1800s:

Commercial Press Dev. Telegraph

Abolitionists Civil War

June 27
**Primary / Secondary Sources**

- **Primary** -- produced by people or groups directly involved in the event or topic; participants or witnesses; artifact / evidence of a person, event, etc.
  - help you identify the thoughts, feelings, ideas, sentiments, perspectives, and daily lives

- **Secondary** -- sources that comment on and interpret primary sources.
  - biographies, history books, journal articles, etc.
Penny Press Highlights

- Develops as part of:
  - Urbanization
  - Increased literacy

- Funded by advertising, not political interests

- News gathering model changed
  - Reporters, editors hired
  - Faster, more local stories

- Technology: easier to use, better quality

- Advances in transportation systems

- Appealed to immigrants and middle class

- Americans are “the newspaper-reading animals”
Genius of Universal Emancipation

- Benjamin Lundy, Genius of Universal Emancipation (1821-1839)
- Influenced many principal figures in abolitionist movement including William Lloyd Garrison
- Anti-slavery lecturer
- Philadelphia mob destroyed his press (1838)
William Lloyd Garrison &
The Liberator

- Radical tone of paper
- Labeled slavery as crime; called for immediate abolition and emancipation
• Copy of a resolution in Georgia, adopted by its House & Senate, Nov 30, 1831

⇒ Resolved that the sum of five thousand dollars is hereby appropriated, to be paid to any person or persons who shall arrest, bring to trial and prosecute to conviction under the laws of this state; the editor or publisher of a certain paper called the Liberator, published in the town of Boston of the state of Massachusetts...” (or any persons who shall circulate said paper within the limits of this state).
more than a paper...

- Formed New England Anti-Slavery Society (1831), American Anti-Slavery Society (1833)
- Speaking tours
- Mail campaign (1835)
  - 1 million pieces of literature sent around country
  - Journals, children’s newspaper, chocolate wrappers, handkerchiefs
1827 - first black-owned newspaper

Founded by:

- John Russwurm and Samuel Cornish

“We wish to pleas our cause. Too long have others spoken for us.”
Established in 1847
Most influential black antislavery paper prior to Civil War

Started as North Star, name changed to Frederick Douglas’s Paper (1851), lasted 16 years

Readership: African Americans, Presidents, Members of Congress

Newspaper’s motto: “Right is of no Sex – Truth is of no Color – God is the Father of us all, and we are all brethren”
Elijah Lovejoy

- 1837 Illinois legislature calls for resistance to antislavery activity

- Local newspapers and leaders encouraged crowds to take action against Lovejoy

- Mob destroyed press, attorney general ruled the action justified

- Shot to death while protecting press from mob
The National Era

- Lewis Tappan adopted more moderate approach
- Probably most successful of abolitionist papers
- Circulation in 1853: 25,000
- Published installments of Uncle Tom’s Cabin
AN ABOLITIONIST CAUGHT

Our city was much agitated on Saturday evening last, by the apprehension of a young man by the name of Amos Brown, who, it was said, had been disseminating tracts and pamphlets of a very inflammatory character, in relation to slavery. He was carried before our Committee of Vigilance, where a patient and elaborate investigation took place. From the prisoner’s papers, pamphlets, correspondence, and statements, it appeared that he was a member of a London Anti-Slavery Society, in Ohio—that he had been a member of Lane Seminary, at Cincinnati, which he and others had been forced to leave, chiefly in consequence of the dangerous principles they held in relation to slavery.

The ostensible business of this villain was, the disposal of the Cotton Bible—which he indulged in the cloak of Religion. The evidence, mainly furnished by his correspondence, clearly proved that there was an organized scheme of operations adopted by this society, for the propagation of its doctrines. In the slave-holding States, and which, if carried into effect, would manifestly tend to insurrection and rebellion among the slaves. There were found in this possession a number of pamphlets, papers, &c. of the most inflammatory and violent character—copies of small books with prints representing slaves chained to trees, and suffering under the lash—others representing them as maimed, and white females scourging them with cowhides, &c. Numerous extracts were also read from his journal, all tending to show that his design in visiting Tennessee was to find out & secure friends to the cause of Abolition, and through them to disseminate the doctrines of the Society. It was proved he kept copies of his pamphlets at the Nashville Inn, and at Mr. Crayce’s in this place, and also one with a citizen of Sumner county.

