

Images from the Civil War

Images from just before and after the Civil War seem to be straight forward images – a soldier, a farmer, a family on a horse, families gathering together to relax, a sunset, a map. But taking a closer look at them reveals a deeper meaning. In the years that these paintings were created, the United States went through a brutal war with the possibility of the country splitting apart. Attitudes towards slavery were hotly debated everywhere with the Emancipation Proclamation changing how people viewed slaves. Daily illustrated newspapers provided the most up-to-date information possible. Early photography brought the war even closer to home. Winslow Homer, Eastman Johnson and others, helped to create the new images of the United States. Beginning with Johnson's **Negro Life at the South** and ending with Homer's **A Veteran in a New Field**, these images help to tell the story of the Civil War and the rebirth of a nation.