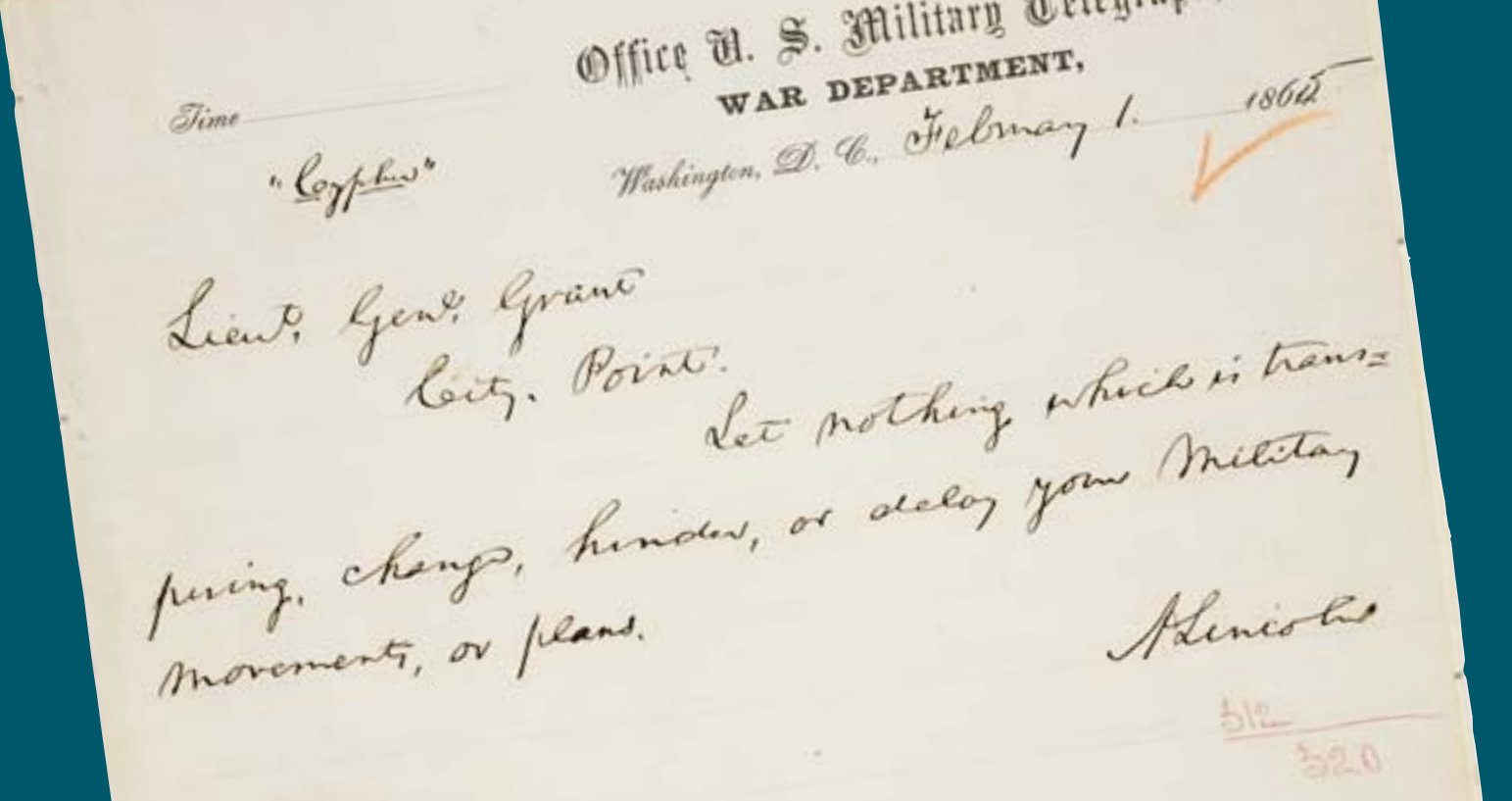
Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, Cold Harbor, Virginia, 1864.
RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER, RECORD GROUP 111, NATIONAL ARCHIVES



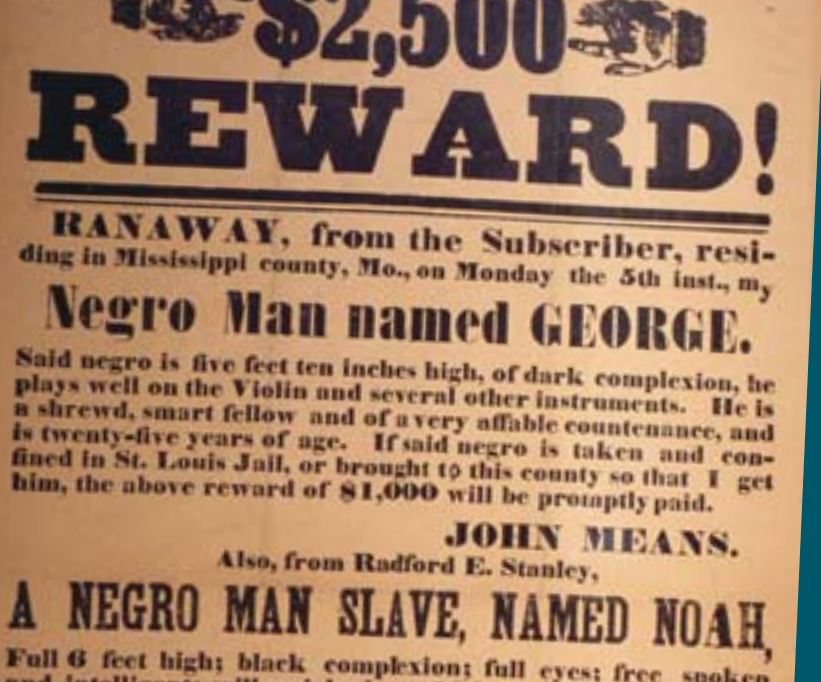
View in the "Burnt District," Richmond, Virginia, April 1865.
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION



Telegram from President Lincoln to Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, 1865.
RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR, RECORD GROUP 107, NATIONAL ARCHIVES



Runaway slave reward poster, 1852.
PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DEPARTMENT, HOOLAND-SPINGARN RESEARCH CENTER, HOWARD UNIVERSITY



WILSON CHIM, a Branded Slave from Louisiana. Also exhibiting Instruments of Torture used to punish Slaves. Photographed according to Act of Congress, in the year 1863, by the Hon. W. H. Kimball, of New York, and the Hon. S. D. Beane, of New York.



The Assassination of President Lincoln at Ford's Theatre, Washington, D.C., April 14th, 1865, by Currier & Ives, 1865.
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION



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