The camera was an object that had a profound impact on the war by showing people what the effects truly were. While the camera itself wasn’t invented during this time period, an important innovation in technology was the ambrotype. An ambrotype was a glass plate that used silver iodide in order to imprint a picture on it. This allowed photos to be mass produced during the era, including the pictures in Mathew Brady’s original gallery. Camera equipment was very expensive however, which is why professional photographers did most photographing. A camera in 1861 cost $30, which when converted in today’s dollars is equivalent to $864.97. Since the average monthly wage of a farm worker was $12 a month it would take three months pay to buy a camera, compared to now when a disposable camera is only $16.