Quick Facts

More than 13,500 printed works about the Civil War, all digitized in full color

Diverse materials include broadsides, lithographs, books and more

Covers cultural, economic, military, political, and social aspects of America’s deadliest war

“The AAS decision to digitize its vast and comprehensive Civil War collection is one of the best pieces of news since the war itself ended at Appomattox.”
—Harold Holzer, Lincoln scholar and Senior Vice President for Public Affairs, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Overview

From the comprehensive holdings of the American Antiquarian Society comes this remarkable digital edition of its widely used Civil War materials. Featuring more than 13,500 works published between 1860 and 1922, this fully searchable collection offers printed items addressing all facets of the Civil War—one of the most pivotal events in American history—and its aftermath. These diverse materials, all filmed in full-resolution color, include broadsides, lithographs, maps, books, pamphlets, photographs, political cartoons, stereographs, and more. Coverage extends throughout the Civil War and well beyond into the critical postwar period, a time in which modern interpretations of the conflict began to take shape.

New research and teaching opportunities

Created from one of the world’s largest Civil War collections, these newly digitized materials open up an enormous range of fresh research paths for scholars and students. This collection covers military aspects of the deadliest war in U.S. history as well as the far-reaching cultural, economic, political, and social impact of the conflict. Key subject areas include regimental histories, troop rosters, military trials and confiscation of property; medical care, finance, taxation and aid to soldiers and their families; sermons, speeches and treatises covering many of the contemporary intellectual and ideological positions of the time; poetry and music; personal narratives that discuss battles, military life, and experiences in prisoner-of-war camps.

An Archive of Americana collection

The American Civil War Collection is fully integrated into America’s Historical Imprints for seamless searching with Afro-Americana Imprints, American Broadsides and Ephemera, American Pamphlets, The American Slavery Collection and Early American Imprints.

About the American Antiquarian Society

The American Antiquarian Society (AAS) is both a learned society and a major independent research library. The AAS library houses the largest and most accessible collection of books, pamphlets, broadsides, newspapers, periodicals, sheet music and graphic arts material printed from first contact through 1876 in what is now the United States, Canada and the West Indies. The Society’s holdings of American printed materials dating from 1821 through 1876 are among the strongest anywhere.