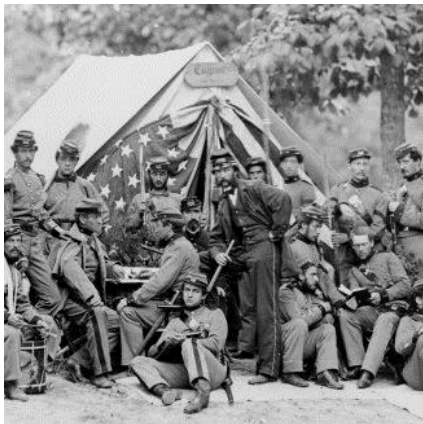




Pocket pharmaceutical kit containing vials including quinine, calomel, and tannic acid. Unknown manufacturer, circa mid-19th century (M-660 00010) (NCP 3911)

HOT TIME IN THE OLD TOWN TONIGHT:

STDS IN CIVIL WAR NASHVILLE



Nashville had major troop concentration and logistics areas during the US Civil War--and it had the highest rates of STDs of any city in the US at the time.



NASHVILLE TODAY



Tourists roaming wild on Nashville's Broadway...

NASHVILLE DURING CIVIL WAR



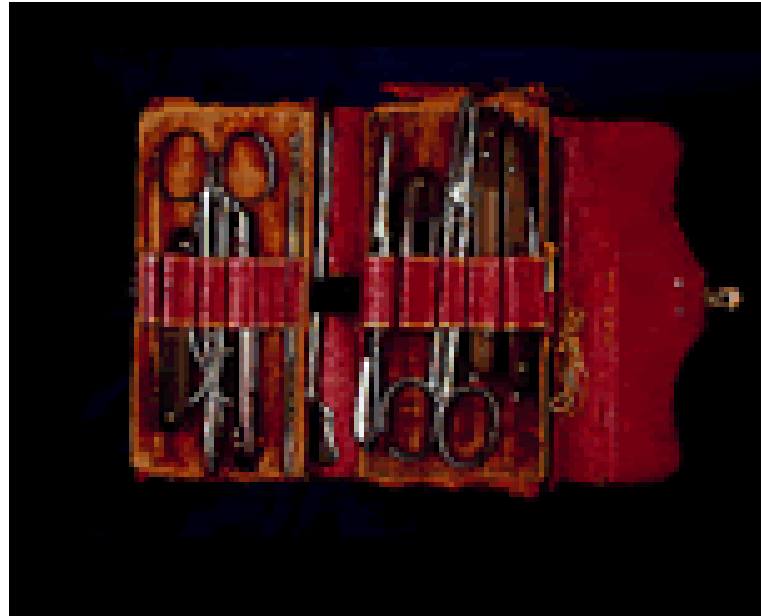
Union troops in Nashville... obviously new to the war effort, since their uniforms are so nice. It also shows the confusion at the **early** part of the war— Union troops often wore gray (as did the Confederate soldiers)!

HOSPITALS IN CIVIL WAR



This is a Union hospital.

CIVIL WAR SURGEON'S TOOLS



The United States Army
Regimental pocket surgical
kit used by Dr. Mary Walker.
Horatio G. Kern, circa 1864
(M-151 00361).

Dr. Mary Walker was the only known female Union Army doctor.

CIVIL WAR DOCTOR'S POCKET PHARMACY

Doctors
would carry
these in their
pockets.



Pocket pharmaceutical kit
containing vials including
quinine, calomel, and tannic
acid. Unknown
manufacturer, circa mid-19th
century (M-660 00010)
(NCP 3911)

STD STATISTICS IN CIVIL WAR

	General Total.	Army Zone.			Interior.		
		Total.	Gonorrhœa.	Syphilis.	Total.	Gonorrhœa.	Syphilis.
Legitimate wives (to their hus- bands) .	12	1	1	—	11	7	4
Married women (townswomen and farmers' wives) .	43	31	24	7	12	7	5
Work-women .	24	14	8	6	10	5	5
Servants and cooks .	13	5	3	2	8	5	3
Farm-girls, or girls met on farms .	17	15	8	7	2	2	—
Waitresses .	33	12	7	5	21	6	15
Landladies .	78	17	10	7	61	40	21
Professionals, either licensed or clandestine	71	18	14	4	53	40	13
Total .	291	113	75	38	178	112	66

The Union Army, in an ineffectual attempt to control STDs, began trying to collect information on certain “ladies” and troops who caught what they had to share.

WATCHING THE BATTLE OF NASHVILLE

Here assorted civilians watch the Battle of Nashville, which occurred on Dec. 15-16, 1864. The photograph took some time to take, and if you moved, you blurred (man with hat on left of photo).



