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Today in History - June 3

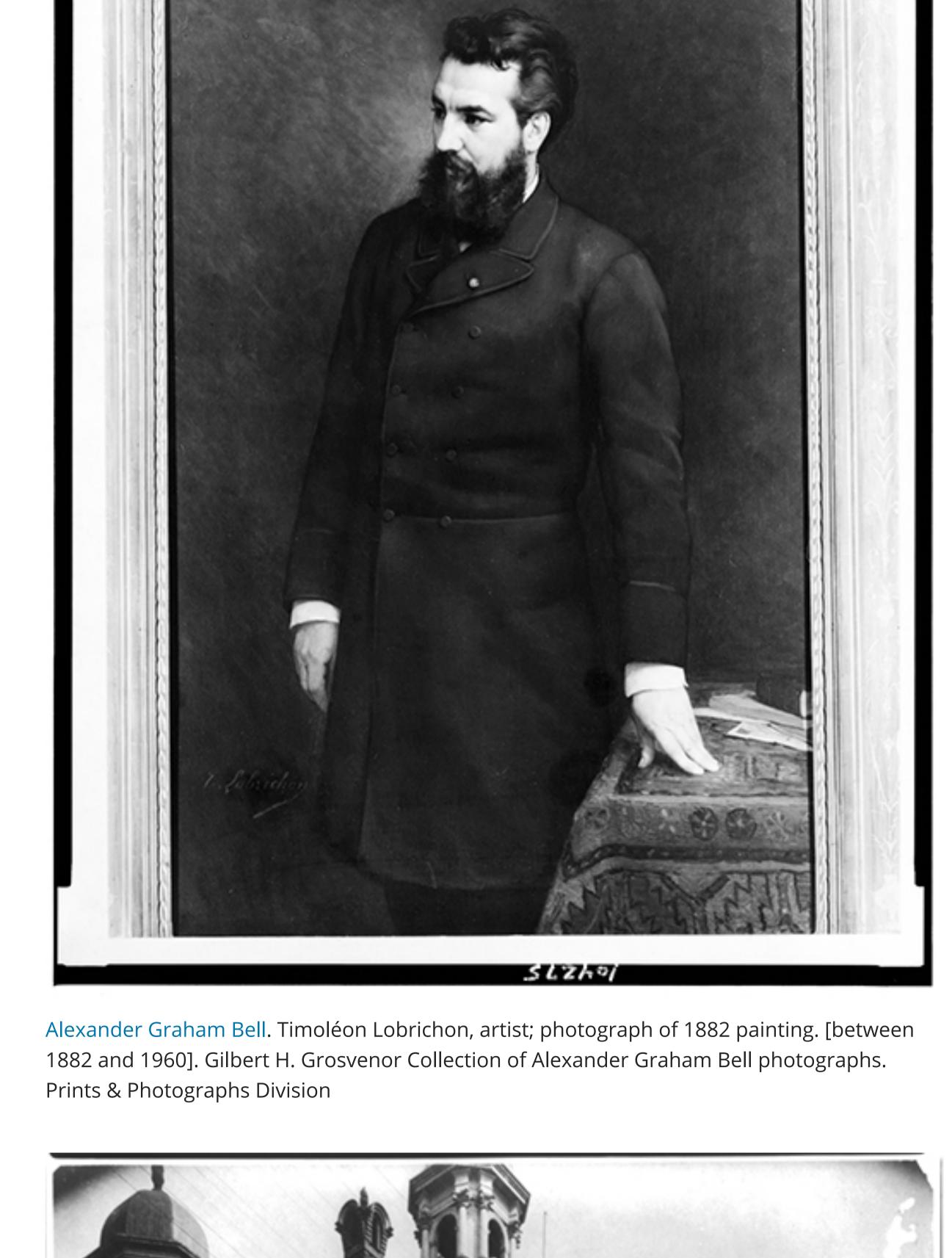
Select date June 03 Go Today's Stories: **Bell's Photophone Battle of Cold Harbor**