The Committee found him guilty—1st. Of being an active and efficient member of the Abolition Society of Ohio. 2d. That he had in his possession in Nashville, many pamphlets of a most violent and pernicious tendency, and which, if generally disseminated, would, in all human probability, cause an insurrection or rebellion among the slaves. 3d. That he published—and exposed to public view, the said pamphlets in Nashville and Sumner county.

As might have been expected, a numerous crowd of citizens, who witnessed the development of this fellow’s guilt, were much excited—and we verily believe, had it not been for the prudence and firmness of the Committee, his life would have been the next day’s. How was it possible to publish such a paper, and yet not have it noticed? We publish this for the benefit of those who are not aware of the fact, that it is an innocent body in the eyes of the law.
Technology
Intermission -
The Telegraph
Introducing: The Telegraph

- Samuel Morse, 1844
- 1st line - b/w Baltimore and DC
- Public Ownership vs. Private
- Eventually made pigeon carriers, Pony Express obsolete
- Enhanced the speed of news
- Facilitates the creation of news agency
Telegraph and Reporting War

- Mexican War (1846-1848) - ~150 miles of wire

- By 1860s - over 50,000 miles

- Reliance on wire services - military and press

- Alters writing / reporting style

- Inverted pyramid; stripped of story, focus on facts

- Raises questions in ethical practice

- Accuracy? National security?
PRESS AROUND WAR TIME

Both: lots of poorly paid war correspondents

In the North:

• Some division re: abolition, secession

• Horace Greeley (“The Great Moral Organ”) & anti-slavery agenda

• NY Times adopted more neutral stance

In the South:

• More division re: abolition, secession (no consensus)

• Southern newspapers devoted to Southern lifestyle; morale boosting

• “Fire-Eaters” as dedicatedly pro-slavery as Garrison was anti-slavery
The other “new” medium: camera
Censorship

- Military censorship
- “Mob censorship”
- Restrictions on telegraph, mail
- Suspension shut down newspapers’ doors altogether
- Generally, censorship still pretty ineffective
early photography

- First image captured in 1826 in France
- Louis Daguerre: daguerreotype (1837), but had limited usage
- No copies could be made
- Subjects had to stand still for 20-30 min.
Matthew Brady

- Civil War photographer
- Used “portable” equipment
- Hired staff photographers; took credit for their work
- Documented stark reality of war
- Manipulated some photographs
Two photographers having lunch near Bull Run before second battle

Matthew Brady’s photographic outfit near Petersburg, VA
New York Herald Tribune wagon and reporters in the field
Some issues that surface throughout history of photojournalism:

- Photographs and manipulation
- Subject matter of photographs (esp. during wartime?)
“It is so nearly like visiting the battlefields to look over these views that all the emotions excited by the actual sight of the stained and sordid scene, strewed with rags and wrecks, came back to us, and we buried them in the recesses of our cabinet as we would have buried the mutilated remains of the dead they too vividly represent.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes, speaking about Brady’s photographs
SHANDLEY (as Puck). "Allow me to immortalize you, Boss!"

Tweed (realizing his part). "I most emphatically and decidedly object to it. I am not deficient in common-sense."

THE REHEARSAL.
FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP GAME OF THE HOGAN'S ALLEY BASEBALL TEAM.
Characteristics of Yellow Journalism

- Frequent use of multi-column headlines
- Generous use of illustrations
- Bold layouts, “typographically assertive”
- Self-promotion
- Activist ethos, social crusades
- Reliance on anonymous sources