TN CAPITAL BLDG, CIVIL WAR



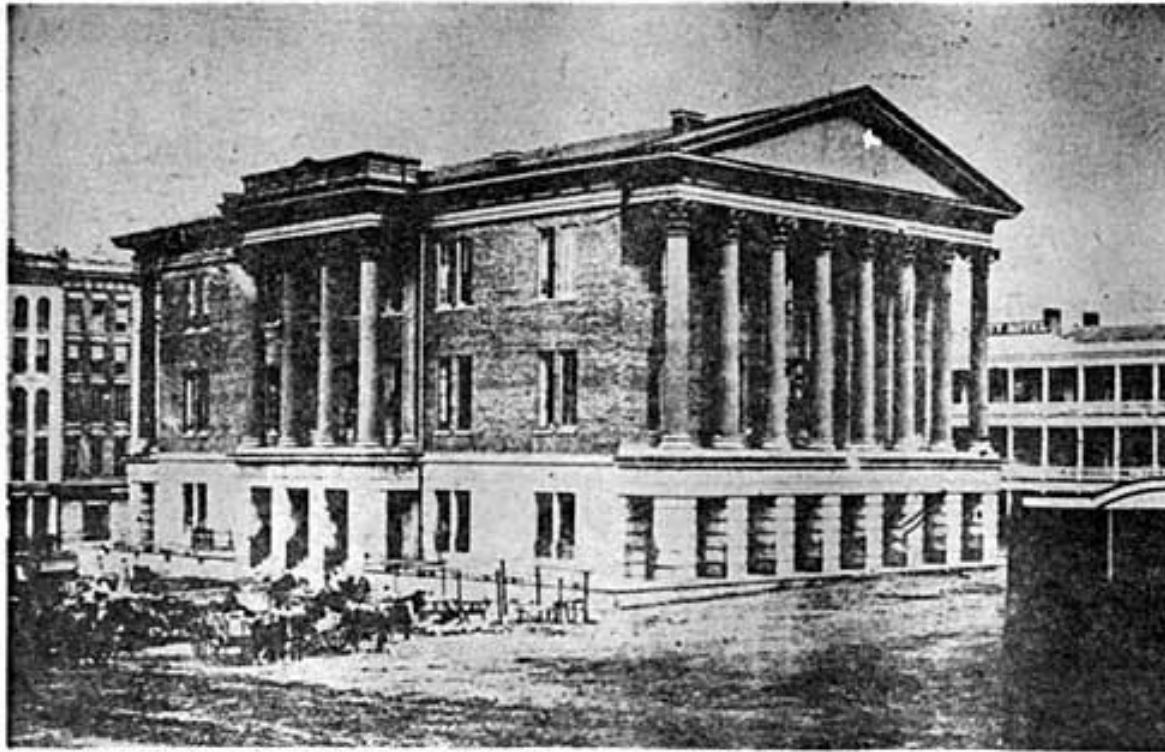
This is the State Capital building in 1862, as the Union Army began building up its fortifications. Union troops camped around the grounds of the building and even inside it.

VIEW FROM PORCH, CAPITAL BLDG



Note the Union 6-pounder Napoleon cannon on the “porch” of the State Capital building. These cannon were some of the most common sorts of cannon used during the war, by both sides.

DAVIDSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE



THE DAVIDSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE during the Civil War. Can you see its shattered windowpanes? At the right is the old City Hotel.

