



# A MARINER'S TALE

THE CIVIL WAR YEARS



George and Rosalie Riley Price  
were a young couple, alone in  
a foreign land, but they did  
have some strong support:

The Navy Yard

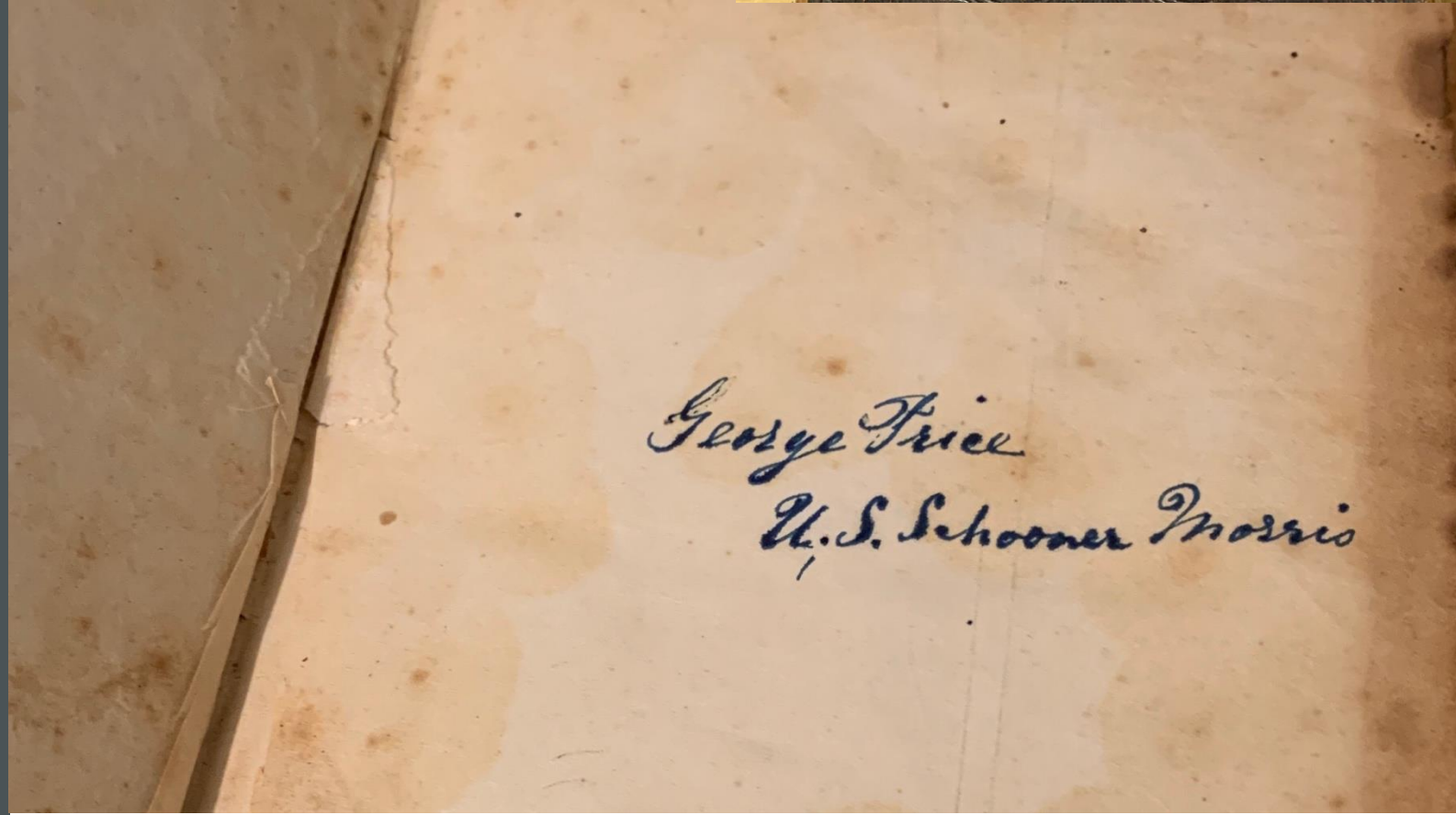
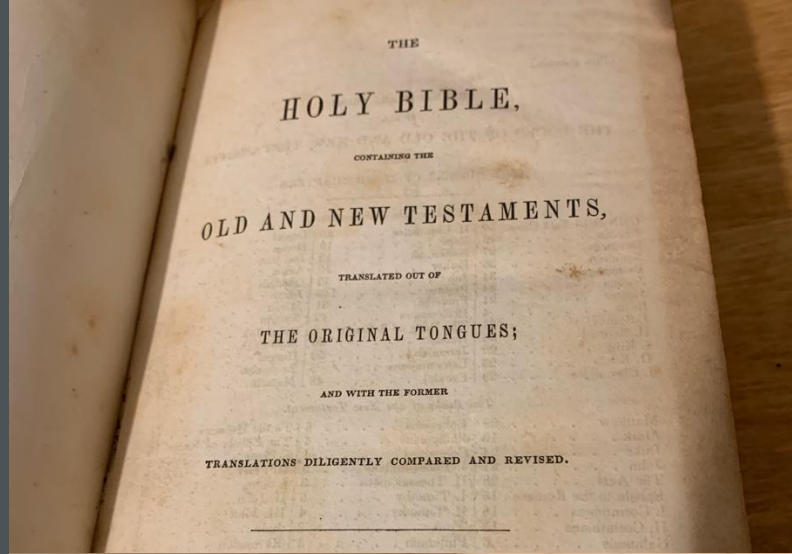
Faith

The Free Masons

And their love for each other.



George Price bought this Bible in New York in 1850 before setting out on a 4-year cruise aboard the U.S. Coastal Survey Schooner *Morris*.





Among the pages of George  
Price's Bible are snippets of a  
love story.

'Twas not by cunning trick, Love,  
Of thine, nor subtle art,  
But by thy gentle words, Love,  
You won my doting heart.

**"HOW HE WON ME."**

'Twas not by cunning trick, love,  
Of thine, nor subtle art,  
But by thy gentle words, love,  
You won my doting heart;

By smiles and thoughtful cares love,  
Heart-easing sympathy,  
That all my life I've sought, love,  
And only found in thee.

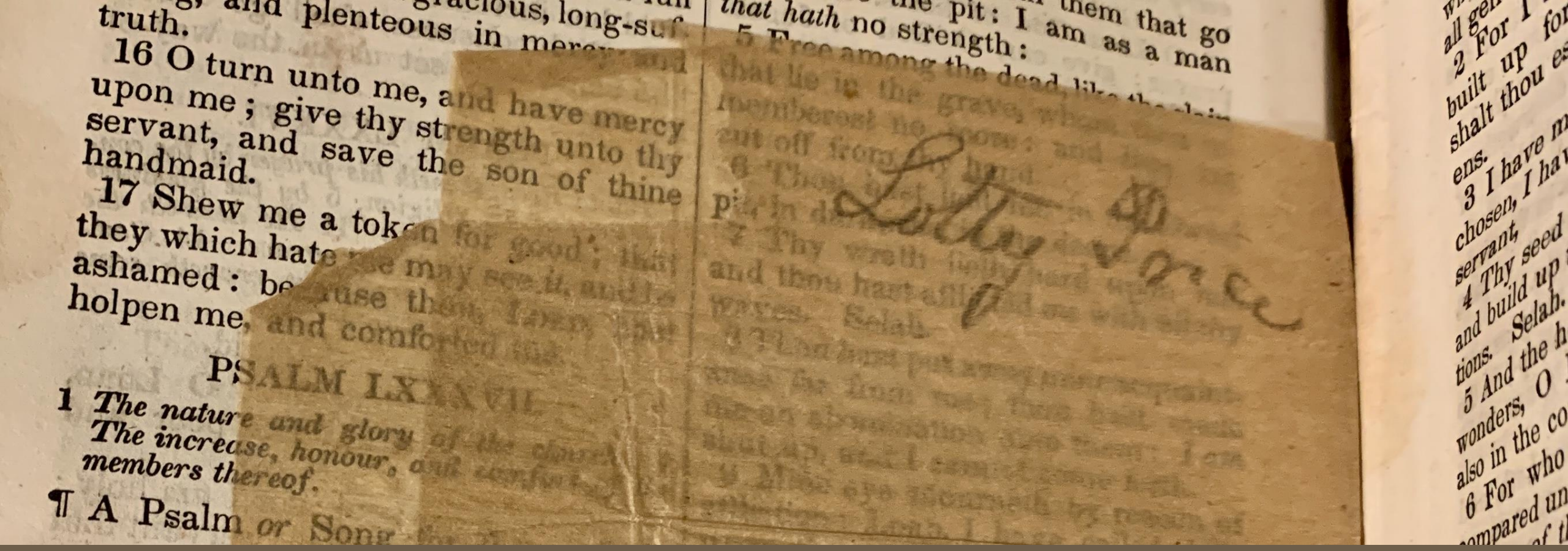
By soul that from thine eyes, love,  
Looked softly on my soul,  
And drew me up to thee, love,  
As the magnet to the pole.

