

History of photography (part 2): documenting the world

CS 178, Spring 2011



Marc Levoy
Computer Science Department
Stanford University

Outline

- ◆ everyday scenes
- ◆ architecture and archaeology
- ◆ wonders of the industrial age
- ◆ notable events
- ◆ the beginning of photojournalism
- ◆ wet plate photography
- ◆ Matthew Brady and the Civil War
- ◆ surveying the West

Everyday scenes



(Rosenblum)

Porta della Ripetta, Rome, 1846

(photograph by Calvert Jones)

Everyday scenes

(Gardner)

(Rosenblum)



Banks of the Seine at Sèvres, 1851

(photograph by Victor Regnault)



Harbor of La Rochelle, 1851

(painting by Corot)

Architecture and archaeology

(Newhall)



The Parthenon, 1869

(photograph by William James Stillman)

Architecture and archaeology

(Newhall)

(Marc Levoy)

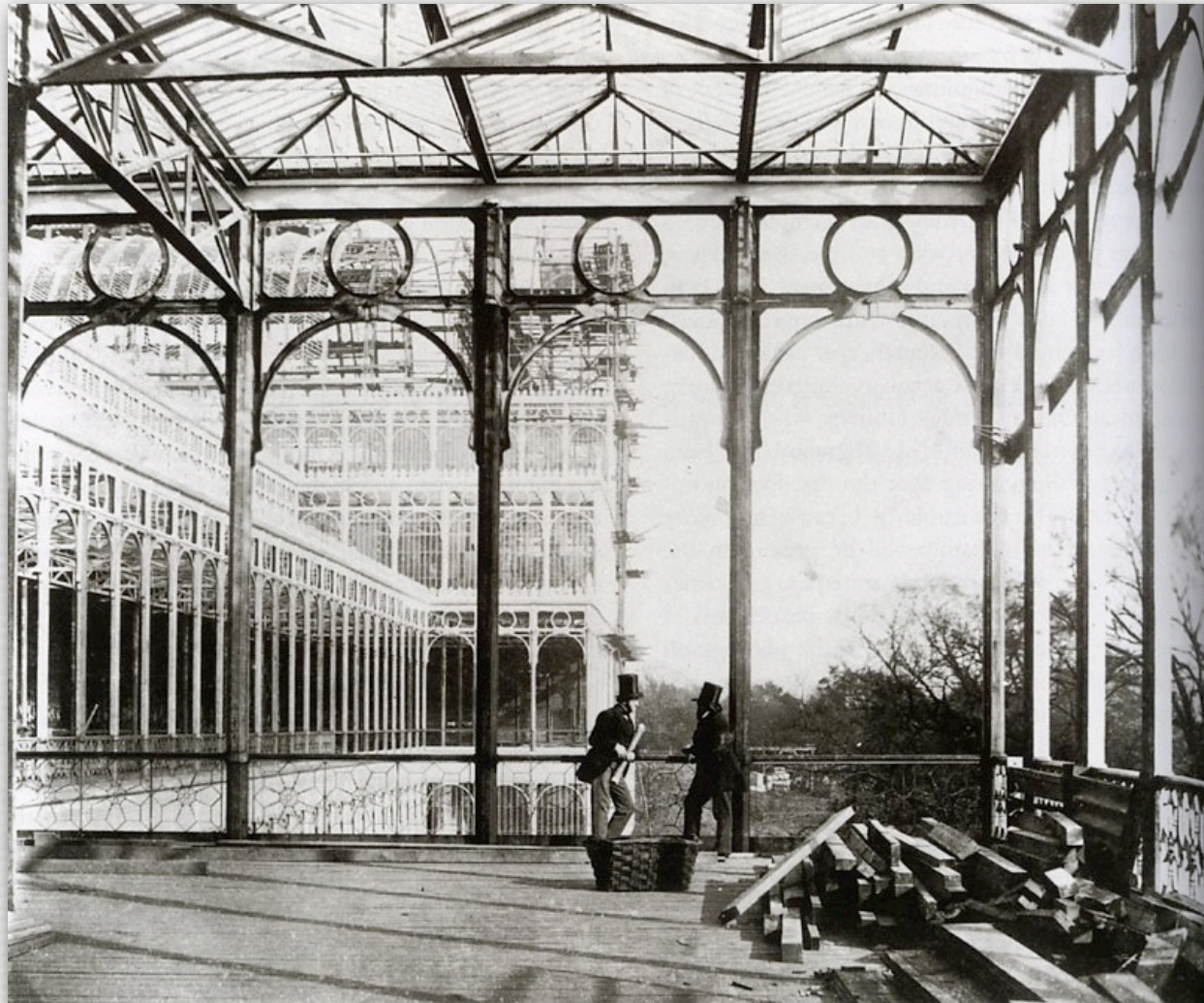


Notre Dame cathedral, 1851

(photograph by Charles Negre)