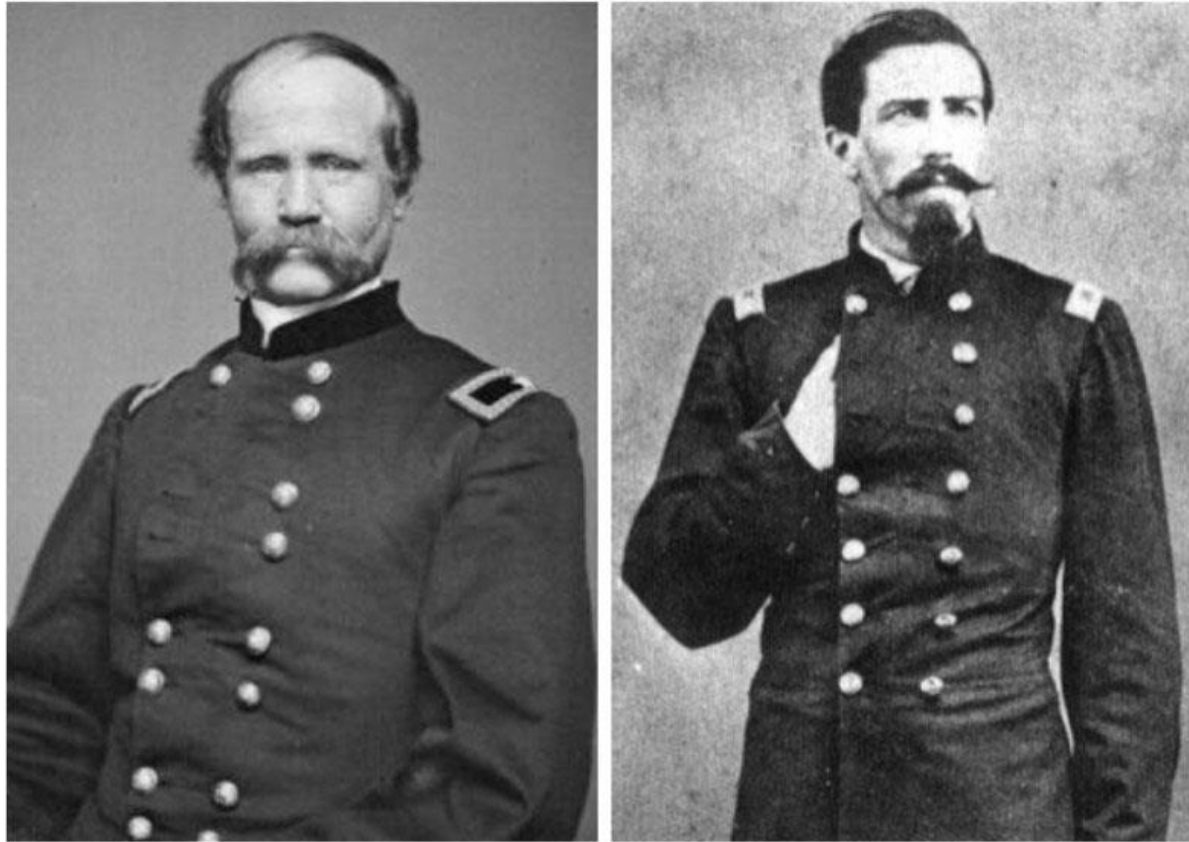
This is the Davidson Co. Courthouse. During the Battle of Nashville, most of the windows—quite expensive at the time—were smashed.

LADIES OF THE NIGHT

The most notorious area for prostitution was in Tennessee. Before the outbreak of the war, Nashville recorded 207 prostitutes; however, in 1863, reports claimed to have at least 1500 prostitutes. The area where these prostitutes could be found was known as Smokey Row.