For years before we met, love,  
I'd not unlocked my heart;  
Though many loudly rapped, love,  
I bade them all depart:

But, when *you* tapping came, love  
The sound so sweetly rung,  
That ere I was aware, love,  
Apart the portal swung.

'Tis no use to repine, love,  
No use to mope and moan—  
The monarch of my heart, love,  
You reign upon its throne.





And a heartbreaking reminder of the loss of a beloved child.



Emma Jane Price. born January  
the 6<sup>th</sup> 1855 at Brooklyn.. N.Y.  
John William Price. born July  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> 1856 died Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>  
1856 - aged 2 months 11 days -

From 1853 – 1882, George meticulously recorded in his Bible his marriage, the births, and sometimes deaths, of his children and an unsuccessful attempt at adoption.

Rosalie Ann Price. died  
Sept<sup>r</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 1858. aged 12.  
months and 1 day -

Mary Elisabeth Price born April





When Mary Elizabeth Price was born April 24, 1860, the young family was living at 30 John St., Brooklyn, a block from the busy waterfront.





By February 18, 1865, when their next child, George Joseph Price, was born, they had purchased a two-story, wood-frame home at 12 Adelphi Street – a few steps from the Navy Yard. They lived there until the mid-1890s.

Image: Similar homes from the era in the Fort Greene neighborhood.



Like other members of his family, George joined the Freemasons – a fraternal organization designed to provide mutual support.

Image: Freemasons' Hall, London - a Masonic meeting place since 1775.







In Brooklyn, George became an active member of the  
Masons. The Masonic Temple is on Clermont Street.



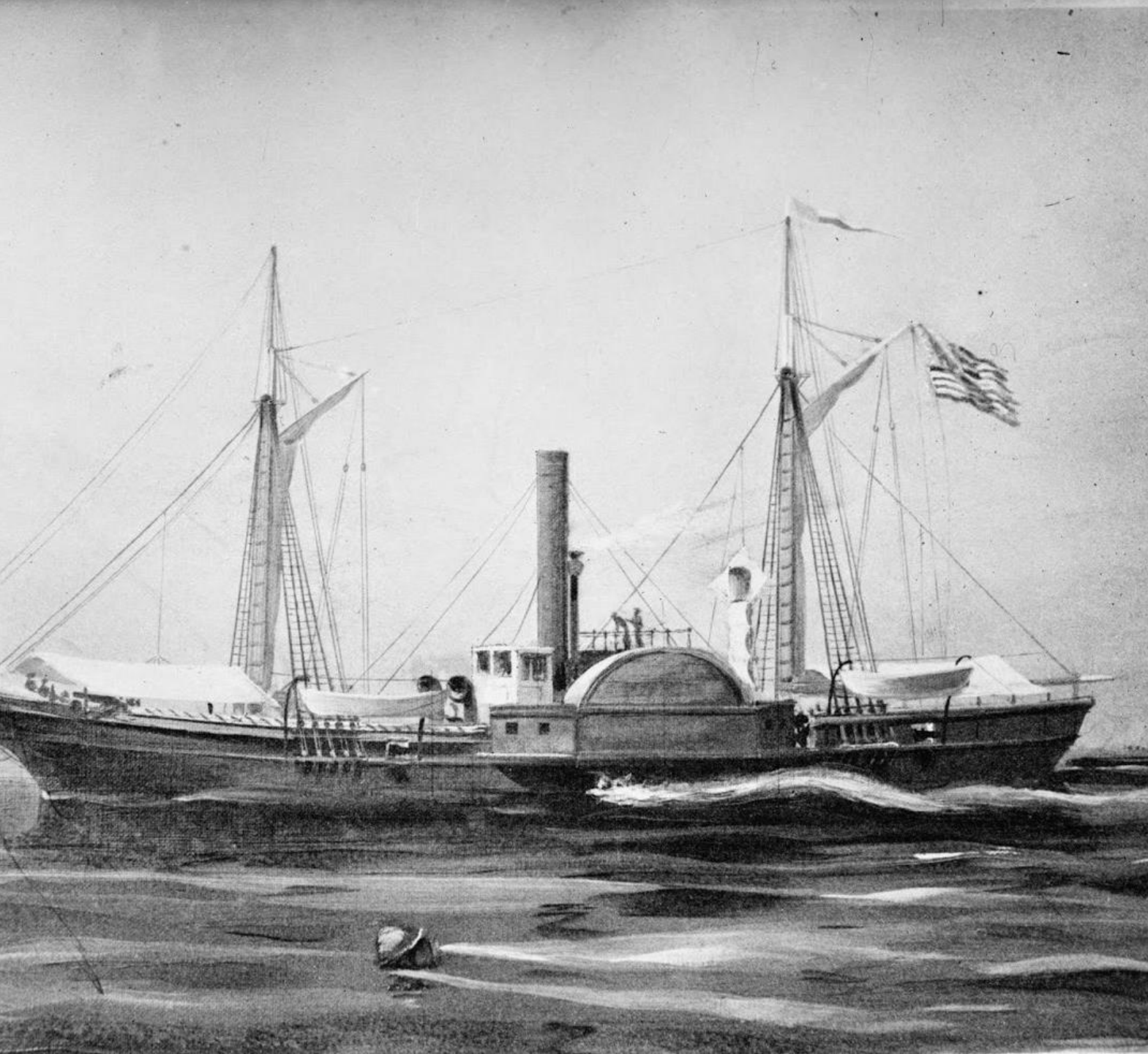
By 1853, George had spent a lot of time at sea and had learned the painstaking work of surveying.

Schooners, like the *Morris*, were the U.S. Navy's workhorses in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century before steam engines came into wide use.

According to his granddaughter, Alice Price Morrell, George did some of the early surveying of the Amazon River.







1853 – 1857

In late December 1853, George re-enlisted on the US Steamer *Corwin* for another coast survey that wrapped up at the end of 1856.

He was then ordered to join the U.S. Topographical Survey of New York harbor.

On the *Corwin*, he learned about the Navy's newest technology – side-wheel gunboats.

Powered by steam, these ships were well-suited to river work.



In the second half of 1857 he volunteered as Third Asst. Civil Engineer on the “U. S. Atrato Expedition.”

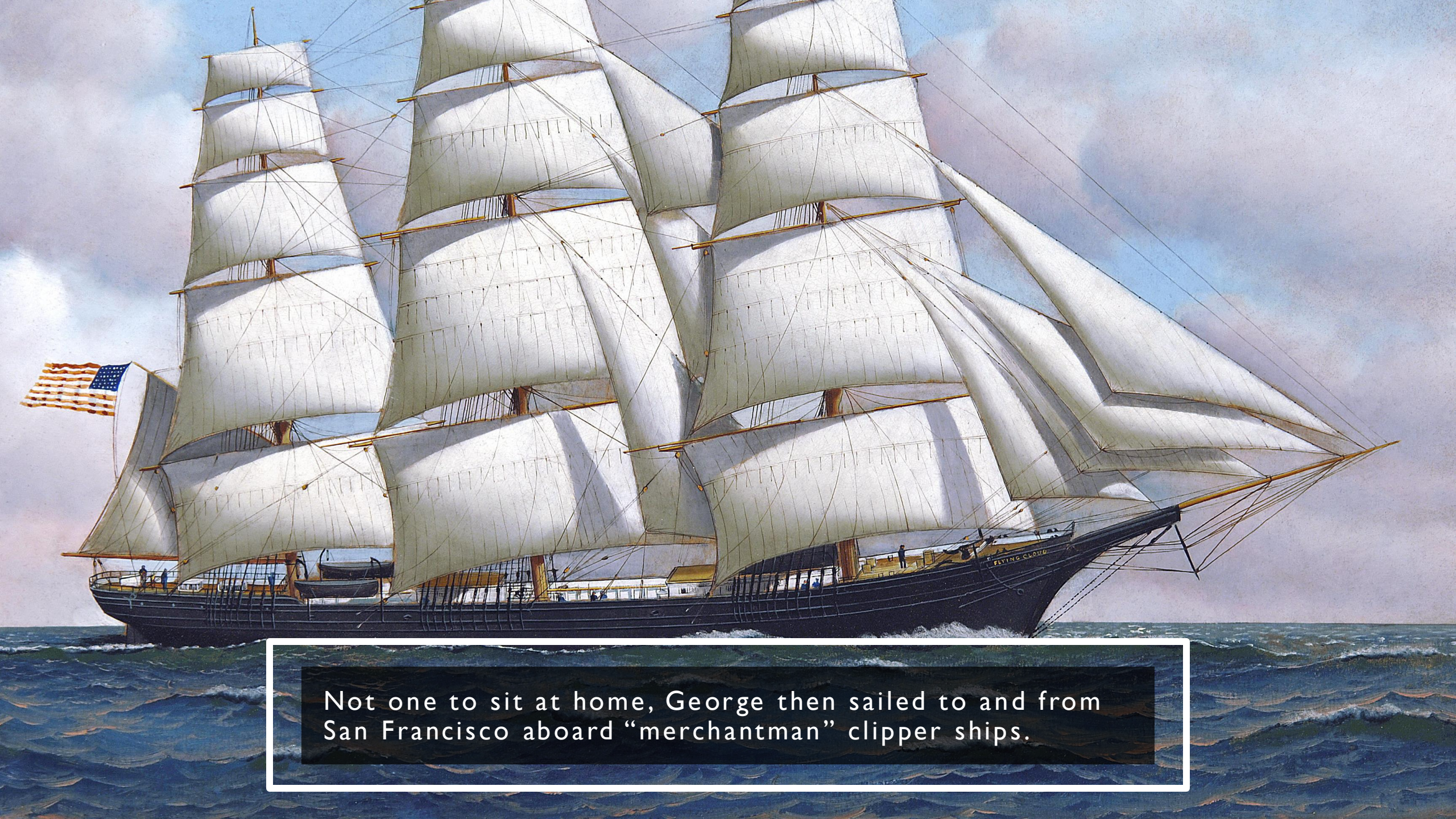
The expedition explored the Atrato River on the Isthmus of Panama as one of the possible routes for a canal between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