Wonders of the industrial age

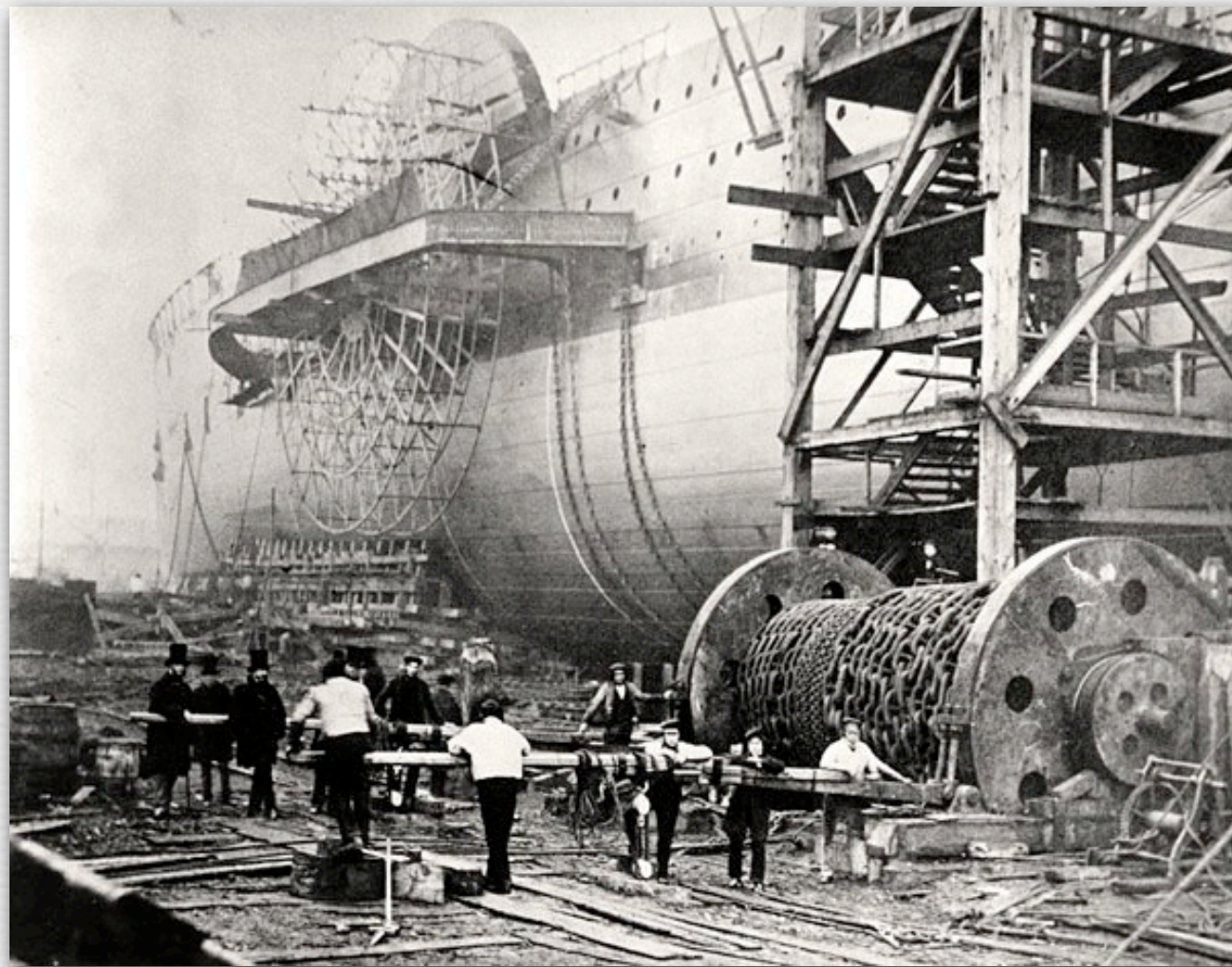


(Rosenblum)