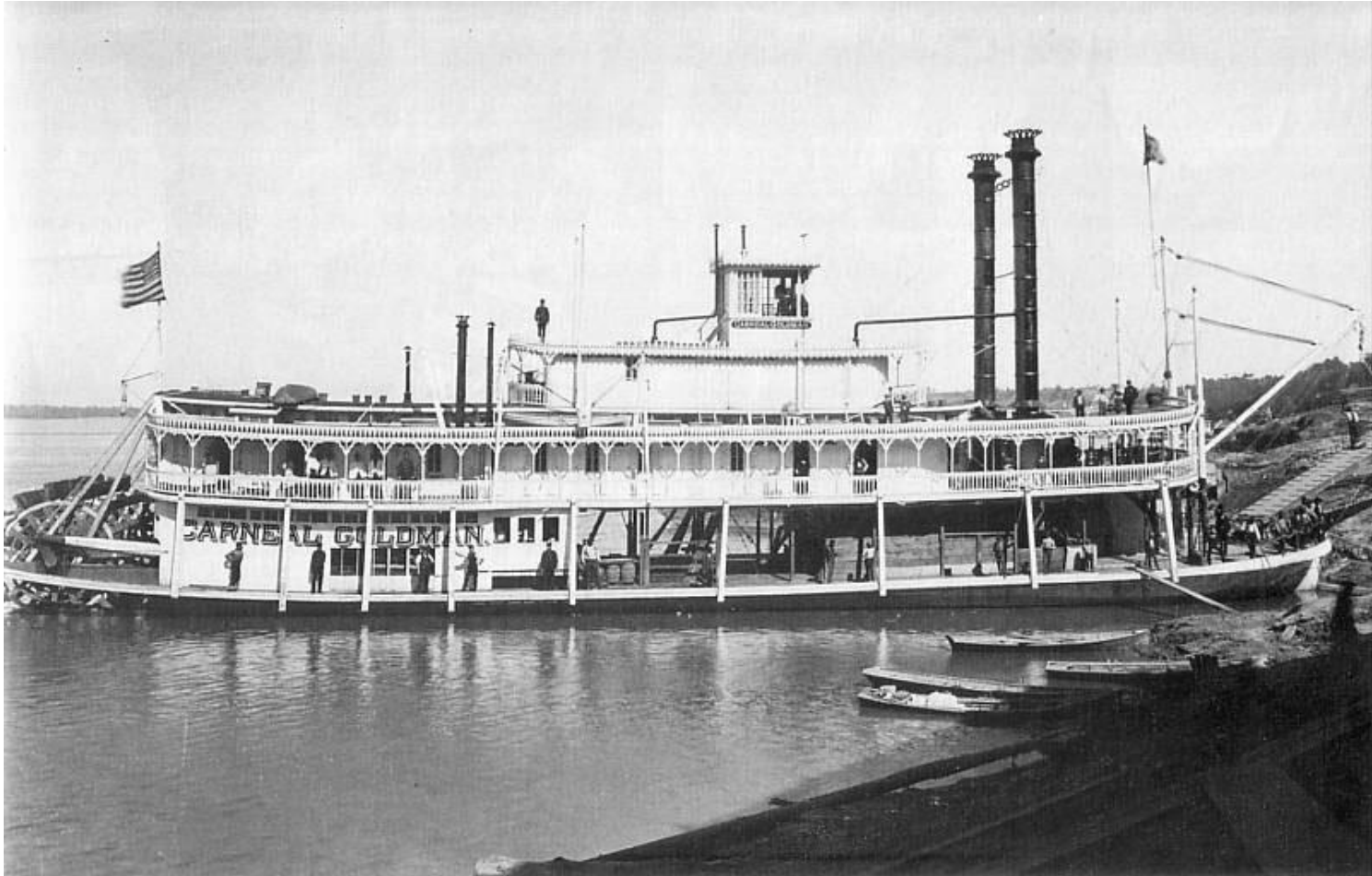
In an infamous campaign to rid the city of the 'public women' Lt. Col. George Spalding loaded the women on to the steamboat Idahoe. The women were sent to Louisville, where they were not allowed off the ship and sent further along to Cincinnati. Many of the women became sick due to lack of food and they were again forced to turn around and return to Nashville.

GRAINGER AND SPALDING



Here's General Grainger (L) and Lieutenant Colonel Spalding (R). Grainger assumed command of Nashville in June 1863. He decided to rid the city of prostitutes and enlisted Lt. Col. George Spalding (18th Michigan Infantry) to do so. The operation began just after the 4th of July, 1863.

STEAMSHIP IDAHOE



The government procured the Steamship Idahoe and stuffed between 40 and 200 women on board, who were just suspected of being prostitutes. They then sent the steamship on an odyssey...

THE ODYSSEY MAKES HEADLINES

July 9, 1863 - "Departure of the Cyprians;" the expatriation of Nashville's prostitutes

Yesterday [8th] a large number of women of ill-fame were embarked upon three or four steamers, and transported northward. The number has been estimated at from one thousand to fourteen hundred—probably five or six hundred would near the mark. Where they are consigned to, we are not advised, but suspect the authorities of the city in which they landed will feel proud of such an acquisition to their population. We hope the commanding officer will issue an order as soon as possible, ordering off all contraband prostitutes—they contribute considerably more toward the demoralization of the army than any equal number of white women, and certainly have no more claims upon our sympathy.

Nashville *Dispatch*, July 9, 1863.

