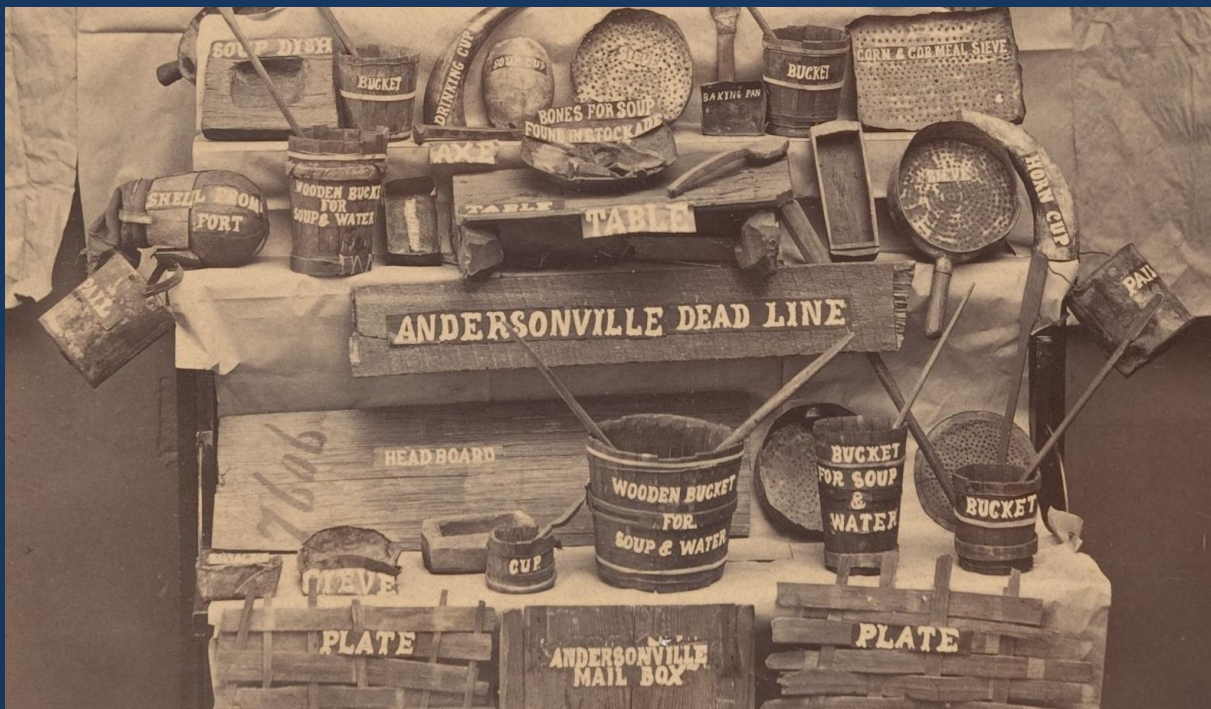


Department of Art History, University of Delaware
Graduate Student Lecture Series

Jennifer Raab

Associate Professor, Department of the History of Art, Yale

"The Photographic Relic"



Wednesday, March 14 at 5:30 p.m.

Relics of Andersonville Prison (1866), a photograph widely circulated by Mathew Brady's studio, presents a strange, altar-like arrangement of whittled wooden spoons, crude baking dishes, artillery shells, and soup bones, all collected by Clara Barton from the notorious Confederate prison camp immediately after the Civil War. This image of relics allows for a transformation by which pain is detached from the original site—the human body—and signified by inanimate objects that retain a physical link to the past. The talk asks how the photograph itself might function as a relic, what the material and ontological significance of such a characterization could be, and how the relic as object and as photographic image provided a historically-specific means to contend with the pressing questions of finding, naming, and burying the dead of the American Civil War.

127 Memorial Hall