The Crystal Palace, London, c. 1853

(photograph by Philip Henry Delamotte)

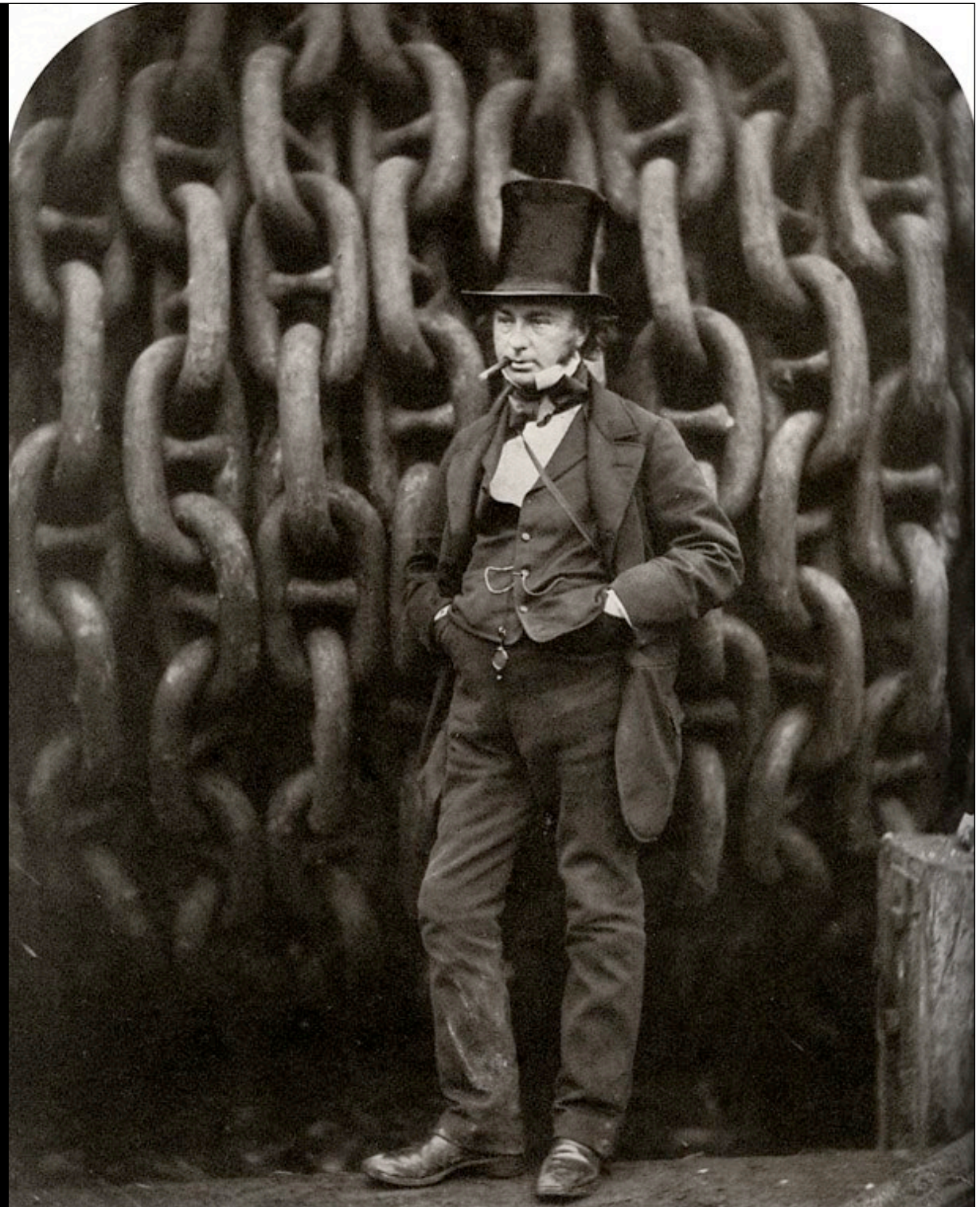
Wonders of the industrial age



The Great Eastern being launched, 1858

(photographer unknown)