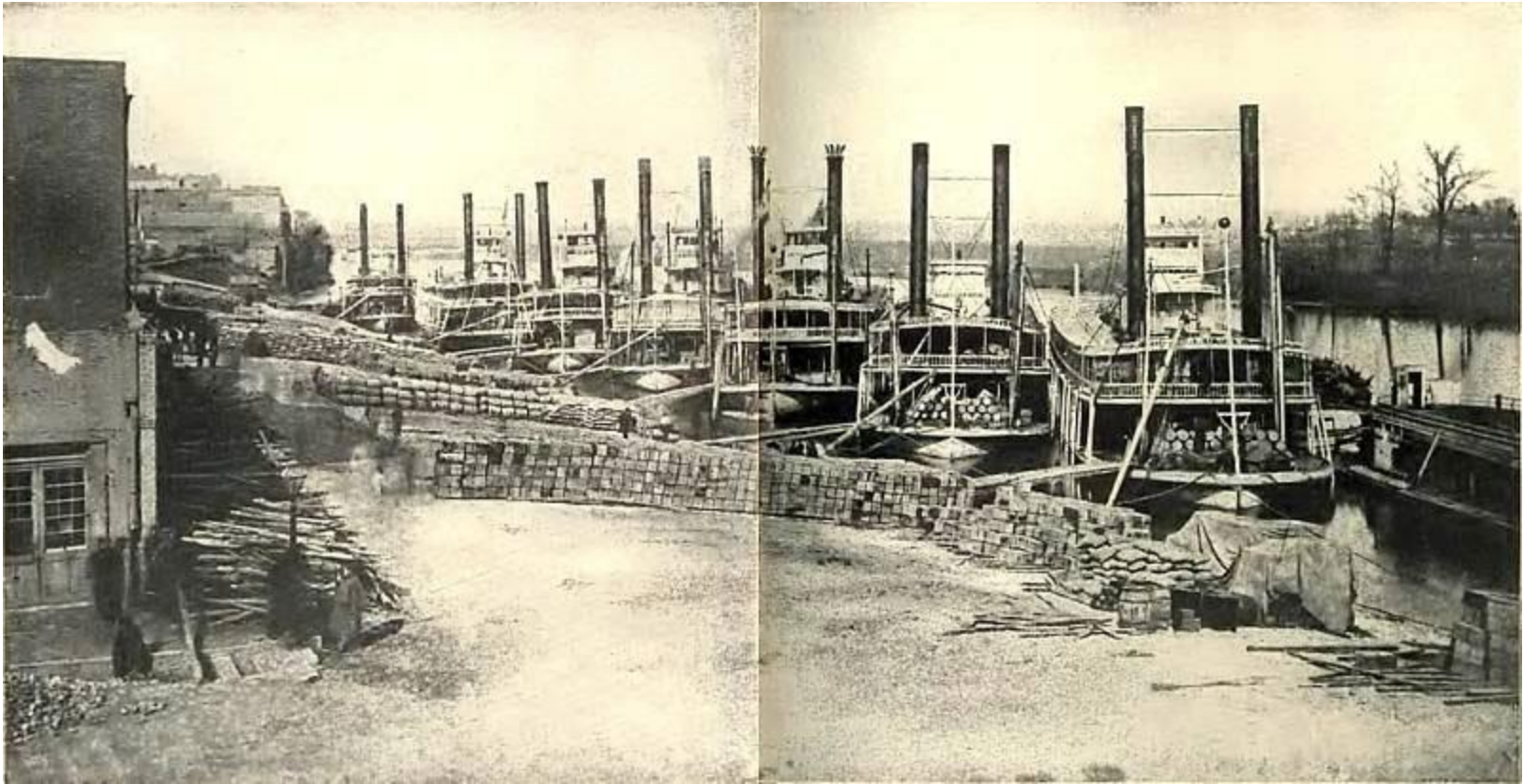


NASHVILLE DOCKS, CIVIL WAR



This is what the dock area—one of the hot spots of prostitution, and where the ladies of the night were loaded onto the *Idahoe*—looked like.

