

“Sheridan’s Ride”

Battle of Cedar Creek

Date: 1886

Media: Chromolithograph on paper.

Comment: This striking print of an artist’s imagined image of Major General Philip Sheridan galloping along lines of Union troops to rally them carrying his personal battle flag. Entitled “Sheridan’s Ride,” it is a reference to Sheridan’s heroic ride along his battle line to rally the troops, with his battle flag ZFC2576, before his counter attack at the Battle of Cedar Creek, 19 October 1864.

These events became an American Civil War legend, an epic poem by Thomas Buchanan Read, and ultimately an iconic image as envisioned by the Swedish born, historical military artist, Thulstrup de Thures, acclaimed by his contemporaries as “the foremost military artist in America.”

The image was printed for distribution by the renowned publisher Louis Prang, and it clearly shows, General Sheridan’s Personal Guidon (See ZFC2576) being used to turn the tide of battle. It was published towards the end of the 19th Century as Prang & Co. responded to a nostalgic revival of interest in the Civil War by printing depictions of famous battles and events, often favoring images of those historical figures and famous personages like General Sheridan.

Patriotic chromolithographic prints like this were a common feature in American parlors, classrooms, and public spaces at the end of the 19th century.

Provenance: Acquired at auction by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0311) in 1996 from Cowan’s Auctions, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio. www.FlagCollection.com