(Newhall)



Isambard Brunel,
Builder of the Great Eastern
(photograph by Robert Howlett)

Notable events

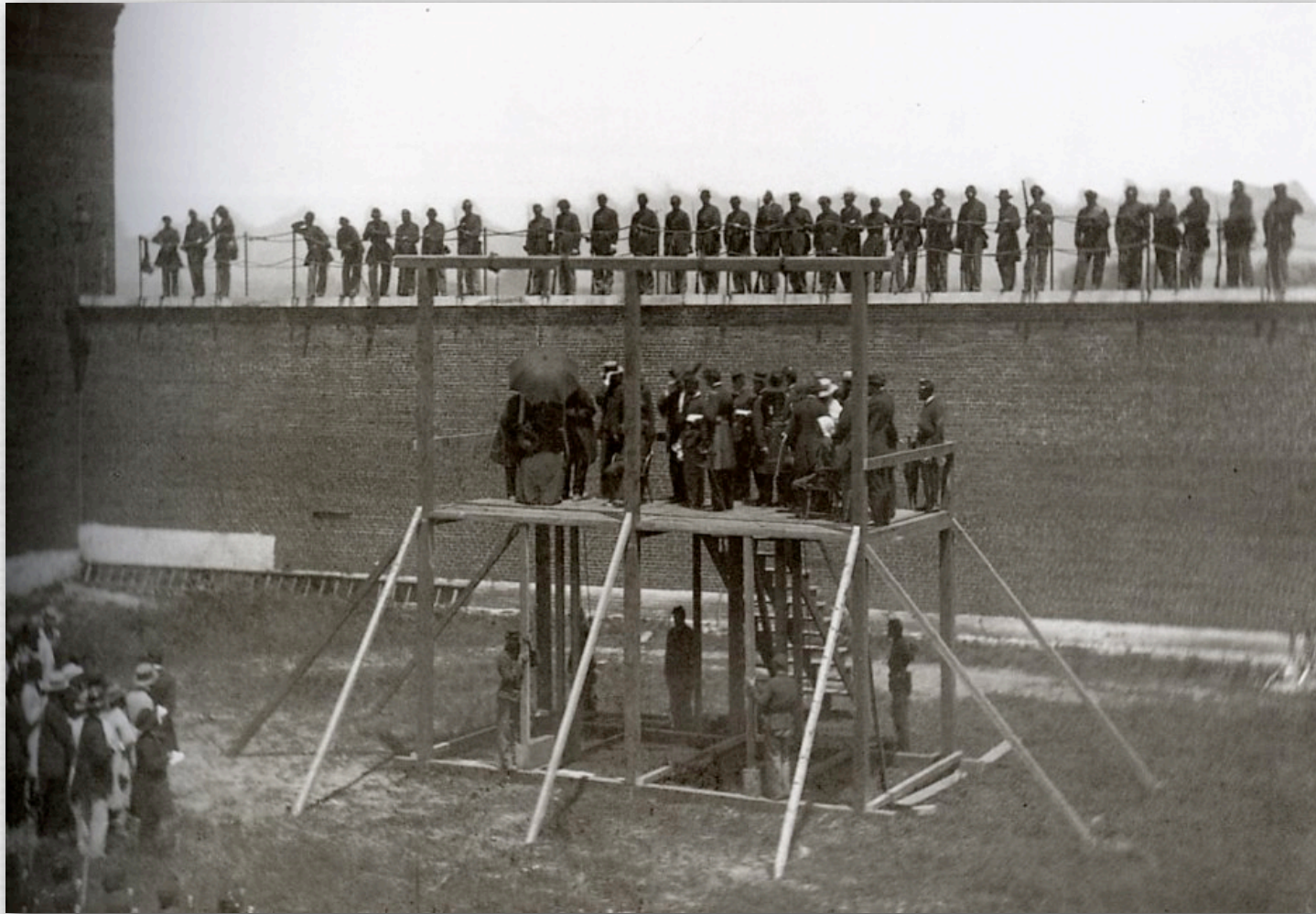


(Newhall)

Meeting of the Rails, 1869

(photograph by Andrew J. Russell)

The beginnings of photojournalism



(Rosenblum)

The beginnings of photojournalism



(Rosenblum)

Execution of the co-conspirators, 1865

(photograph by Alexander Gardner)

