surrounded by Union forces in summer 1863, the town of Vicksburg, Miss., managed to print a newspaper despite a severe shortage of paper — but it was reduced to printing on the back of wallpaper. Still, *The Daily Citizen* continued to brag of the Confederate Army’s exploits up North with its accounts of the “gallant corps of Gen. Lee in Virginia” and their “brilliant victories.”

Another article in that July 2 edition ridiculed General Grant’s reported desire for a Fourth of July dinner in Vicksburg. “Ulysses must get into the city before he dines in it,” baited the author. “The way to cook the rabbit is ‘first catch the rabbit.’”

Writers. Their words often come back to haunt them.

The Fourth of July marked the end of independence for Vicksburg as it surrendered to Grant that day. According to Library of Congress records, Union troops discovered *The Daily Citizen* for July 2 still on press, its publisher having fled.

The soldiers completed the job, adding a mocking addendum (right). Their message was self-fulfilling, as the artifact is listed as an American Treasure of the Library of Congress. The paper, in fact, gained fame in its own day and was reprinted an estimated 30 times. One of the reprints was printed on the back of wallpaper that originated in Rochester, Pa., and now resides in the History Center’s Library & Archives (top).

The Library & Archives collects materials that were produced or used locally. The L&A is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., or visit http://digital.library.pitt.edu/hswp to search the L&A catalog.