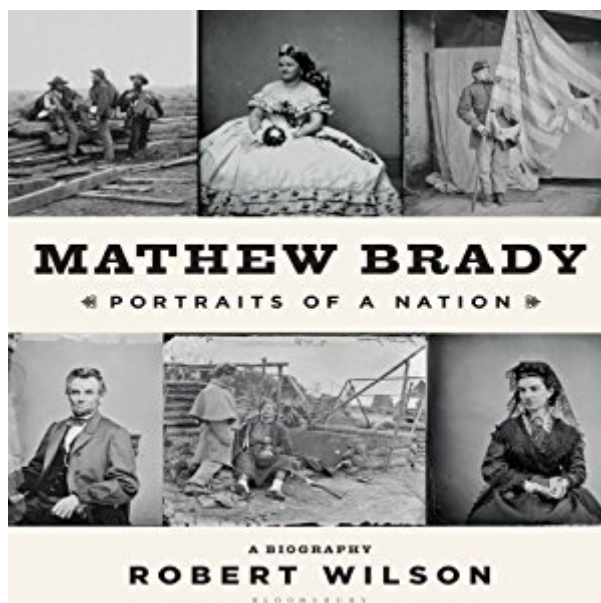


The book was found

# Mathew Brady: Portraits Of A Nation



## Synopsis

In the 1840s and 1850s, "Brady of Broadway" was one of the most successful and acclaimed Manhattan portrait galleries. Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, Dolley Madison, Henry James as a boy with his father, Horace Greeley, Edgar Allan Poe, the Prince of Wales, and Jenny Lind were among the dignitaries photographed in Mathew Brady's studio. But it was during the Civil War that he became the founding father of what is now called photojournalism and his photography became an enduring part of American history. The Civil War was the first war in history to leave a detailed photographic record, and Mathew Brady was the war's chief visual historian. Previously, the general public had never seen in such detail the bloody particulars of war - the strewn bodies of the dead, the bloated carcasses of horses, the splintered remains of trees and fortifications, or the chaos and suffering on the battlefield. Brady knew better than anyone of his era the dual power of the camera to record and to excite, to stop a moment in time and to draw the viewer vividly into that moment. He was not, in the strictest sense, a Civil War photographer. As the director of a photographic service, he assigned Alexander Gardner, James F. Gibson, and others to take photographs, often under his personal supervision; he also distributed Civil War photographs taken by others not employed by him. Ironically, Brady had accompanied the Union army to the first major battle at Bull Run, but was so shaken by the experience that throughout the rest of the war he rarely visited battlefields, except well before or after a major battle. MATHEW BRADY is the biography of an American legend - a businessman, an accomplished and innovative technician, a suave promoter, a celebrated portrait artist, and, perhaps most important, a historian who chronicled America during its finest and gravest moments of the 19th century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Everyone who knows anything about American history, knows the Brady photographs, but few of us know much about the man himself. Robert Wilson has remedied that, giving us the first really complete biography of the man, and of his role not just in American history but in the history of photography and of photojournalism. This is the kind of book that adds immeasurably to the understanding of the beginning of the great leap into modern communications, by a superb writer who knows how to tell the story.

It's too long a story for all the details, but Miller's Photographic History of the Civil War got me interested in the Civil War when I was in High School and I've been a student of the Civil War for almost 60 years now. When I saw a biography of Brady I jumped at the chance to learn more about him and his work. Unfortunately as the author mentions Brady left little behind to create a thorough life story but I found some of the "gaps" in his life filled in. A number of the details of the people and places Brady photographed (or his assistants did) are fascinating but one wonders why there were other events during the war his camera never caught. And, in the final analysis, the mystery behind these will remain a mystery. All in all, a good read and an interesting addition to my Civil War knowledge,

What a wonderful way to learn some civil war history. This book is full of new and interesting information about Brady, the war and photography. Wilson is a masterful writer and storyteller.

This book offers an intriguing look at a crucial period in American history, as viewed from the cameras of Brady and his colleagues. I think history and camera buffs will find much to interest them here.

Wow! What a photographer! He chronicled the history of this country during the Civil War in photographs. The photos of the horror of that war told the story of brother killing brother. He was an amazing photographer. I wonder what he would have done with the cameras of today. This was a most enjoyable book.

Book did not just focus on Brady alone, but entire history of photography. Enjoyed the history back to beginning to present.

Book should be in everyone's library. Get the book, you will be pleased. He and his team did a valuable service to our country and the world.

The author approaches the subject gingerly and brings a literary sensibility to the difficult task of compelling biography. And succeeds. Highly recommend, and not just for Civil War buffs.

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