The Civil War: Antebellum Period to Reconstruction

A Thematic Archive of Americana Collection

Quick Facts

More than 150 newspapers, including major titles from every region of the U.S.
Approximately 50,000 government documents and 4,000 rare broadsides and pieces of ephemera
Extensive local and national coverage of American culture, politics and society during this tumultuous period

“...a singularly impressive primary-source collection....fascinating....
the single most useful resource available on this subject.”
— Gail Goldeman and Bruce Connolly, Union College, in Library Journal (April 15, 2013)

Overview

For researching and teaching the most important event in 19th-century American history, Readex offers The Civil War: Antebellum Period to Reconstruction. This unique resource features more than 150 newspapers from all regions of the United States—plus approximately 50,000 government documents and 4,000 rare broadsides and pieces of ephemera. Together, this diverse collection of primary materials provides unprecedented local and national coverage of American culture, politics and society from 1840 through 1877—a tumultuous time that redefined a nation.

From newspapers to government publications to broadsides and ephemera

The newspapers in The Civil War include the Baltimore Sun, Charleston Mercury, Dallas Weekly Herald, Milwaukee Sentinel, National Intelligencer, New Orleans Picayune, New York Herald, New York Tribune, Philadelphia Inquirer, San Francisco Bulletin and more than 140 others. Featuring many titles of unique historical significance, this extensive selection of newspapers provides not only detailed news stories and illustrations, varied editorial views and illuminating advertisements, but also eyewitness military reporting by the nation’s best journalists.


Rich with illustrations, the broadsides and ephemera include song sheets, poems, envelopes and other hard-to-find printed materials that shed new light on the Civil War era. These infrequently used documents—often no more than a single page—illuminate the daily struggles of not only the soldiers, but also the families they left behind.

Wide-ranging primary sources in one online resource

The Civil War: Antebellum Period to Reconstruction contains primary source materials selected from the acclaimed Archive of Americana. Researchers will be able to search subsets of America’s Historical Newspapers, American Broadsides and Ephemera and the U.S. Congressional Serial Set. The text of newspapers, broadsides and government documents—digitized from the holdings of the American Antiquarian Society, Dartmouth College Library, the Library of Congress and other renowned institutions—may also be cross-searched in one easy step.

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