The canal was built at another site 50 years later.

He returned to New York in May 1858.







Not one to sit at home, George then sailed to and from San Francisco aboard “merchantman” clipper ships.



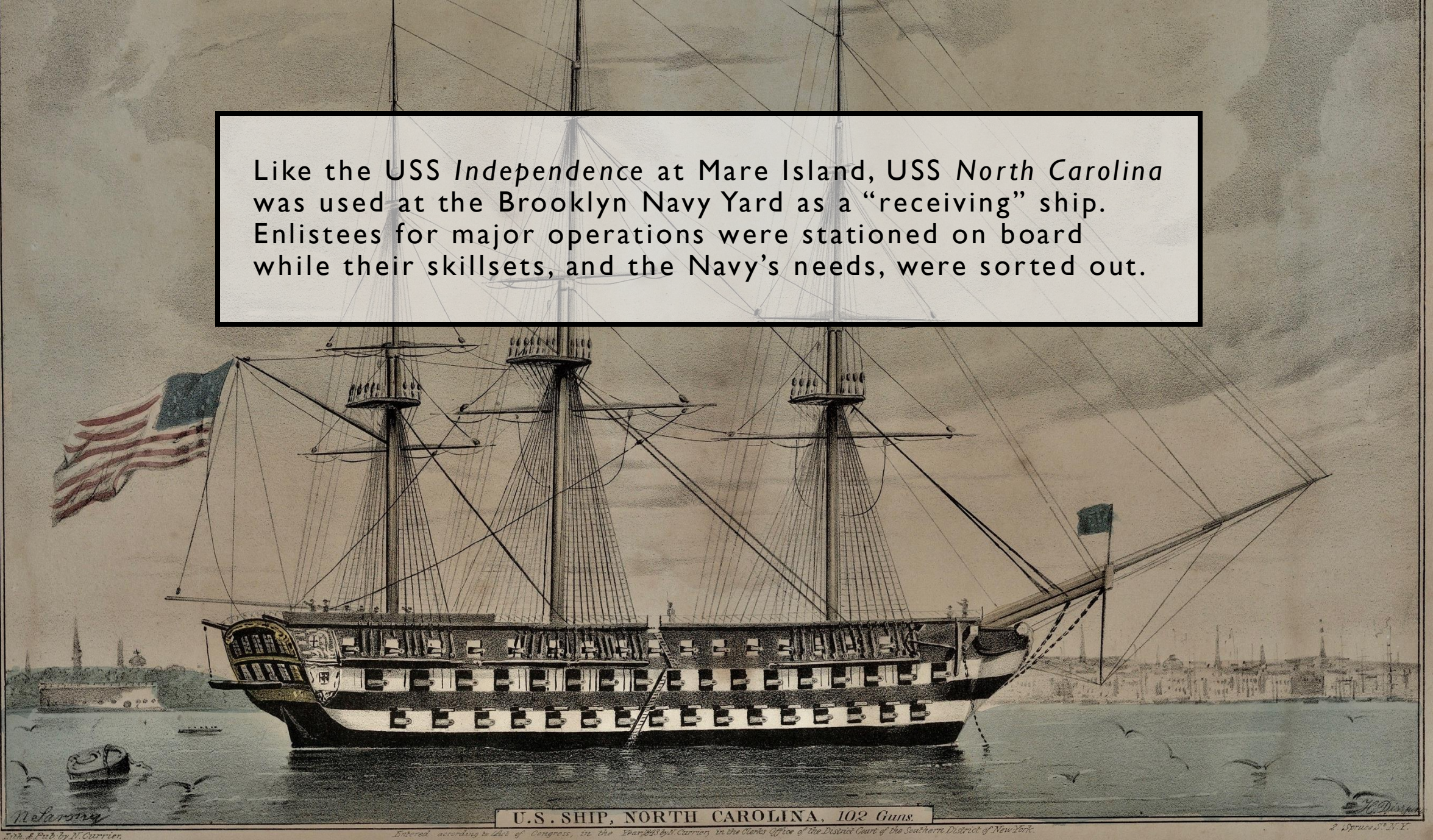


Back in Brooklyn, George was assigned to U.S.S *North Carolina* (center background).

By the 1850s, the majestic wooden warships were being replaced by iron-clad, steam-driven gunboats.

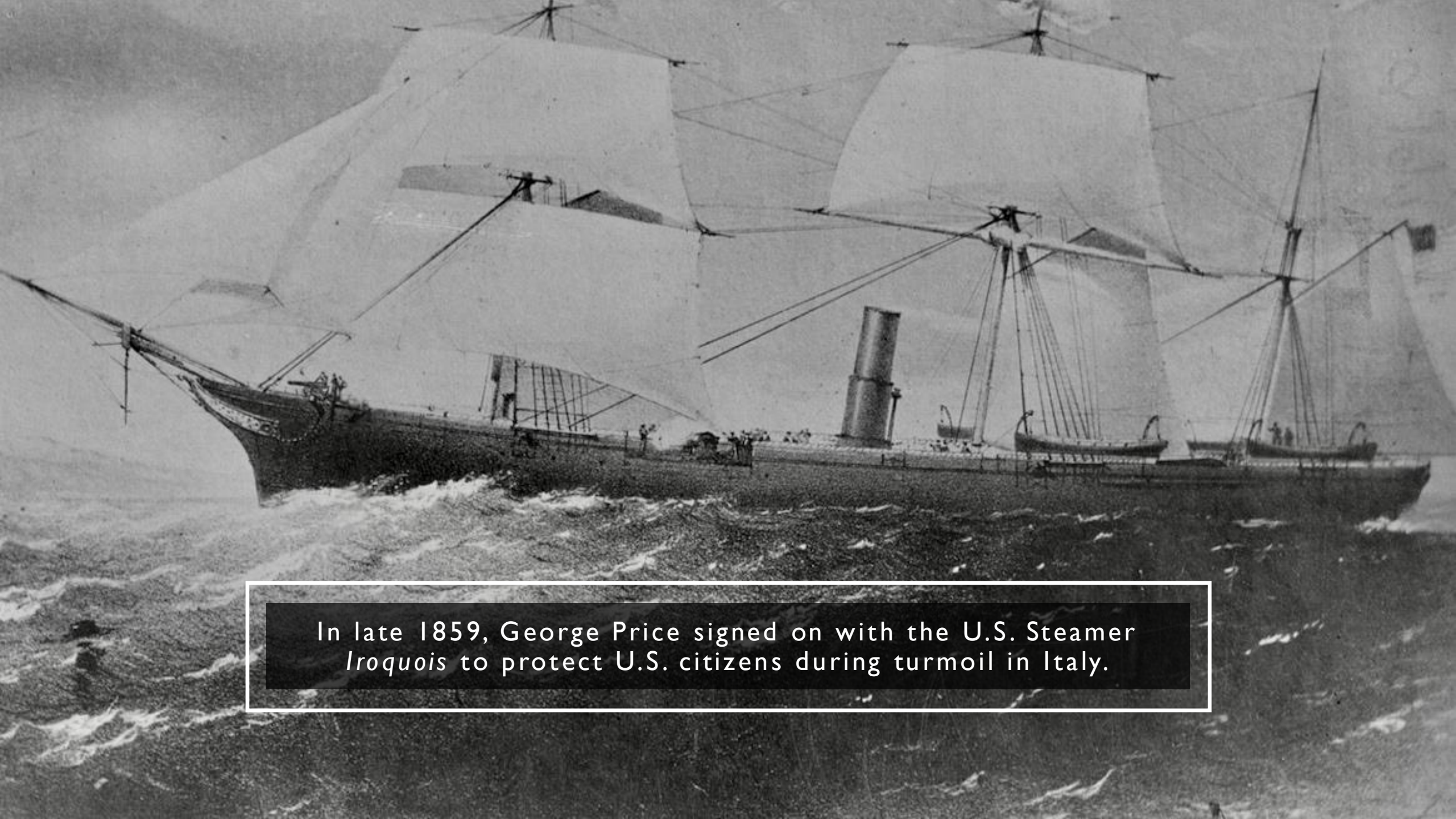


Like the USS *Independence* at Mare Island, USS *North Carolina* was used at the Brooklyn Navy Yard as a “receiving” ship. Enlistees for major operations were stationed on board while their skillsets, and the Navy’s needs, were sorted out.