ANOTHER VIEW



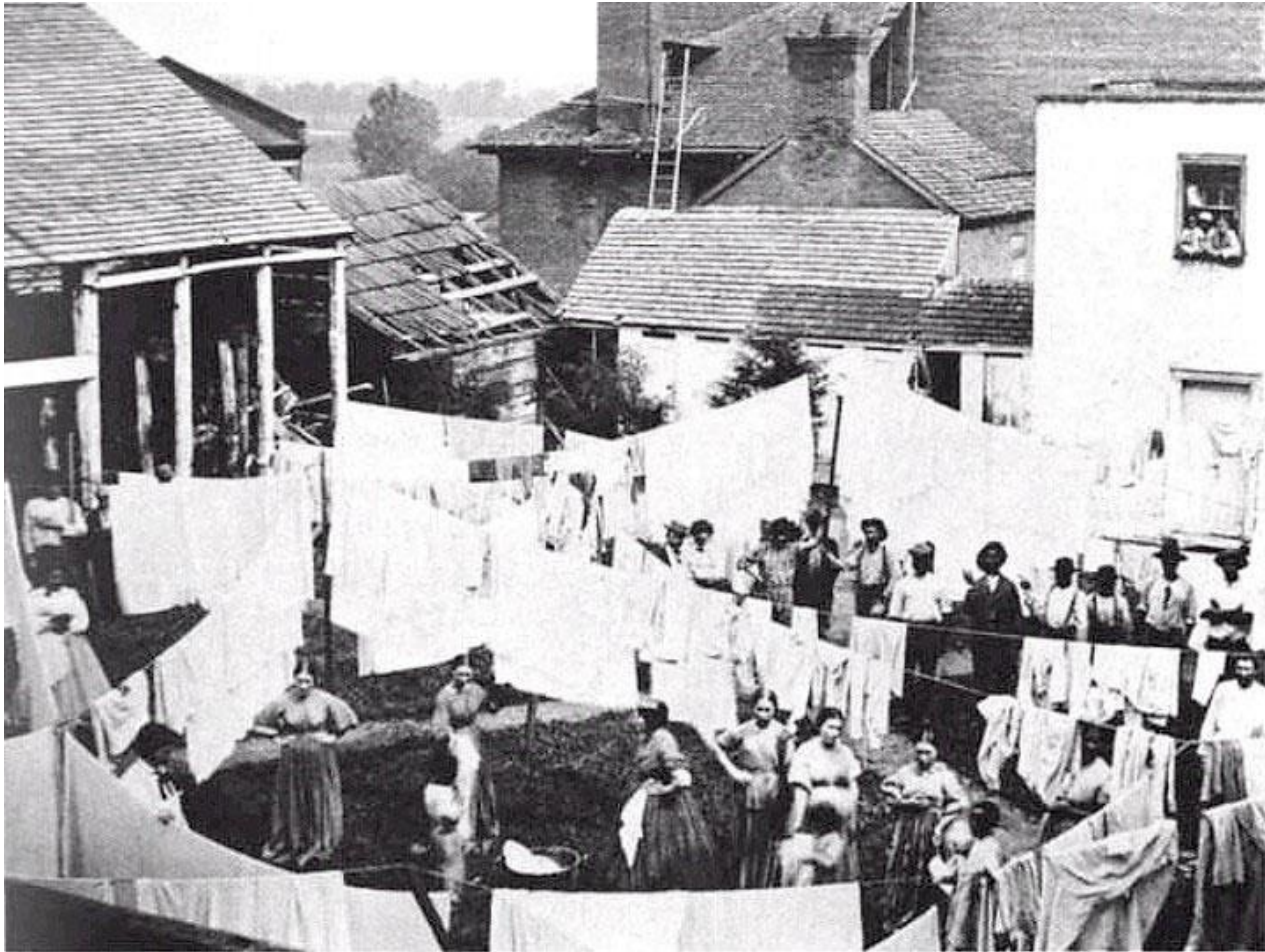
This is another view of the river dock area in Nashville. Nashville was a major transportation hub of the South (the Civil War equivalent of today's LaGuardia or O'Hare Airports).

MAP SHOWING JOURNEY OF STEAMSHIP IDAHOE



The Idahoe traveled from Nashville to almost Cincinnati, OH. By August 4, however, no one would accept their debarkation and they all returned to Nashville. Those ladies who had a “business” went right back to work.

WOMEN'S VD HOSPITAL IN NASHVILLE



This is the women's VD hospital set up by Provost Marshall Spalding and run by Dr. R. Wallace. It was located at 2nd Ave in the mansion of Catholic Bishop Miles. There was also a soldier's hospital located at the corner of 5th and Jo Johnston Aves.

PROSTITUTE'S WORKING PAPERS FROM NASHVILLE DURING CIVIL WAR

In desperation, the Union Army instituted free medical care for prostitutes who would pay a \$5 fee to register as a working woman... and then get free medical care when (not if) she contracted a disease. Any woman who was caught prostituting and didn't have this certificate was placed in the County Workhouse for 30 days.

PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE,

NASHVILLE, TENN., _____, 1863.

Provost Orders, No. 21:

All Public Women in the City of Nashville are hereby ordered to report at the Provost Marshal's Office before the 20th day of August, 1863.

On presentation of Surgeon's Certificate and payment of Five Dollars [\$5:00] they will receive License for the practice of their profession.

All such Women found doing business after the 20th day of August, inst. without such Certificate and License, will be arrested and incarcerated in the Work House for a period not less than Thirty Days.

By command of

Brig. Gen. R. S. GRANGER.

GEO. SPAULDING, Lieut. Col. and Provost Marshal.