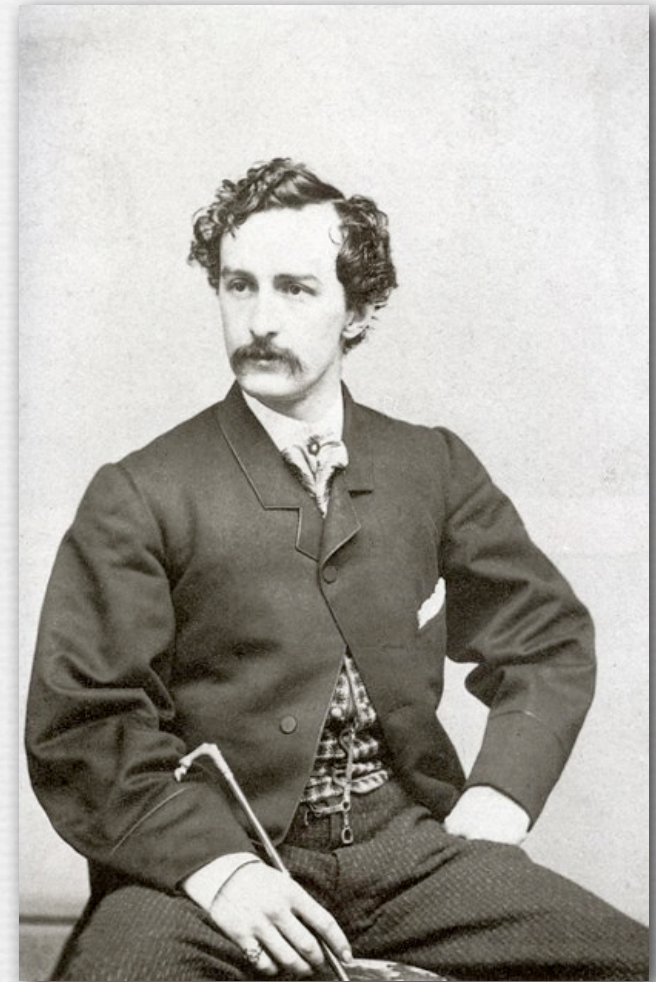
The beginnings of photojournalism

(Library of Congress)



Abraham Lincoln, 1865
(photograph by Alexander Gardner)

(Rosenblum)



John Wilkes Booth

Wet-plate collodion photography

- ◆ developed in 1851 by Frederick Scott Archer
 - **clean** the glass plate (extremely well)
 - **flow** the glass plate with "salted" (iodide/bromide) collodion
 - **immerse** the plate in a silver nitrate bath (for 3-5 minutes)
 - **expose** the plate (from one second to several minutes)
 - **develop** the plate (using an ferrous sulfate based developer)
 - **fix** the plate (with potassium cyanide or sodium thiosulfate)
- ◆ any number of prints can be made
- ◆ exposure must immediately follow silvering, so requires a traveling darkroom

Matthew Brady (1822-1896)



(wikipedia)

(Rosenblum)



a wet plate photographer at work, circa 1877

(illustrator unknown)

Matthew Brady and the Civil War



(Garrison)

