

Editor's Comment

Much has been written about Civil War photographers, while considerably less is known about the "Special Artists" whose sketches adorned such pictorial magazines as *Harper's Weekly* and *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*. One of these "Special Artists" was Alexander Simplot, of Dubuque, who won widespread recognition, for his sketches in *Harper's Weekly*.

This issue of THE PALIMPSEST contains many reproductions of Simplot's original sketches, about half of which, as indicated in the credit line, were used by *Harper's Weekly*. They sometimes appeared in *Harper's* within a month after they were sketched, remarkable speed for that time but paling into insignificance when compared with modern Wirephoto and Photofax. Readers having access to the original *Harper's Weekly* will be impressed by the remarkable fidelity of the woodcut artist in transferring Simplot's sketch to a block of wood. Close scrutiny, however, will reveal numerous minor changes. The picture of Galenians welcoming their fellow-townsmen, General Grant, upon his return from the Civil War, is an excellent illustration of this fidelity of reproduction from sketch to woodcut.

The magnitude and variety of Alexander Simplot's work is attested by the following list of his sketches appearing in *Harper's Weekly* in 1861 and 1862.

SIMPLOT SKETCHES IN HARPER'S WEEKLY

Arranged Chronologically by Title and Date

| <i>Title</i> | <i>Date</i> |
|---|--------------------|
| Departure of Volunteers from Dubuque, Iowa. | May 25, 1861 |
| The City of Cairo, Illinois, as seen from the camp. | June 15, 1861 |
| Bird's Point, Missouri, opposite Cairo. | June 22, 1861 |
| Placing the Heavy Ordnance in position at Cairo, Illinois. | June 22, 1861 |
| Demolition of the Old Distillery at Cairo. | June 22, 1861 |
| Batteries on the Ohio Levee at Cairo. | June 29, 1861 |
| Battery on the Ohio Levee, used for ordering steamers to. | June 29, 1861 |
| Landing of the Seventh and Twelfth Regiments at Cairo. | June 29, 1861 |
| Camp Warren, Burlington, Iowa, rendezvous for Iowa Troops. | August 24, 1861 |
| The Arsenal at St. Louis, Missouri. | August 31, 1861 |
| Fremont's Headquarters at St. Louis, Missouri. | August 31, 1861 |
| Departure of Fremont's Flotilla for Bird's Point. | August 31, 1861 |
| The United States Gun-boats <i>Conestoga</i> and <i>Lexington</i> . | September 7, 1861 |
| The Ohio Levee at Cairo. | September 14, 1861 |
| U. S. Mississippi Gun-boats being built near St. Louis. | October 5, 1861 |
| Building pontoons for military use on the Mississippi. | October 12, 1861 |
| Embarkation of the Ninth Missouri Regiment for Lexington. | October 19, 1861 |
| General Fremont's camp near Jefferson City, Missouri. | October 26, 1861 |
| Camp of General Fremont's Army at Tipton, Missouri. | November 2, 1861 |
| General Fremont's Army on the march through SW Missouri. | November 16, 1861 |
| Building General Fremont's bridge across the Osage. | November 16, 1861 |
| General Siegel crossing the Osage. | November 16, 1861 |
| The War in Missouri — General Jim Lane's Camp. | November 23, 1861 |
| The town of Springfield, Missouri. | November 30, 1861 |
| Plaza at Springfield, Missouri. | November 30, 1861 |
| General Halleck's Fleet of Mortar-boats on the Mississippi. | December 28, 1861 |
| Applying for passes at the Provost Marshall's Office at St. Louis. | January 18, 1862 |
| Commodore Foote's Gun-boat Flotilla on the Mississippi. | January 25, 1862 |
| Embarkation of General McClernand's Brigade at Cairo. | February 1, 1862 |
| Mississippi Gun-boats engaged in the attack on Fort Henry. | February 22, 1862 |
| The capture of Fort Henry, Tennessee. | March 1, 1862 |
| The hand-to-hand fight over Schwartz's Battery at Fort Donelson. | March 8, 1862 |
| Seeking for the wounded, by torch-light, after the Battle. | March 5, 1862 |
| The Attack of the Second Iowa Regiment on Fort Donelson. | March 15, 1862 |
| Position of Batteries during the Battle of Fort Donelson. | March 15, 1862 |
| The Gun-boat Attack on the Water Batteries at Fort Donelson. | March 15, 1862 |
| Interior of Fort Donelson. | March 22, 1862 |
| Interior of the Lower Water Battery at Fort Donelson. | March 22, 1862 |