U.S. SHIP, NORTH CAROLINA, 102 Guns.





In late 1859, George Price signed on with the U.S. Steamer *Iroquois* to protect U.S. citizens during turmoil in Italy.



When America's Civil War exploded in Charleston, SC, in April 1861, *Iroquois* was ordered to return to Brooklyn, in George Price's words, "to defend the Union," *Iroquois* arrived home on July 1, 1861.

*Iroquois* was then ordered to join the Caribbean Squadron to blockade Southern privateers in the West Indies.

## THE WAR COMMENCED.

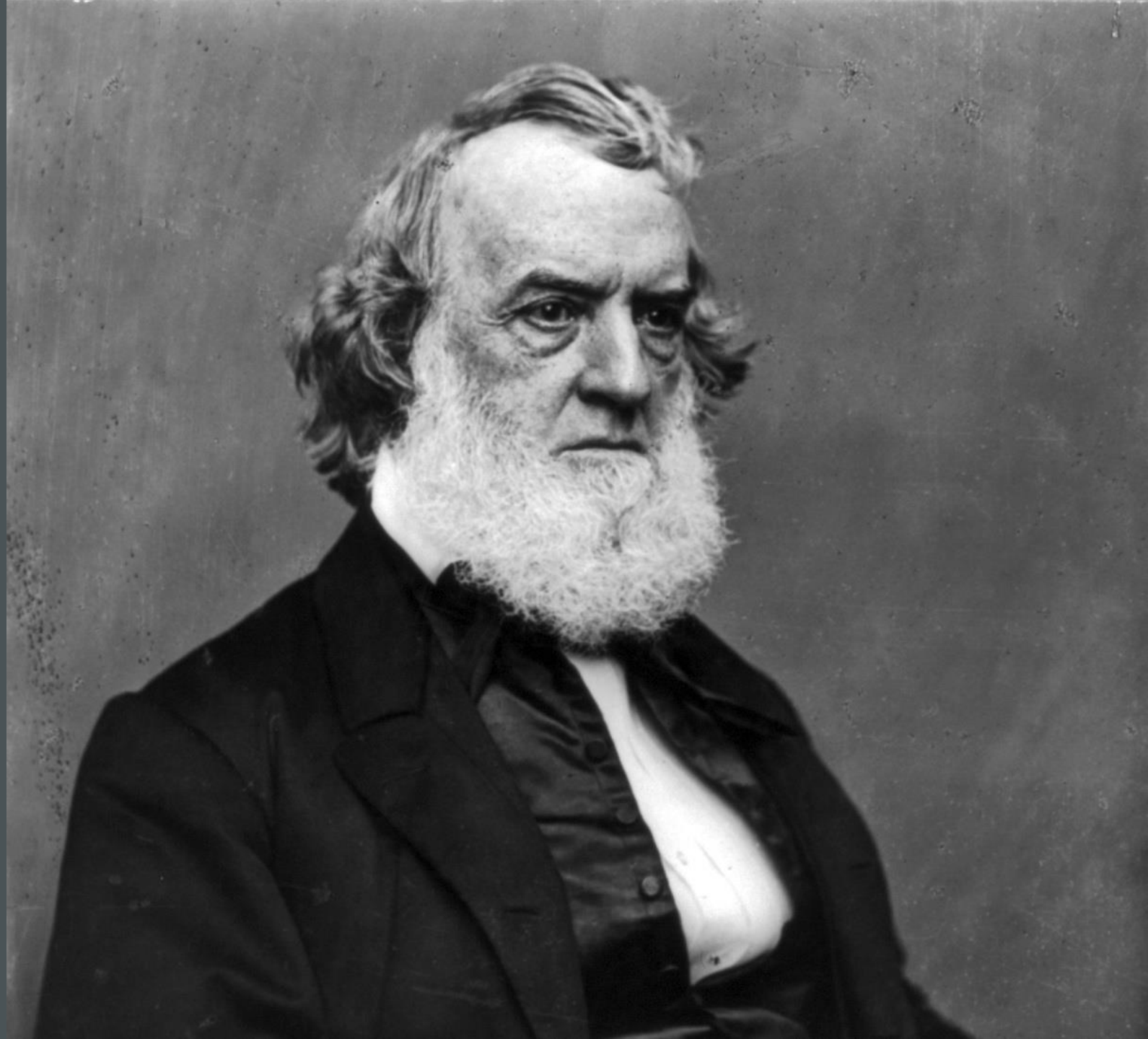
---

The First Gun Fired by Fort  
Moultrie Against Fort  
Sumpter.

---



President Lincoln's Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Welles, was charged with implementing the Union's naval strategy – the Anaconda Plan.



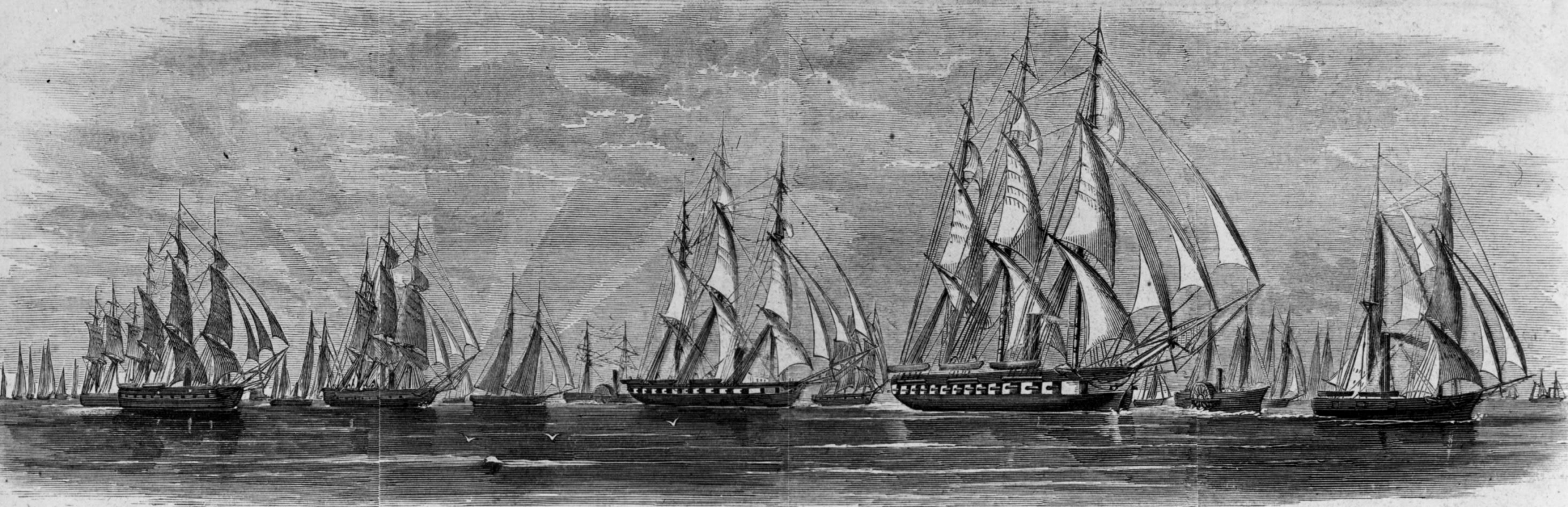


Enured according to act of Congress in the year 1861 by J.B. Elliott of Cincinnati in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Southern District of Ohio.

Division of Maps  
NOV 30 1946







Richmond.

Pensacola.

Colorado.

Flag-ship Hartford.

Octorora.

FLAG-OFFICER FARRAGUT'S GULF SQUADRON, AND COMMODORE PORTER'S MORTAR FLEET.—FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST ON BOARD THE FLAG-SHIP.—[SEE PAGE 303.]