No. 269

Office of Provost Marshal,

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,

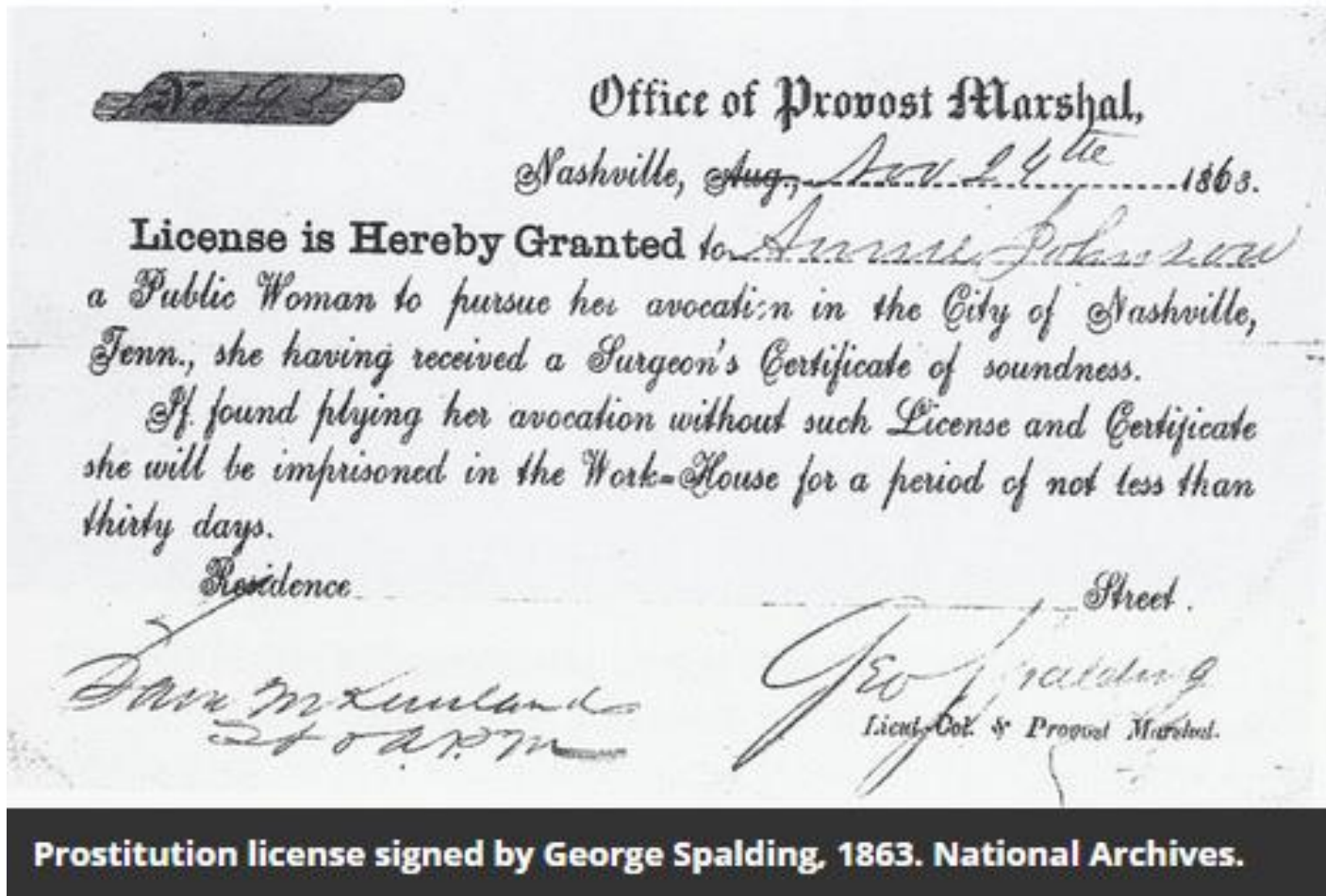
Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 20, 1863

I Certify that I have made a personal examination of _____,
and find her free from contagious venereal diseases.

Brig. G. Depot.

H. H. Chandler
Surgeon U. S. Vols.

PROSTITUTE'S WORKING PAPERS FROM NASHVILLE DURING CIVIL WAR



STDS IN NASHVILLE DURING CIVIL WAR: BASIC NUMBERS

- War lasted from April 15, 1861 to June 30, 1865
- Average strength of Union Army during war: 806,755
- Ttl deaths: 359,528
- KIA (killed in action): 67,058
- DOW (died of wounds): 43,012
- Disease deaths: **224,586**
- Death from accidents: 24,877
- Discharged for medical reasons: 250,000
- Deserted: 200,000
- Death rates in US (regular) Army: 32/1000 per yr
- Death rates in US (volunteer) Army: 55/1000 per yr
- Death rates in US (Black troops) Army (segregated): 133/1000 per yr
- Death rates for US wounded: 14.6/1000 per yr
- Ttl cases seen by US Army doctors: 6,000,000
- Number of those cases that died: 200,000 (3.4 %)
- **2X as many men died from disease as from battle injuries**

“FLOATING WHORE HOUSE” OR, “ALWAYS BILL THE GOVERNMENT”

The statement of John M. Newcomb seeking reimbursement for damages sustained to the steamship Idahoe in July relative to damages to the "floating whore house."

