

Jennifer Raab reads from 'Relics of War: The History of a Photograph'

This is a book about a single photograph. *Relics of Andersonville Prison* pictures an altar-like arrangement of objects collected by Clara Barton from the notorious Confederate Civil War prison camp in Georgia.

This is a book about a single photograph, not merely as a two-dimensional picture or a sliver of time captured by a camera, and not merely as a portrayal of strange objects set atop crumpled paper, but as a variously produced and reproduced image that circulated in the world through different hands and among different audiences, that responded to national events, that reflected societal prejudices and made political claims, and that was shaped by the material culture of religion. The pages ahead move from prisoner of war camp to parlor, battlefield to philanthropic fair, cemetery to courtroom.

While we are now so accustomed to seeing images of dead bodies, that was not the case in 1861, when the Civil War began. The appearance of photographs of lifeless corpses during the war, and how a photograph of relic objects responded to and re-envisioned such images immediately following the war is where the story begins.