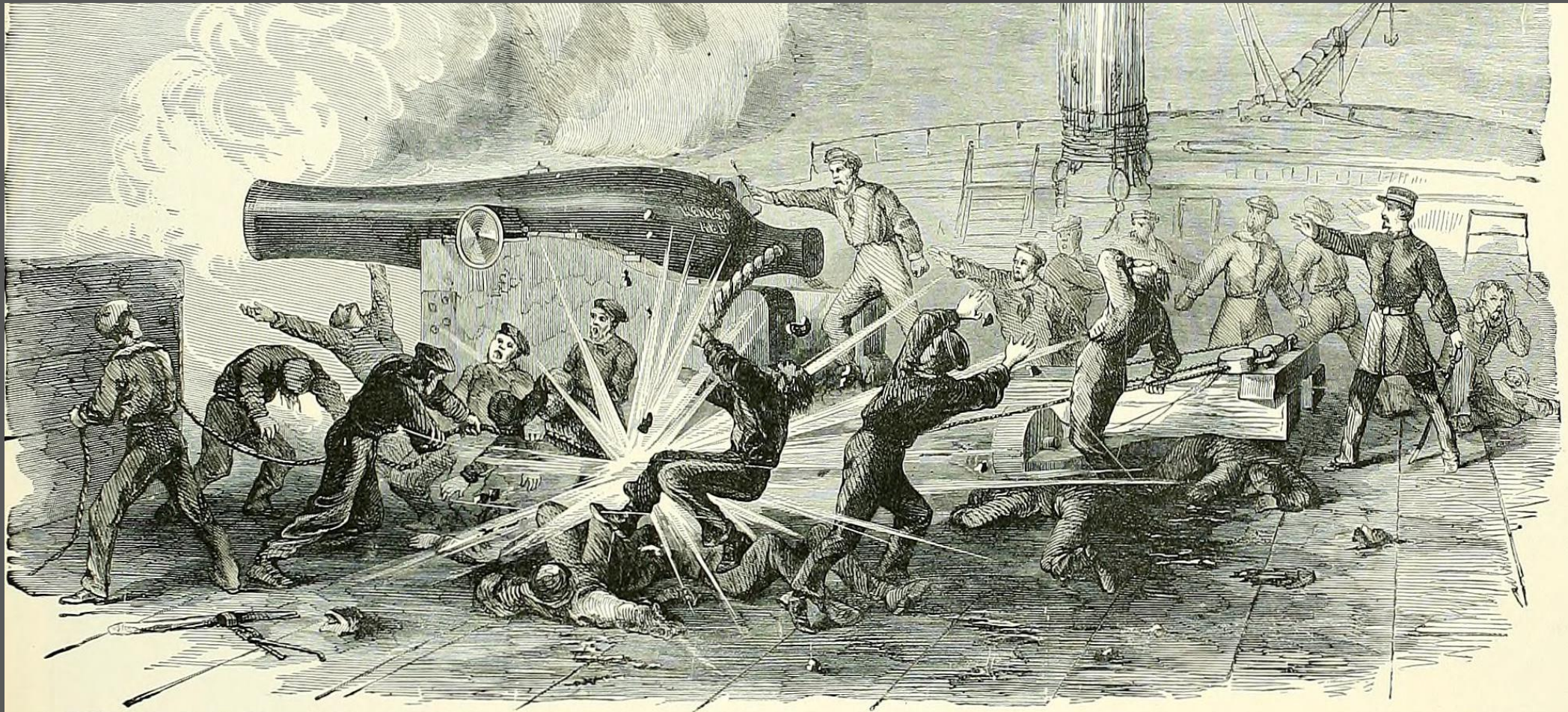
In spring 1862, *Iroquois* was ordered to join Flag Officer David Farragut's 43-ship assault on New Orleans – gateway to the Mississippi River.

In the dark of night on April 24<sup>th</sup>, Farragut's Gulf Squadron attacked Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip and destroyed most of the Confederacy's ships. The following day, New Orleans surrendered.









A DISCHARGE OF GRAPE FROM FORT JACKSON STRIKES THE DECK OF THE UNITED STATES GUNBOAT "IROQUOIS," KILLING EIGHT AND WOUNDING SEVEN OF A GUN'S CREW OF TWENTY-FIVE MEN MANNING A DAHLGREN GUN.

FROM A SKETCH BY WM. WARD.



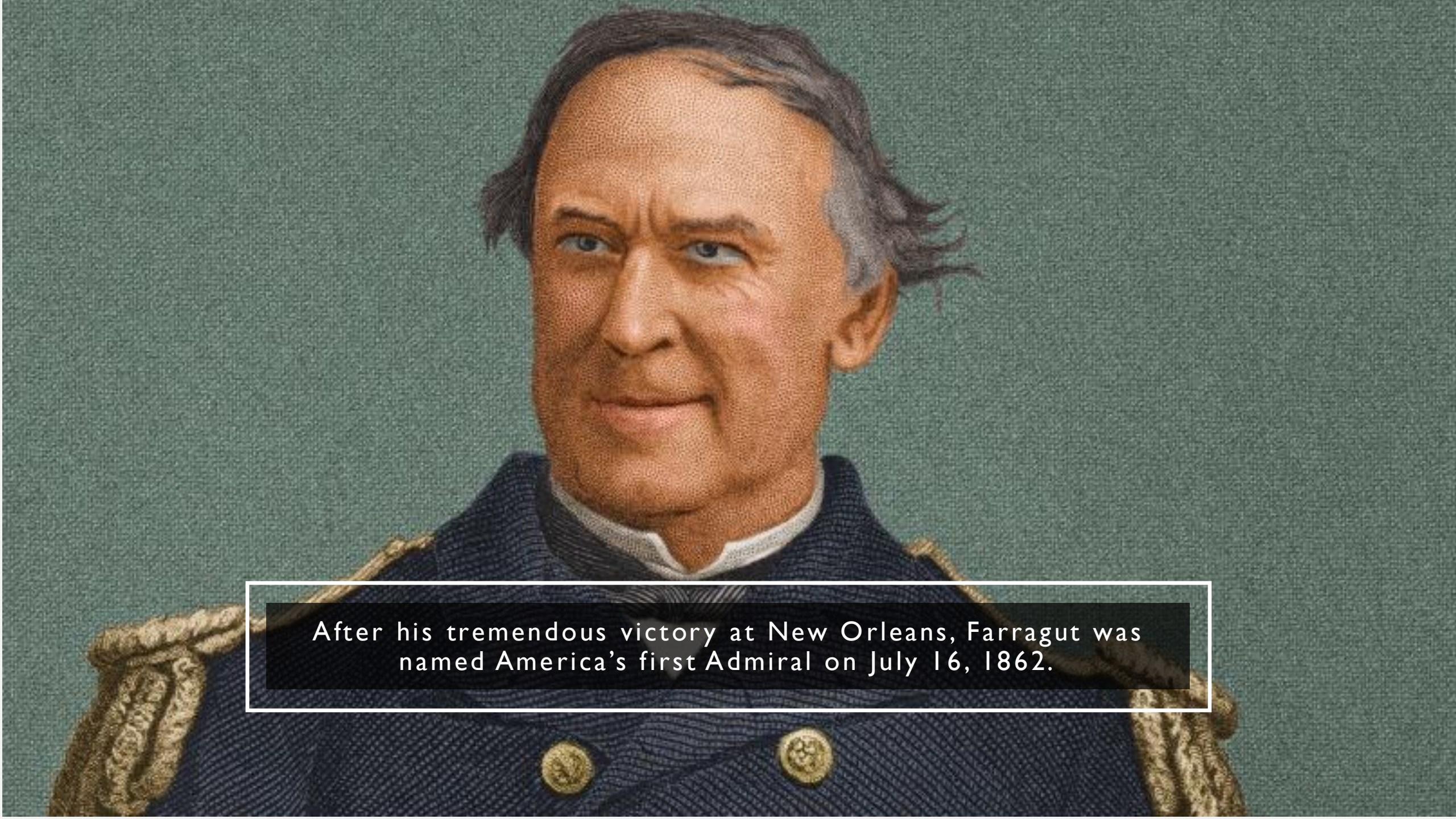


David Glasgow Farragut was widely celebrated for the Civil War's three great naval victories: New Orleans, April 1862, Vicksburg, April 1863, and Mobile Bay, August 1864.

After his mother died, Farragut was informally adopted by David Dixon Porter's family. At the age of nine, under Commodore Porter, Farragut served in the War of 1812.

In 1825, he was appointed a Lieutenant in the Navy by President James Monroe.















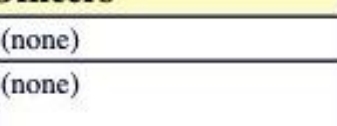




After his tremendous victory at New Orleans, Farragut was named America's first Admiral on July 16, 1862.



Over the course of his career in the U.S. Navy, George Price was steadily promoted from seaman to, among other roles, quarter master, Master's Mate, yeoman and, following the Battle of New Orleans, to officer rank.