Washington D. C.

August 16, 1865

Hon. E. M. Stanton

Secy. of War

Sir:

I must respectfully beg leave to draw your attention to the following statement of facts in relation to my claim for subsisting 111 prostitutes from Nashville, Tenn., to Cincinnati, Ohio, and back to Nashville, on board my steamer "Idahoe."

On the 8th of July 1863, while my boat was under charter by U. S. and in service at Nashville these prostitutes were put on board of her by a detachment of soldiers who were ordered to do so by Lt. Col. Spaulding, pro.[vost] mar.[shal] gen. [eral] and Capt. Stubbs, asst. quartermaster who were acting under orders of Gen. Morgan. I protested against their putting these women on my boat. She being a new boat, only three months built, her furniture new, and a fine passenger boat.

I told them it would forever ruin her reputation as a passenger boat if they were put upon her. (It has done so. She is not and has since been known as the floating whore house) and pointed out to them old boats that were in the service at the time which would have answered the purpose as well as mine, but no, they said I must take them. Being in the employ of the govt. and the control of Capt. Stubbs the quartermaster, I was compelled to keep them on my boat. On the same day that they were put on board I was ordered to start with them to Louisville.

“FLOATING WHORE HOUSE”

I asked Capt. Stubbs how these women were to be subsisted & he told me I would have to see Gen. Morgan about that. I saw Gen. Morgan and he told me to subsist them myself. I entreated of him to let the gov't subsist them, that it could do much less than I could. His reply was, "you subsist them." When I found Gen. Morgan determined that I should subsist them, I had to buy meat and vegetables at enormous high prices from storeboats along the river, and in addition at many places to buy ice and medicines, these women being diseased and more than one half of them sick in bed. I applied to other commissary's of sub. along the route, for commissary stores, to feed these women; but at each place was refused by the officer in charge, and the civil as well as the military authorities would not allow my boat to land, and put guards along the shore to prevent me from doing so. When leaving Nashville I applied for a guard to be put on board. Gen. Morgan told me I did not need any, but to take charge of them myself. Having no guard I could not keep men along the route from coming on board to these women, when at anchor, and being angered because I strove to drive them away both themselves and these bad women destroyed and damaged my boat and her furniture to a great extent.

When I arrived at Louisville I stated my grievances to Gen. Boyle and he gave me a guard and ordered me to proceed to Cincinnati and await further orders there. I remained in the stream opposite Cincinnati because I would not be allowed to land for thirteen days, when I was ordered to Nashville again with my cargo of prostitutes. I wish to say to your honor that I was compelled to subsist these women, that it cost me all that I have made a charge for to do so, that the claim is merely a reimbursement of my money which I had to expend while complying with the orders of the officers of the United States government; that I could not have this money he returned me at the place where I was ordered to perform this service because officers who ordered me would not direct a settlement of my account to be made.

“FLOATING WHORE HOUSE”

I had to leave my business and travel from Cincinnati to this place to see if I could collect it-it being over two years due me. I am here now one week going from one office to another, to see to get my papers, and to effect a settlement, which I have not yet done, unless your honor will please direct payment of this account so justly due me, and for a long time. The enclosed order from the officers directing me to perform this duty are herewith respectfully submitted for your consideration.

Very respectfully,

Your Obt. Sert.

John M. Newcomb

Statement of John M. Newcomb.

(Note: Newcomb was reimbursed in full in October 1865.)

“FLOATING WHORE HOUSE”

Captain Newcomb spent the next 2 years trying to get reimbursed, meeting with military officials and eventually pleading his case in Washington. Finally, on October 19, 1865, he received payment of \$5316.04. This was the amount he'd been asking for from the beginning for damages, new furniture, fuel, food and medicines purchased, etc.

He had a long career on the river, but never shook off the reputation as the "captain of the floating whorehouse".

He sold the *Idahoe* a few years later. In 1869 she was lost in the Washita River, cause unknown.

Two months later, Captain Newcomb received a letter from L. S. Bradenbury, clerk in the Treasury Department, Third Auditors Office. Without apology or comment, the clerk enclosed a draft for \$1,000 “for damages to the staterooms, furniture, bedding, cabin furniture, tableware, etc.” and a draft for \$4,316 “for subsistence and medicines furnished to 111 prostitutes on board the steamboat *Idahoe* . . . at the rate of \$1.50 per day for each.”¹¹

By the time Captain Newcomb received his money, he had long since sold his interest in the *Idahoe* and she had steamed south to be based at New Orleans under new owners. The *Idahoe* was wrecked and lost on January 10, 1869, on the Ouachita River near Columbia, Louisiana.¹²

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