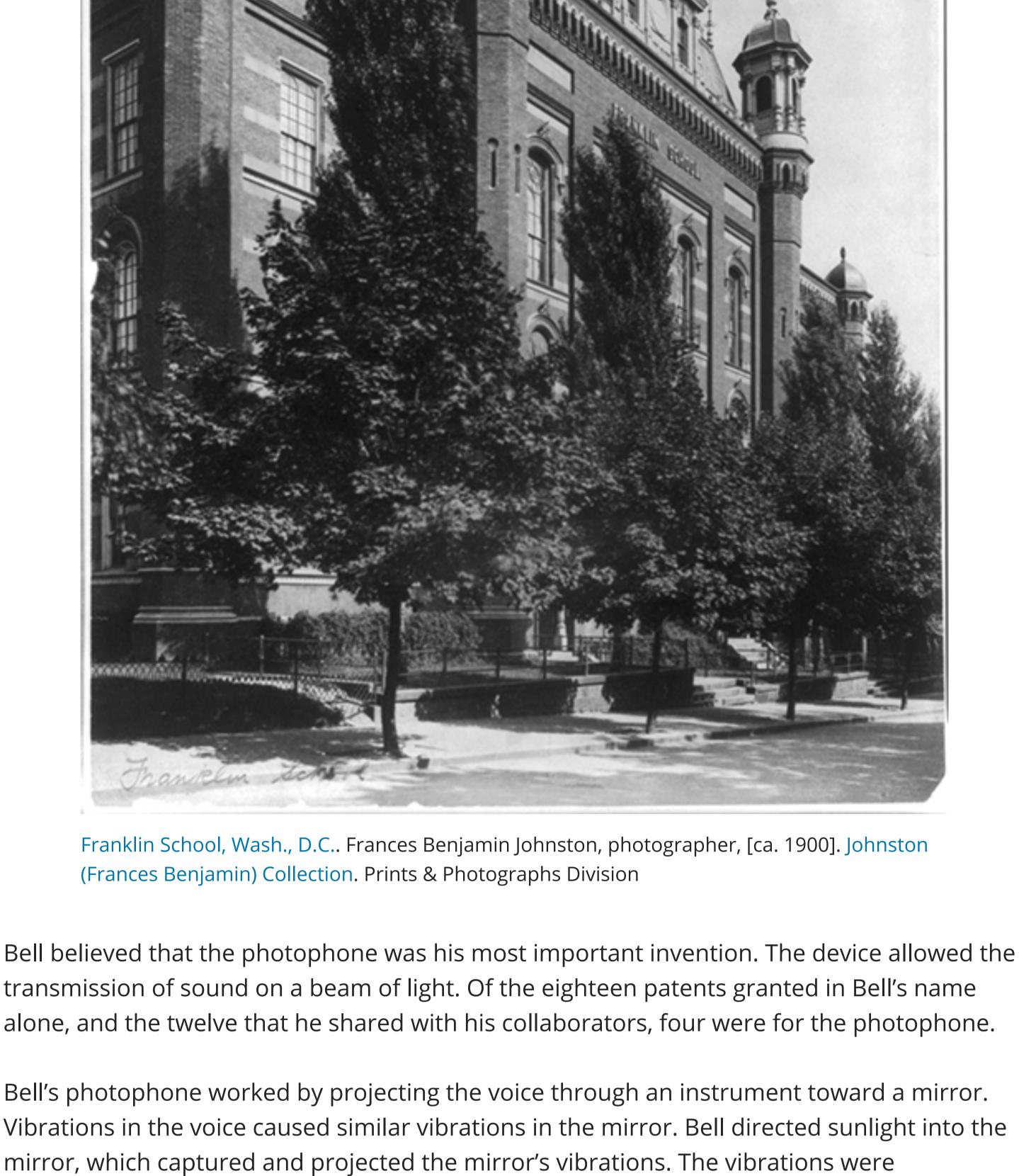
June 3

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On **June 3**, 1880, Alexander Graham Bell transmitted the first wireless telephone message on his newly invented photophone from the top of the Franklin School in Washington, D.C.





functioned similarly to the telephone, except that the photophone used light as a means of projecting the information and the telephone relied on electricity.