Sea Officers		Medical Officers		Engineers
Flag Officer		Surgeon of the Fleet, Surgeon of 12 years service		Chief Engineer of years service
Captain		Surgeon		Chief Engineers of than 12 years service
Commander		Passed Assistant Surgeon		1st Assistant Engineer
Lieutenant (as commander)		Assistant Surgeon		2nd Assistant Engineer
Lieutenant (as executive officer)		Pay Officers		3rd Assistant Engineer
Lieutenant		Paymaster of 12 years service		
Master		Paymaster		
Passed Midshipman		Assistant Paymaster		
		Civil Officers		
Midshipman	(none)	Chaplain	(none)	
Boatswain	(none)	Professor of Mathematics	(none)	
Gunner	(none)	Commodore's Secretary	(none)	
Master's Mate (warrant)	(none)	Clerk	(none)	
Master's Mate (enlisted)	(none)			



Flag Ship Hartford.  
Pensacola Bay. Sept 20. 1862

Sir:

You are hereby appointed an  
Acting Gunner in the U. S. Navy.  
subject to the approval of the  
Hon. Secretary of the Navy.

You will report yourself to  
Commander E. D. T. Nichols for duty  
on board the U. S. S. S. "Iroquois".

Very respectfully  
your obedient servant

D. G. Farragut  
Rear Admiral  
Comd'g W. G. Bldg Sqd.

Acting Gunner  
George Price  
U. S. Steam Sloop "Iroquois"

On September 20, 1862, Rear  
Admiral Farragut promoted  
George Price to Acting Gunner  
on the *Iroquois*.



To celebrate, George had his first-ever photo taken.

Note the bars on his shoulders.





12  
100 Paid April 1<sup>st</sup> 1862 for two months advance up the  
deducted from W. J. Sax for the month of June 1862  
Miss Milroy & Co \$109.<sup>00</sup> for six ash  
Paid May 24 / 62 for 100 m.

Sir:

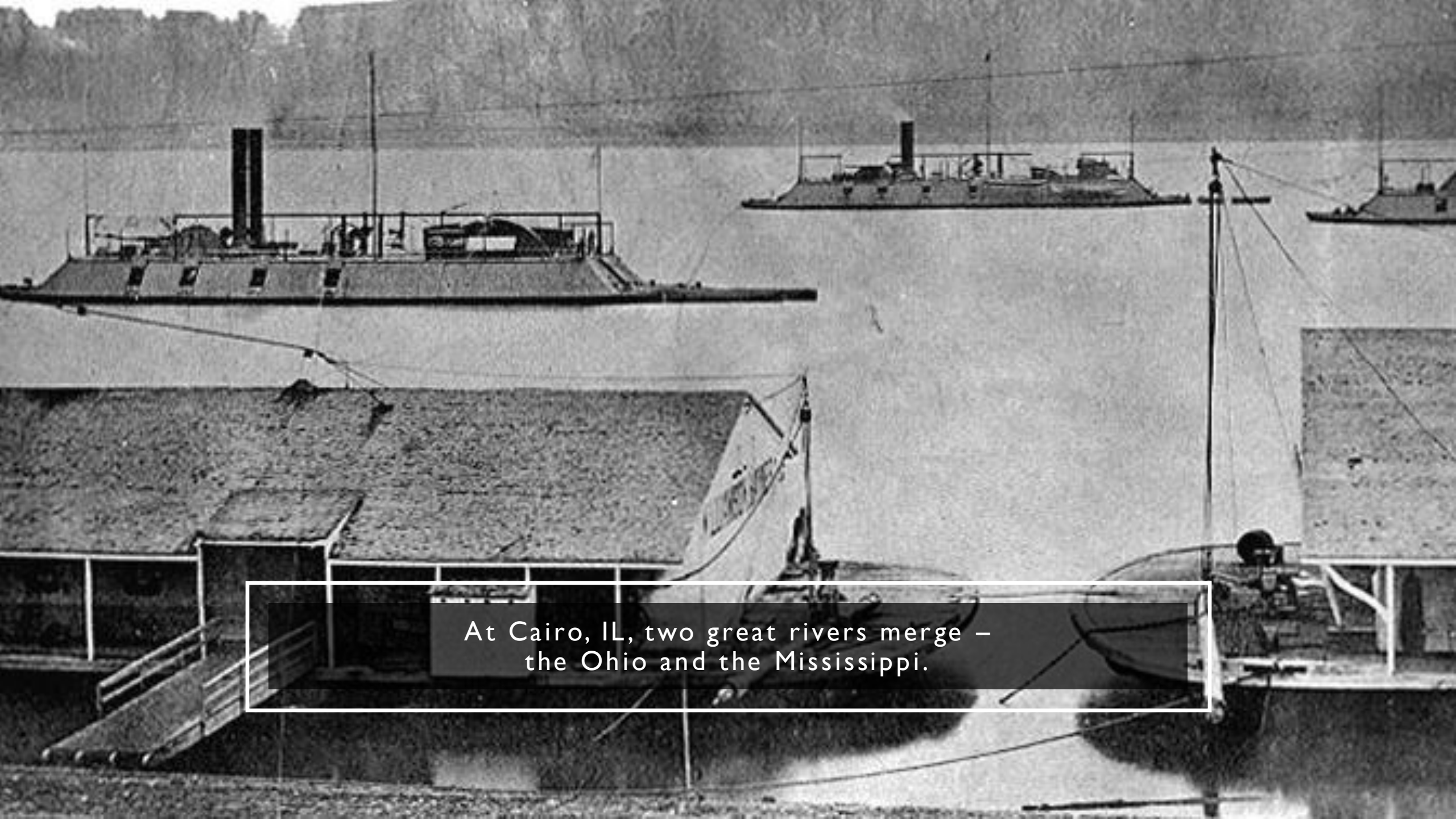
After having executed the enclosed oath, and returned it to the Department with your letter of acceptance, you will proceed to Cairo, Illinois, without delay, and report to ~~Chief~~ Rear Admiral David S. Porter for such duty in the Squadron under his command as he may assign you.

Gideon Welles  
Secretary of the Navy.

String Gummer  
Ginger Price

U. S. Navy,





At Cairo, IL, two great rivers merge –  
the Ohio and the Mississippi.





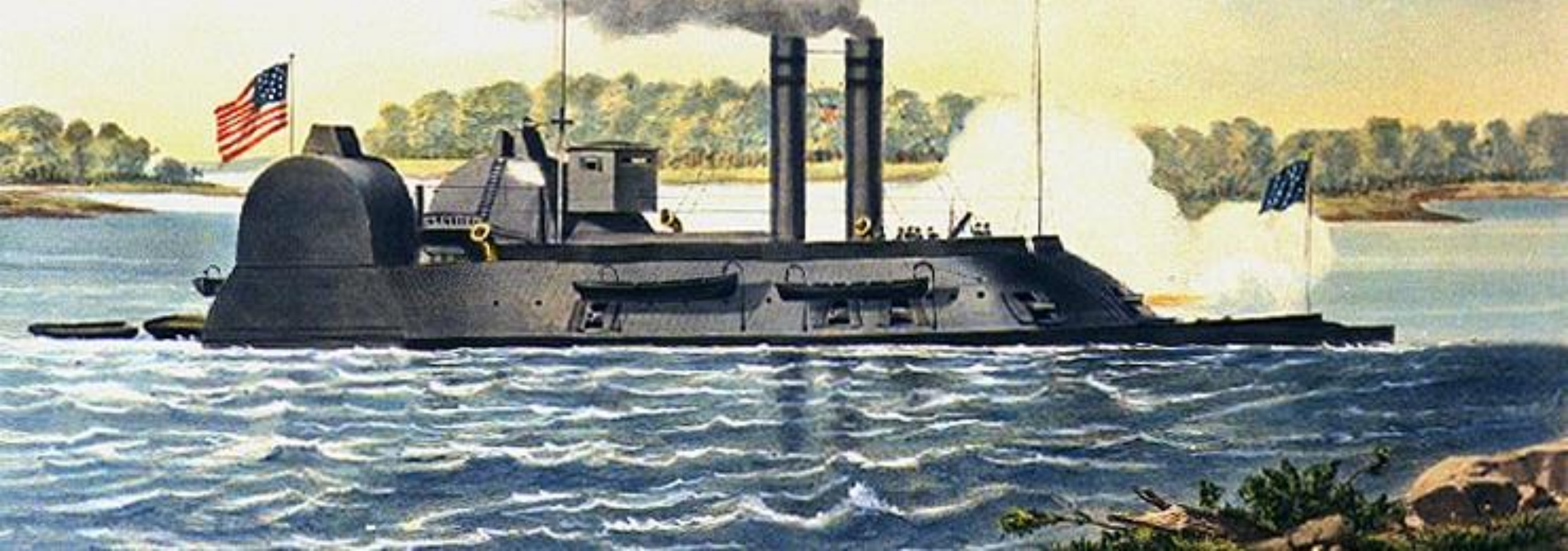
David Dixon Porter and staff on flagship, USS *Benton*.





