

# PHOTOGRAPHERS OF THE CIVIL WAR

By the beginning of the Civil War, Photographic Portrait studios were fairly common. Thousands of soldiers had their portrait made and a vast number of those survive today.

With the coming of the war, many portrait photographers saw an opportunity to expand their work and document the war itself. For the first time in history, photographic images of the battlefields and military units were made available to the public.

Perhaps the most prominent of these photographers is **Mathew Brady**. Brady ran a successful studio in New York City and at the outset of the war purchased rugged cameras and wagons to serve as travelling darkrooms and dispatched his employees to document the war.

Brady and his photographers amassed more than 10,000 photo negatives during the course of the war. Many photographers that later came to prominence on their own began their careers in the field for Brady. Regardless of who made the image, it always bore the designation: "Photograph by Brady." Thus many photos attributed to him were actually taken by one of his many employees.

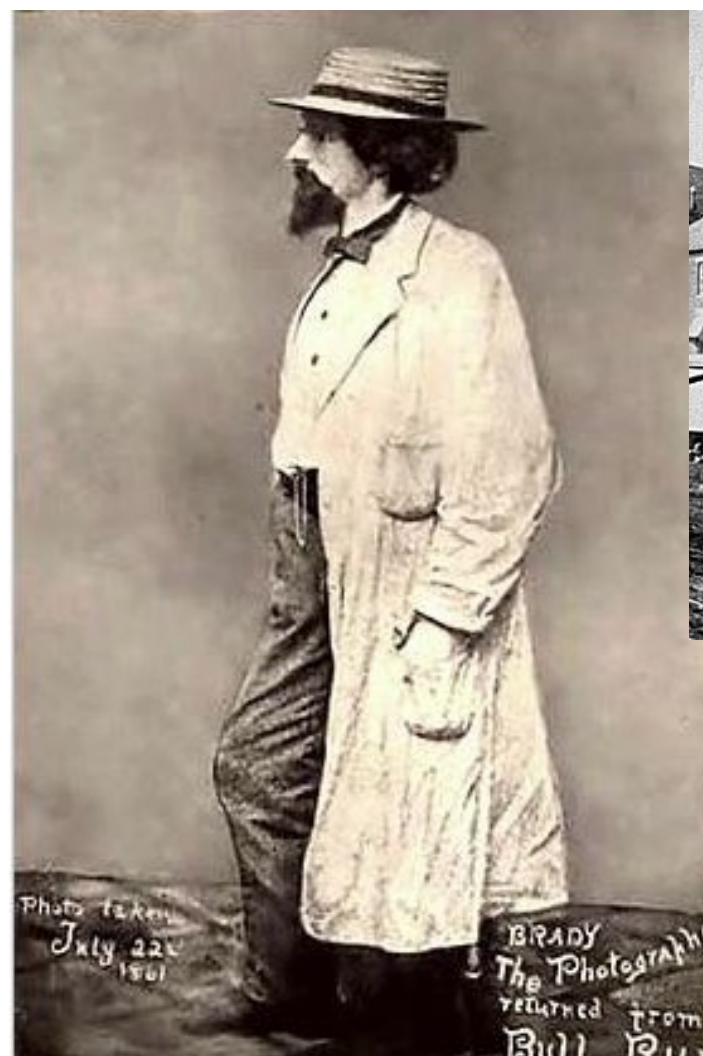
Among Brady's photographers who later rose to prominence on their own were: George Barnard, Timothy O'Sullivan, James Gibson, David Woodbury, David Knox, William Pywell, and Edward Whitney.

**Samuel Cooley** moved from Connecticut to Beaufort, South Carolina and operated a photo portrait studio. When Federal forces captured Beaufort in the fall of 1861, Cooley was on hand to take some of the first combat images of the war. Thus inspired, he acquired the equipment he needed to make and develop photographs in the field and labelled himself the "U S Photographer, Department of the South."

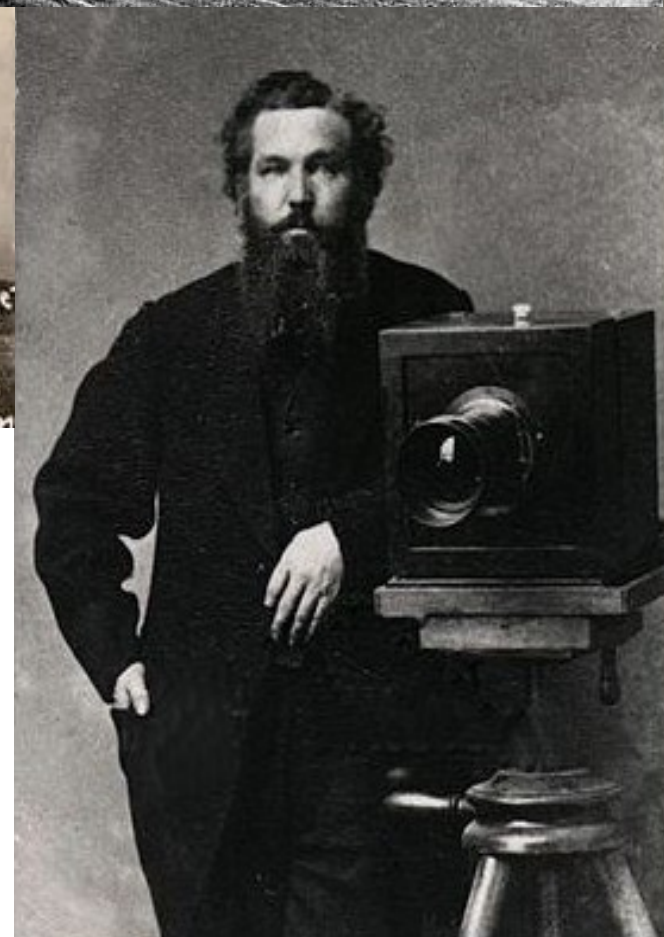
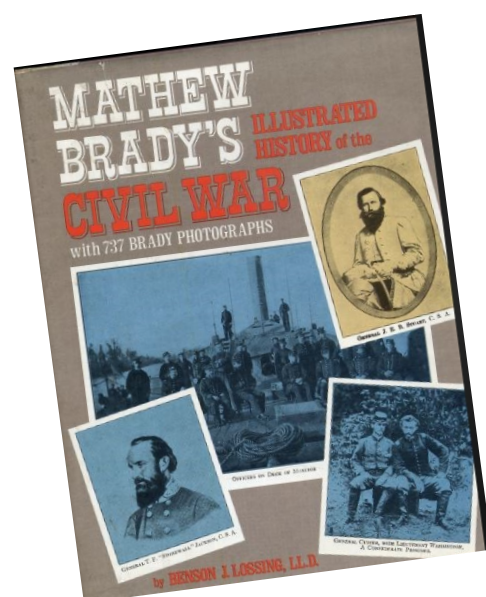
In the late years of the war, he followed the Union Army through the south, rendering thousands of photos of Hilton Head, St Augustine, Charleston and Savannah.

There were hundreds of photographers who provided field photo service throughout the war. Many recorded images of battlefield and military units, and many others set up impromptu portrait studios in military camps.

Thousands of the images made by these men and others endure today to give us a haunting insight into the faces of the men and the carnage of the Civil War.



Mathew Brady



Alexander Gardner