Although the photophone was an extremely important invention, it was many years before

the significance of Bell's work was fully recognized. Bell's original photophone failed to

protect transmissions from outside interferences—such as clouds, that easily disrupted

transformed back into sound at the receiving end of the projection. The photophone

of light inhibited use of Bell's invention. Bell's photophone is recognized as the progenitor of modern fiber optics. **Learn More**

• The Alexander Graham Bell Family Papers contain correspondence, scientific

series of papers or search on terms of special interest.

Bell's family life and work is extensively documented.

founder and first president.

Battle of Cold Harbor

notebooks, journals, blueprints, speeches, and photographs documenting Bell's

invention of the telephone and his involvement in the first telephone company, his

family life, his interest in the education of the deaf, and his aeronautical and other

of the Collection Highlights. To dig deeper into the collection, browse the different

scientific research. Use the Timeline to learn more about the inventor or peruse some

transport. Until the development of modern fiber optics, technology for the secure transport

• Follow the excitement of new developments in science and technology through articles found in the Library's database of historic American newspapers, Chronicling America. Invention of the Telephone: Topics in Chronicling America highlights important dates and sample articles related to Bell's invention. • The collection Making of America contains numerous articles about Alexander Graham Bell. News of his most recent inventions was certain to be documented in the

scientific and technical literature of the time such as Manufacturer and Builder.

• The Library's pictorial collections contain over one million images; Alexander Graham

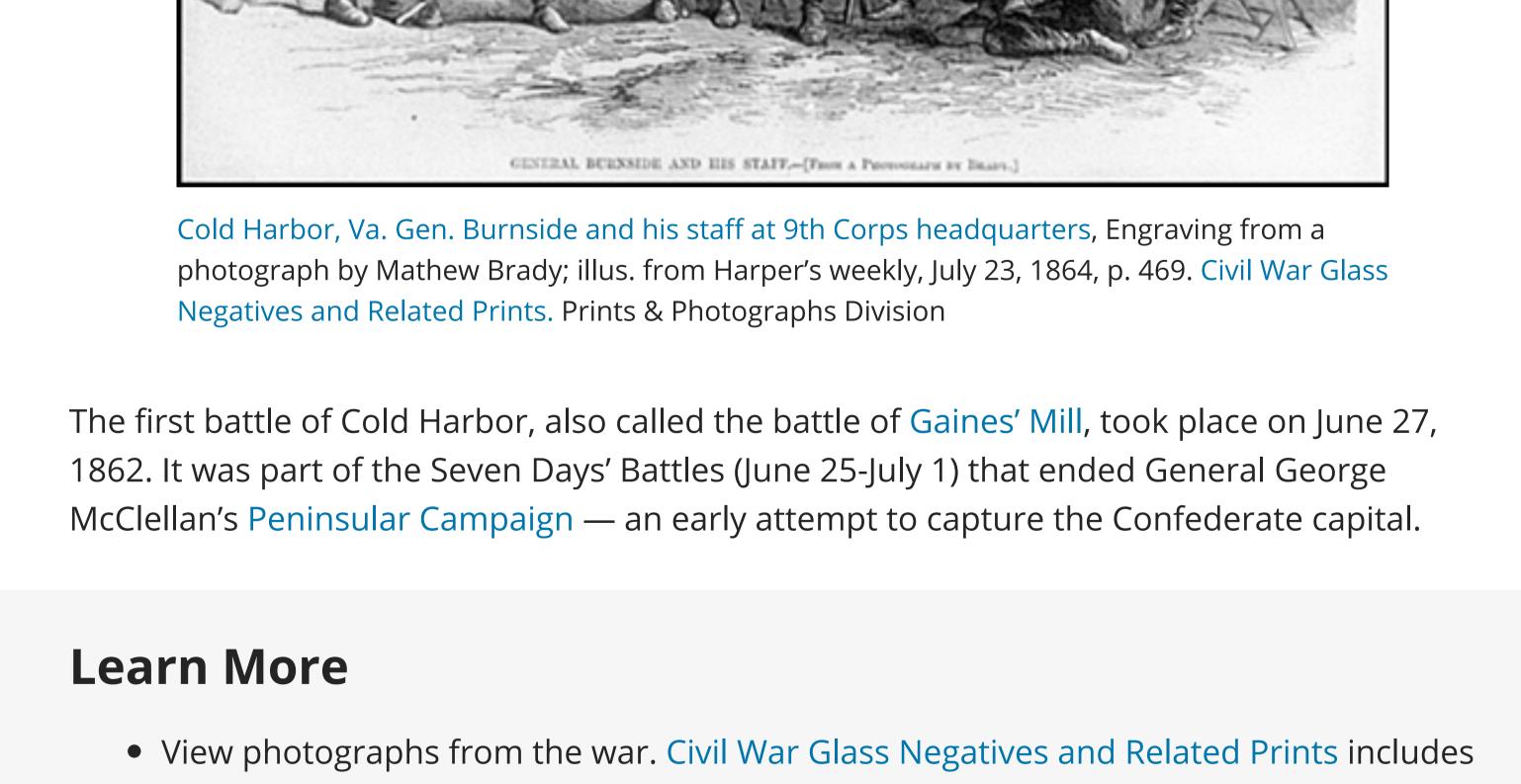
• Learn more about the inventor. A biography of Bell is featured on the March 10 Today