In the 1820s, the French rendered wooden warships obsolete when they invented naval guns capable of firing explosive shells.





George Price was assigned to a “monster ship.”

*The New York Times* described USS *Lafayette* as a “vast iron-clad floating” battery. The ship was manned by about 15 – 20 officers and 100 sailors.





Battle of Vicksburg  
USS *Lafayette* is right behind Porter's flagship, USS *Benton*.



On April 22, 1863, *The New York Times* celebrated the Mississippi Squadron's success in running the rebel batteries at Vicksburg.

"...the very best iron-plated vessels we have on the Western waters."

### **Gallant Work at Vicksburgh.**

The feeling of disappointment that has, for some time, existed over the supposed failure of our army and gunboats before Vicksburgh, was suddenly removed yesterday by the news from the Southwest. It is announced that on the night of Thursday last, the gunboats *Tuscumbia*, *Lafayette*, *Benton*, *Pittsburgh*, *Carondelet* and *Gen. Price*, with three transports, ran the rebel batteries at Vicksburgh, and all went out safely below except one transport, which was burned.

In this list of gunboats will be recognized some of the very best iron-plated vessels we have on the Western waters. The *Lafayette* and *Tuscumbia*, in particular, are vast iron-clad floating batteries, which are now seeing about their first service on the Mississippi.





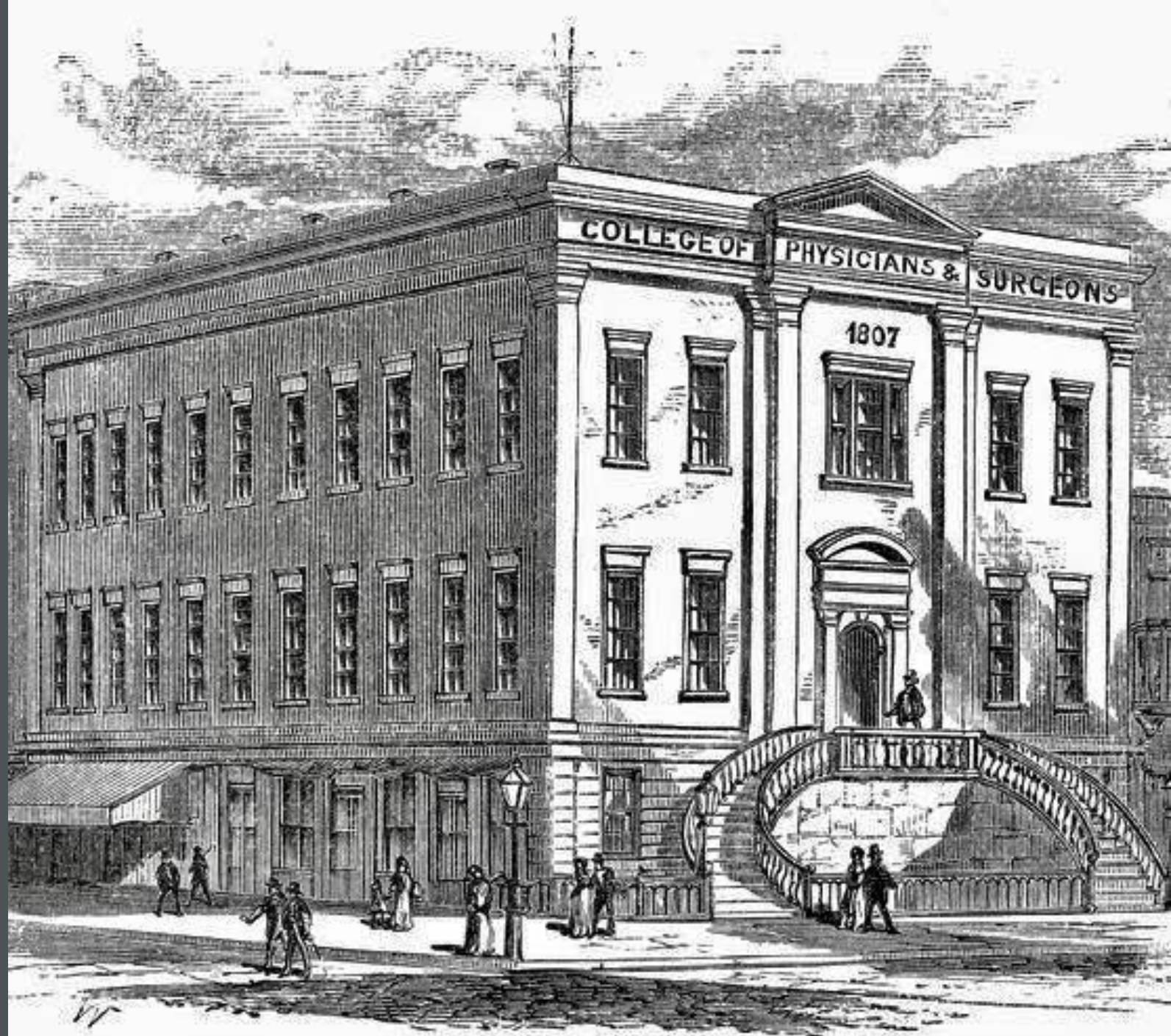
On May 3, 1863, Admiral David Porter wrote to Gideon Welles, "...it is with great pleasure that I report that the navy holds the door to Vicksburg. Grand Gulf is the strongest place on the Mississippi."



While running the “Rebel Batteries” at Vicksburg on the night of April 16, 1863, George Price was injured.

He described it in simple terms, “I received an injury on the left wrist, caused by the displacement of a 24-pound gun while in action.”

In June 1864, he was given a furlough to have his forearm examined in New York. In July, he rejoined the *Lafayette*.





His arm mangled by the injury, showing the effects of malaria, considerably aged by war, George Price proudly shows off his officer's hat with the gold braid and navy insignia.



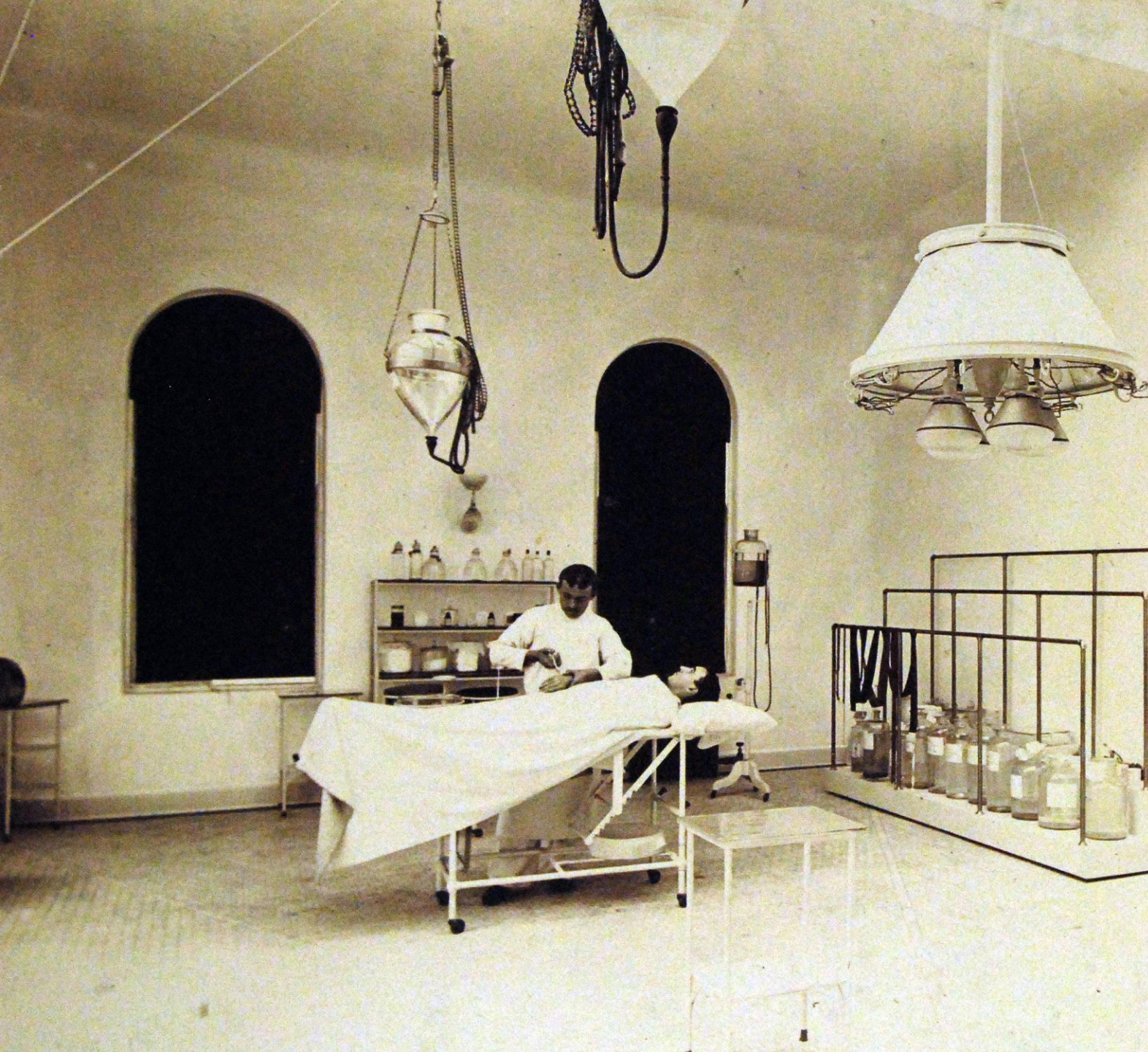


At the end of the Civil War, he was no longer sea-worthy. In January 1866, he secured an appointment on the police force of the Brooklyn Navy Yard and served until honorably discharged July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1881.