Colonels of the 164th New York Cavalry

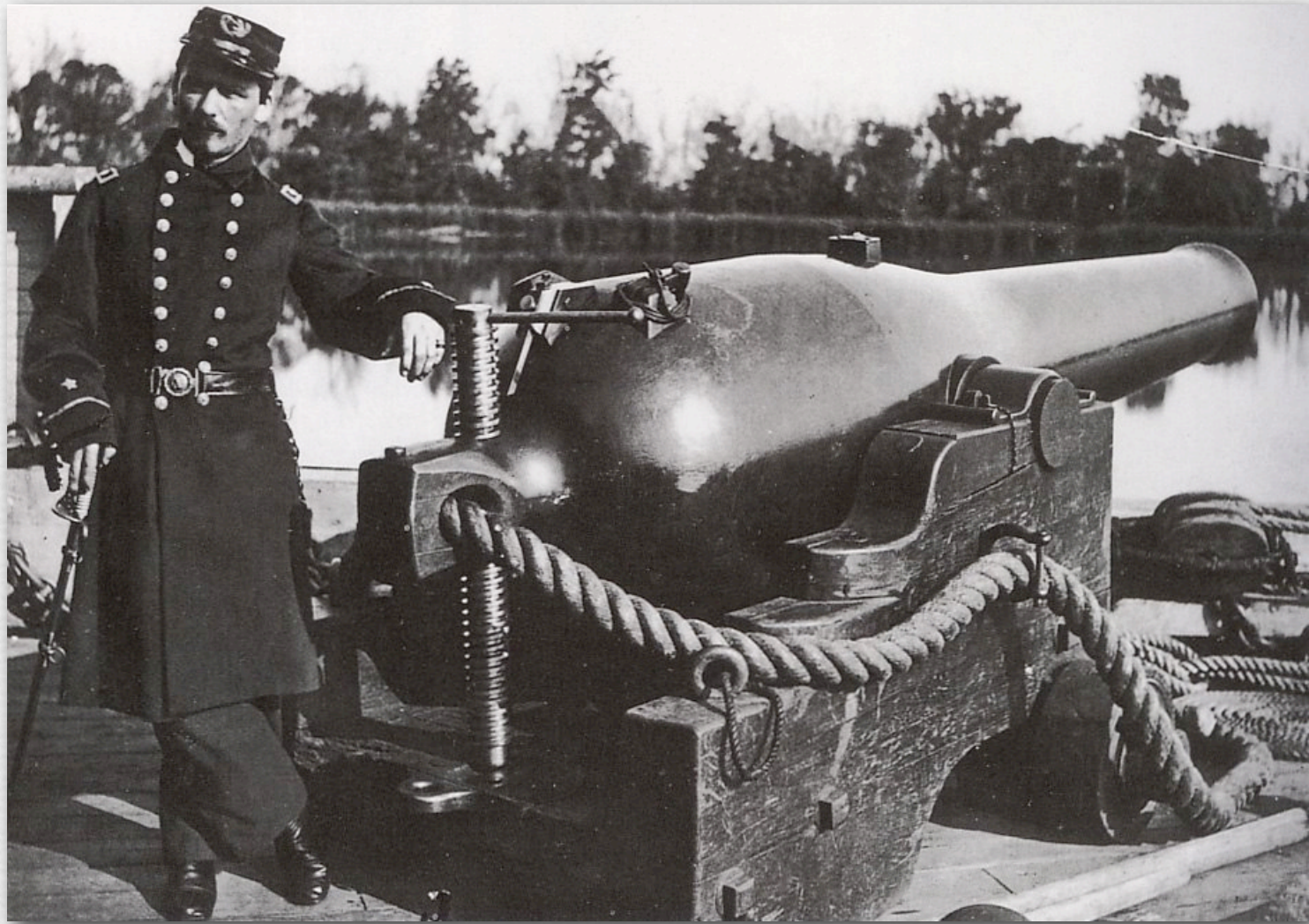
Matthew Brady and the Civil War



(Garrison)

Camp life

Matthew Brady and the Civil War



(Garrison)

Artillery

Matthew Brady and the Civil War



(Garrison)

Fortifications

Matthew Brady and the Civil War

(archives.gov)



Lincoln visiting Antietam, 1862

Matthew Brady and the Civil War

(Garrison)



- bloodiest battle in American history (23,000 casualties)

- this photograph was probably posed

Dead at Antietam, 1862

(photograph by Alexander Gardner)

Matthew Brady and the Civil War



(Archives)

The Ruins of Richmond, Virginia, 1865

Matthew Brady and the Civil War



General William Tecumseh Sherman, 1865

Surveying the West



(Rosenblum)

The Hayden Survey, 1870

(photographed by William Henry Jackson)

Surveying the West

(Archives)