• Search Today in History on the keywords *inventor* or *invention* to find more portraits of

creative Americans including Samuel F. B. Morse, Elias Howe, and Henry Ford.

in History. Also, see the feature on the National Geographic Society of which Bell was a

- On **June 3**, 1864, the second battle of Cold Harbor began. After securing a costly victory at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, Union General Ulysses S. Grant encountered Confederate troops as he made his way to Richmond. The Confederates, under command of General Robert E. Lee, were entrenched behind earthworks at Cold Harbor, a crossroads ten
- miles northeast of the Confederate capital. Over the course of the next nine days, the Union lost 7,000 men while the Confederates suffered 1,500 casualties. Grant moved on toward Petersburg and began the last major siege of the war. Confederate forces finally abandoned Petersburg and Richmond on April 2, 1865.



Search Military Battles and Campaigns in the Map Collections on keywords such as

• A selection of items from the Library's collection of Ulysses S. Grant Papers is now

available online. View the Timeline for a chronology of key events in Grant's life.

• Additional collections with materials related to the Civil War cover an array of formats:

Petersburg, Richmond, and Cold Harbor for dozens of maps of these battles.

Alexander Hamilton Stephens Papers Confederate States of America Records

Civil War Maps

• Read eyewitness accounts of the Civil War. First-Person Narratives of the American South, 1860-1920 🗹 documents the culture of the nineteenth-century American South from the viewpoint of Southerners. Search the collection on *Civil War* to read books

locate features highlighting:

such as A Boy's Experience in the Civil War, 1860-1865. • For additional information about the Civil War, search Today in History on *Civil War* to

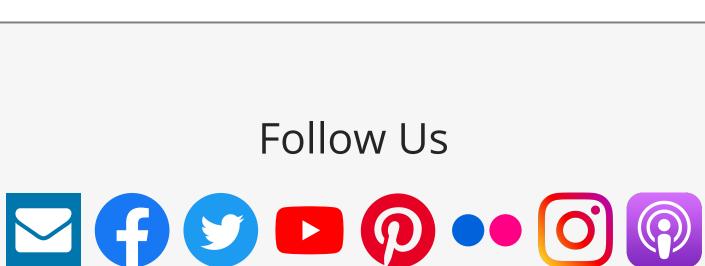
several photographs of Cold Harbor, Virginia.

Civil War Sheet Music Collection

Band Music from the Civil War Era

- General Lee's evacuation of Richmond; Military engagements at Bull Run, Gettysburg, Nashville, and Antietam; and
- Jackson as well as Civil War era events including Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and the execution of Andersonville Prison's Henry Wirz. • Consult Primary Documents in American History: Civil War and Reconstruction, 1860-

Other key figures from the Civil War era such as Jefferson Davis and Stonewall



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