Naval Hospital, Brooklyn Navy Yard.





Four and a half years after he was injured at Vicksburg, Navy Yard physician, Dr. Charles F. Giberson removed 15 small pieces of bone from his forearm.

Image: Operating Room at the Brooklyn Naval Hospital.



#### WEDDING ON THE HILL.

There was quite a large assemblage of the residents of the Twentieth Ward at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Clarendon Avenue, on Wednesday of last week, to witness the marriage of Mr. Charles Doyle, a well known resident of the Hill, to Miss Emma M. Price, of Adelphi street. The bride was dressed in the conventional suit, with flowing veil and orange wreath. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. John A. McCullum, pastor of the church. After the ceremony the party retired to the residence of the bride's parents in Adelphi street, where a wedding reception was held, and the numerous presents were exhibited. Among those present were the Honorable William B. Lewis, Justices Riley and Morse, John Courtney, of the Surrogate's office; John A. Nash, William M. Clark, Frederick L. Jenkins, Clerk to Superintendent Campbell; Hugh Goodwin, James Doyle, Matthew Robb, Peter J. Doyle, Messrs. Richard Dooney and Pat. Rooney, of the Olympic Theatre, New York; Edward Noonan, Edward Shaughnessy, Peter Marris and others.



The years rolled along. The *Brooklyn Eagle* reported there was a “large assemblage” at the house on Adelphi St. when George and Rosalie’s oldest child, Emma, married in 1876.



# Librarian at the Navy Yard

By his account, he "then secured an appointment as Janitor of the U.S. Naval Lyceum at the New York Navy Yard.\*

He served until discharged August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1889 for want of funds."

\*In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Brooklyn Navy Yard was commonly referred to as the New York Navy Yard.

d at G. Goldman's, government contractor to-day that they like to buy their made where they care do. The cost is and \$2 for the

cloth with plenty natty pea-jackets caps. The men

## PRESENTED.

Royal Arcanum ed.

Q. Salmon and last evening at a council, Royal Arcanum. Long Island Jumbo Lodge, is

The jewels were diamonds, one of holding Regent W. speech. A supper speeches. Among Ivoy, W. A. Merritt, William Lockitt, Sworth, James H. mson, George W. Arthur C. Salmon.

carriages were waiting in front of the door.

## CHANGES AT THE YARD.

### Commodore Gherardi Declines to See the Reporter.

Affairs in the commandant's office at the Navy Yard are still in an unsettled state.

Capouilliez, the chief clerk of the late commandant, visits all the departments daily in search of employment.

Redfield Chandler, his son, gave the new commodore his resignation yesterday, and it was promptly accepted. Young Chandler assured an EAGLE reporter only yesterday that he did not want to leave, so it is presumable that his resignation was not entirely voluntary. He was not at the yard to-day and could not be found. Henry Downey, the colored type writer of the office, occupied young Chandler's place and George Price, the librarian of the Lyceum, is acting in Downey's place as messenger. Downey has not been appointed to the vacancy, but says he is getting temporarily.

Chief Clerk Costello is still at his desk and, it is understood, will probably stay there as he has reconsidered his resignation.

Commodore Gherardi sent word to the reporters to-day that he could not see them, as there was no news whatever. However, it was learned the Secretary of the Navy had directed the appointment of W. A. Furey as foreman laborer in the Yard and Docks Department in place of John Hamilton, who resigned some time ago to accept a similar position

his man, however, he was under arrest a large sized revolver. He had reckoned for the detective's hand and almost in flight he was landed. This makes Rogers has figured family's troubles. now against him. term in the Penitentiary.

## TH Cases to be Court

Circuit Court: 447, Carlson vs. F. 456, N. Sutter vs. Vanderve 472, Lamoine vs. H. Fielding; 481, And Walther; 487, Ste Young; 502, Swift Archer vs. McDunn 152, Hunsay vs. W. Teft vs. Gavin; 485 Donner vs. McCull cray vs. Battery R. poster; 483, Nelson lor vs. Fera. High City Court—Pat II., Judge Cleme Has; 232, Puersch IC Co.; 31, Hau





## COMMANDANT'S OFFICE

This building housed the Navy Yard's "Lyceum" where George Price served as Librarian.



The Navy Yard's Lyceum functioned as a hearing room and as a museum.

On January 4, 1894, the *Brooklyn Eagle* reported that the Lyceum's naval relics had been transferred to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

## **RELICS OF NAVAL VICTORIES**

### **Transferred to the New Hampshire to Form a Nautical Museum.**

Captain Miller of the naval militia has secured the co-operation of the secretary of the navy in an attempt he is making to establish a naval museum on board the New Hampshire, as an incentive to his amateur tars to study the glories of the American navy in the past. To this end and as a nucleus for the proposed museum, Captain Miller has been granted permission to remove to the New Hampshire a large number of captured cannon and other naval relics which were left at the navy yard years ago when the museum was removed from the navy yard lyceum to the Smithsonian institute at Washington and to-day he transferred the first consignment to his ship. All the relics will be properly labeled and the task of preparing a history of each specimen and the naval associations connected with it will be assigned to the members of the naval battalion.



Plagued by the injury to his wrist, malaria, and increasing deafness, in 1889, George Price spent time at the Soldiers & Sailors' Home in Bath, NY and applied for a pension.

One examiner wrote, "...his long service in the Navy and in the Brooklyn Navy Yard would indicate that he was a man of good character."



Soldiers' and Sailors' Home. BATH, N. Y.

*Hand-colored*





In 1889, work began in Brooklyn on a monument to honor the soldiers and sailors who served in the Civil War.

Frederick Law Olmstead and Calvert Vaux, designers of Central Park, collaborated on the project with architect Stanford White.

General William Tecumseh Sherman was the speaker when the cornerstone was laid in 1889.

President Cleveland presided at the 1892 unveiling.





In December 1895, George Price died of the lingering effects of malaria. He is buried in Green-Wood Cemetery.





In 1893, Rosalie Riley Price looked remarkably young for her, at least, 55 years.

She outlived George by 28 years. She died in 1923 and is also buried at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn.





When Rosalie Riley arrived in America in 1850, the population of Brooklyn was under 97,000.

The last Whig, Millard Fillmore, was president.

Rosalie witnessed the invention of the subway system, the telephone, movies, automobiles, and airplanes.

She lived through the Civil War and the 1<sup>st</sup> World War.

She saw Brooklyn dramatically changed by the building of the Brooklyn Bridge.





ROSALIE PRICE'S BROOKLYN, 1859



### A GOOD-NIGHT.

Sleep sound, dear love ! Though the winds be high,  
And the dark clouds drift through the troubled sky,  
Though the rising waters foam and roar,  
And mournfully howl round the tortured shore,  
Ill sounds from thy slumbers be far away,  
And soft be thy dreams as a summer's day.

Sleep sound ! Though the world be weary with fears,  
And eyes that love thee be sad with tears,  
Yet never a sorrow break thy rest,  
And never a pang shoot through thy breast—  
No shadow pass o'er thy closed eyes,  
But their visions be visions of Paradise.

Sleep sound, sweet love ! Till the morning's light  
Lead up a new day with its fresh delight ;  
Till the welcome sun, as it mounts above,  
Recall thee to duty, and peace, and love ;  
To a calm existence, untouched by strife,  
And the quiet round of a holy life !

C. A. L.



Another snippet from  
George Price's Bible.


Rosalie Price ca. 1875





George and Rosalie Price, ca. 1880





George Price's well-worn, much-travelled sea chest.

Margot Morrell  
[margot@shacksway.com](mailto:margot@shacksway.com)  
August 2020