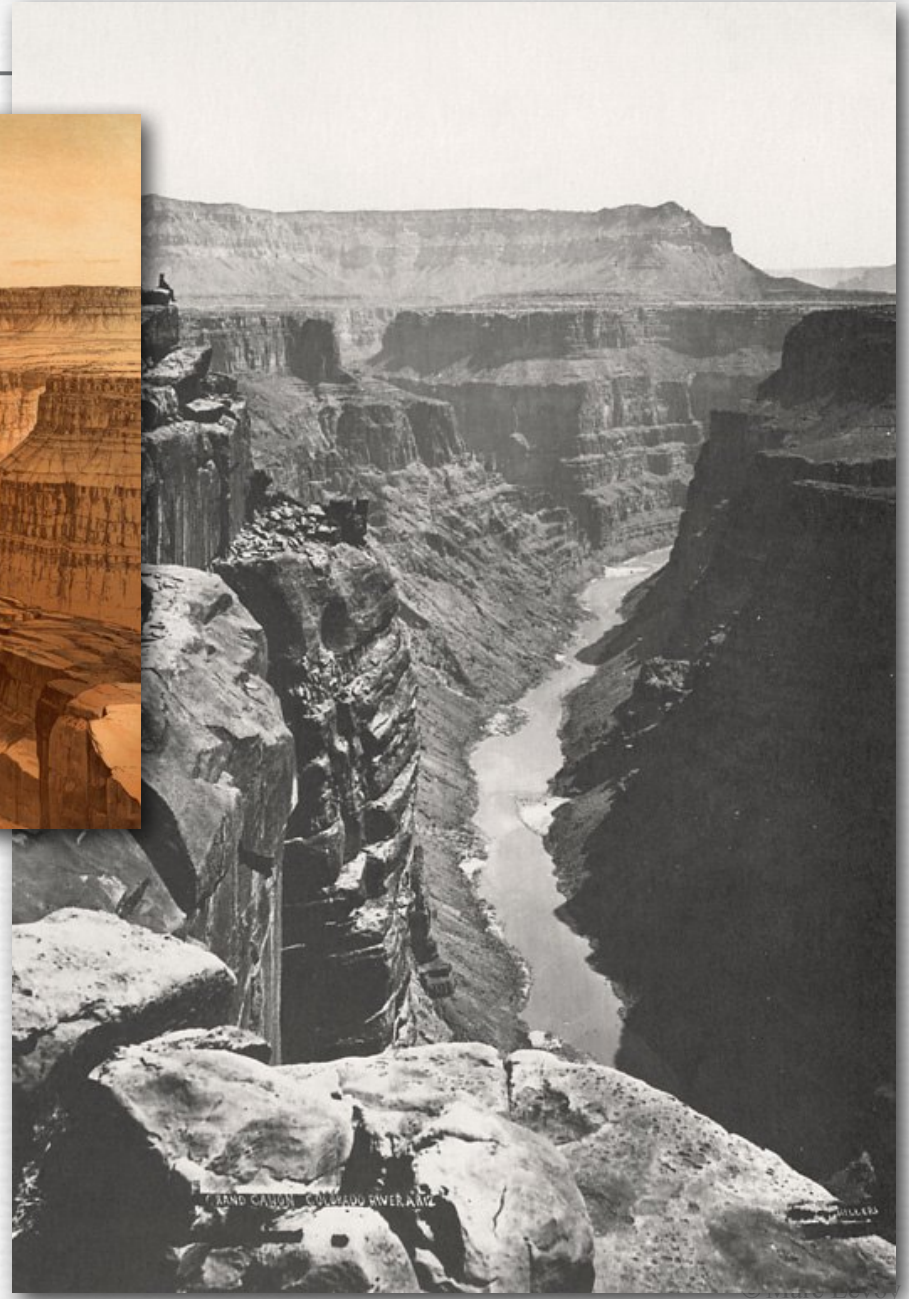


Grand Canyon, 1882

(ink and watercolor by William Holme)

