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Mariners' Museum opens exhibition of Civil War photography

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. – A new exhibition at The Mariners' Museum offers more than 120 images that helped lay the reality of the Civil War at the doorsteps of the American public.

Between the States: Photographs of the American Civil War from the George Eastman Collection is at The Mariners' Museum from March 1 – April 27, 2014, and presents photographs of Civil War battlefields, fortress interiors, prisons and portraits by iconic photographers including George Barnard, Mathew Brady and Alexander Gardner.

More than 620,000 Americans died in the Civil War, the largest number of fatalities for American soldiers in any war. Photography played a key role in bringing the sobering reality of the Civil War to the public. For the first time, publishers could reproduce images of war in mass quantities and present them to American readers. Popular journals such as *Harper's Weekly* and *Humphrey's Journal* were filled with images showing the destruction of cities and the aftermath of battles.

In 1862, *The New York Times* opined of Mathew Brady's work: "If Brady has not brought bodies and laid them in our door-yards and along the streets, he has done something very like it."

Some of the images are rarely seen, and held only in the George Eastman House collection.

The traveling exhibition includes sections on Gardner's Sketchbook, Brady's Album Gallery, Civil War Personalities, Portraits of Soldiers, The CSS *Alabama* and The Lincoln Conspiracy. It includes portraits of numerous soldiers, and also Civil War-era figures such as Abraham Lincoln, General Ulysses S. Grant, Jefferson Davis, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglas and Susan B. Anthony.

The exhibition is included in the price of regular Museum admission, and will be open for the March 7-9 Battle of Hampton Roads Weekend. The weekend marks the 152nd anniversary of the first meeting of ironclad ships in battle and includes presentations by noted Civil War historians, family programs, Civil War-era interpreters and ticketed food-tasting event, History Bites. A full slate of weekend programming is available at BattleofHamptonRoads.com.

The Mariners' Museum, an educational, non-profit institution accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, preserves and interprets maritime history through an international collection of ship models, figureheads, paintings and other maritime artifacts. It is home to the USS *Monitor* Center. For hours and information, visit MarinersMuseum.org, call (757) 596-2222 or write to The Mariners' Museum, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.