| <i>Title</i> | <i>Date</i> |
|---|-------------------|
| Torpedoes with their weights & anchors left on the levee. | March 29, 1862 |
| Water Batteries from the Bluff. | March 29, 1862 |
| Columbus, Kentucky, after the Rebel Evacuation. | March 29, 1862 |
| Rebel Infernal Machines found at Columbus, Kentucky. | March 29, 1862 |
| View at New Madrid and Point Pleasant. | April 12, 1862 |
| Gun-boat running the Rebel Batteries at Island No. 10. | April 26, 1862 |
| Spiking the guns in the upper Rebel Battery at Island No. 10. | April 26, 1862 |
| Steamers sunk by Rebels between Island No. 10 and New Madrid. | May 3, 1862 |
| Island Number Ten after the surrender. | May 3, 1862 |
| Bird's-eye view of the Federal Flotilla descending the Mississippi. | May 10, 1862 |
| Reconnoissance of Fort Wright by the gun-boats and Mortar Fleet. | May 10, 1862 |
| Hamburg Landing, Tennessee, Commissary Depot of Halleck's Army. | May 31, 1862 |
| Our Army in the Southwest. | June 7, 1862 |
| 1. Commissary Store Boats. | |
| 2. Landing Cannon. | |
| 3. The interior of a Sanitary Steamer. | |
| 4. The General Hospital at Hamburg. | |
| 5. Moving Siege Guns to our lines. | |
| Army of the Mississippi — Looking into Corinth from Observatory. | June 21, 1862 |
| Our Pickets at Farmington Church, two miles from Corinth. | June 21, 1862 |
| General Pope's troops throwing up a magazine near Farmington. | June 21, 1862 |
| Colonel Ellet's Ram Fleet approaching Memphis. | June 28, 1862 |
| The Rebel Gun-boats off Craighead Point before the surrender. | June 28, 1862 |
| Appearance of Ram <i>Beauregard</i> and <i>Jeff Thompson</i> after fight. | June 28, 1862 |
| Fort Pillow repossessed by the Gun-boat Fleet. | June 28, 1862 |
| Our Fleet off Fort Pillow on the eve of the evacuation. | June 28, 1862 |
| The Union Fleet passing Fort Randolph on way to Memphis. | June 28, 1862 |
| The Great Naval Battle before Memphis — June 6, 1862. | June 28, 1862 |
| Hoisting the Stars and Stripes over the Memphis Post-Office. | July 5, 1862 |
| Jackson's Monument at Memphis defaced by the Rebels. | July 5, 1862 |
| Colonel Ellet's Ram Fleet on the Mississippi. | July 5, 1862 |
| Battle at St. Charles, Arkansas — Explosion of the <i>Mound City</i> . | July 12, 1862 |
| Grand Depot of stores for Gen. Grant's Army at Columbus, Ky. | October 4, 1862 |
| The War in the Southwest. | October 11, 1862 |
| 1. Court-House Square, Jackson, Tennessee. | |
| 2. A Railroad Battery. | |
| 3. Earthwork to protect the Railroad. | |
| 4. Cotton Fort at Jackson, Tennessee. | |
| The Battle of Corinth — The struggle over Robinett's Battery. | November 1, 1862 |
| Seminary at LaGrange, Tennessee, now used as a prison. | December 20, 1862 |
| Davis Mills, on the Mississippi and Ohio Railroad. | December 20, 1862 |
| Grand Junction (Tennessee) of the Memphis and Charleston and Mississippi and Ohio Railroads. | December 20, 1862 |

The contributions of Franc B. Wilkie were as varied as they were numerous. It is not without significance that his books dealt with the Iowa scene. A fairly complete list follows:

Davenport, Past and Present, Davenport, Luse, Lane and Co., 1858.

The Iowa First: Letters From the War, Dubuque, printed at the Herald book and job establishment, 1861.

Petrolia: or, The Oil Regions of the United States, John R. Walsh and Co., Chicago, 1865.

Peregrine Pickle and Poliuto's Christmas Papers, The Western News Co., Chicago, 1869.

Walks About Chicago, Church, Goodman & Donnelley, 1869.

Sketches and Notices of the Chicago Bar . . . H. A. Sumner, Chicago, 1871.

The Chicago Bar Author's edition, Chicago, R. R. Donnelly, published by the author, 1872.

Sketches Beyond the Sea, Hazlitt & Reed, Chicago, 1879

The Great Inventions: Their History from the Earliest Period to the Present, J. A. Ruth & Co., Philadelphia and Chicago, 1883.

Marquis' Hand-book of Chicago, A. N. Marquis & Co., 1885. Preface: "Much of the matter was written by Mr. Franc B. Wilkie."

The Gambler, Chicago, T. S. Denison, 1888.

Pen and Powder, Boston, Ticknor and Company, 1888.

Personal Reminiscences of Thirty-five Years of Journalism, F. J. Schulte & Co., 1891.

A Life of Christopher Columbus, Chicago, C. H. Sergel & Co., 1892.