Grand Canon of the
Colorado River, 1871

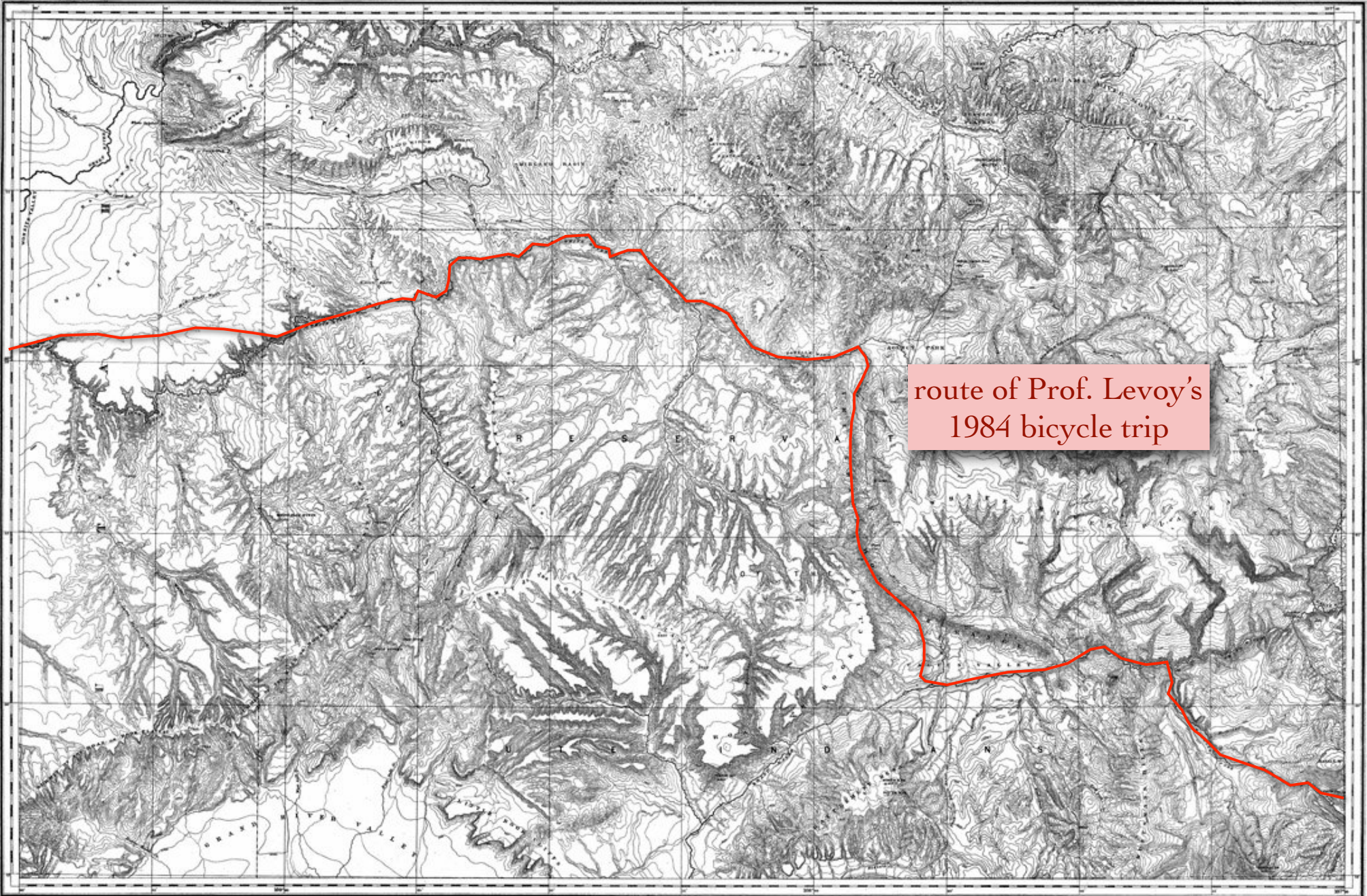
(photographed by John K. Hillers)



NORTH-WESTERN COLORADO AND PART OF UTAH.

SURVEYED IN 1874 & '76.

SHEET V.



route of Prof. Levoy's 1984 bicycle trip

S. B. Ladd, G. R. Beckler, E. Conant and C. B. Chubbuck, Topographical Assistants.



Scale 4 miles to 1 inch at 2700 feet. Contours 100 feet Vertical Interval.

Hayden Survey map of Colorado and Utah, 1874

(USGS)

The founding of Yellowstone Park



(NPS)

Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, 1871

(photographed by William Henry Jackson)

The founding of Yellowstone Park



(NPS)

Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, 1872

(watercolor by Thomas Moran)

Slide credits

- ◆ Newhall, B., *The History of Photography*, Little, Brown & Co., 1982.
- ◆ Rosenblum, N., *A World History of Photography* (4th ed.), Abbeville Press, 2007.
- ◆ Garrison, W., *Brady's Civil War*, The Lyons Press, 2000.
- ◆ Tanser and Kleiner, *Gardner's Art Through the Ages* (10th ed.), Harcourt Brace, 1996.
- ◆ National Archives, *The American Image: Photographs from the National Archives, 1860-1960*, Pantheon Books, 1979.