

## Station 1: The Extermination of Buffalo

Document 1: Cover of Harper's Weekly, December 12, 1874

# HARPER'S WEEKLY.

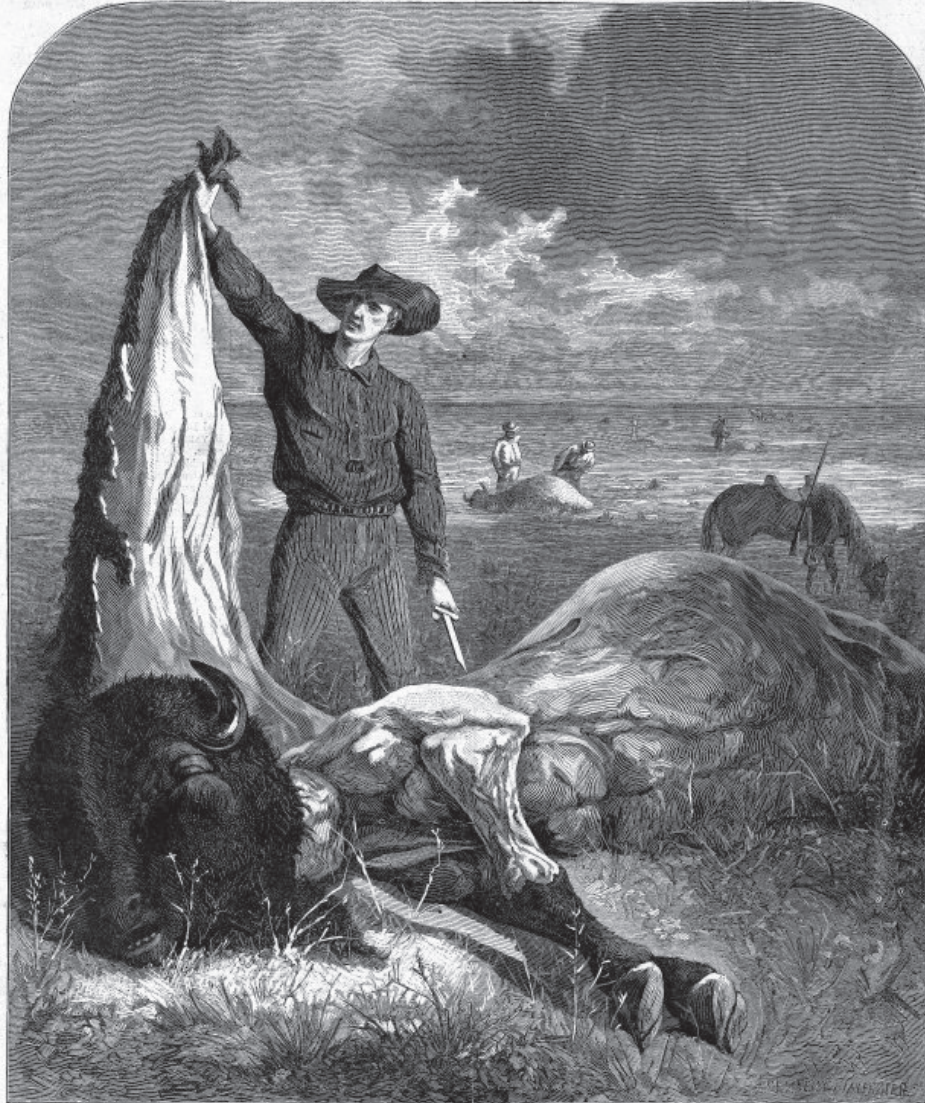
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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1874.

[WITH A SUPPLEMENT.  
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SLAUGHTERED FOR THE HIDE.—[SEE PAGE 1022.]

## THE BUFFALO SKINNERS

COME all you jolly fellows and listen to my  
song,  
There are not many verses, it will not detain you  
long;  
It's concerning some young fellows who did agree  
to go  
And spend one summer pleasantly on the range of the  
buffalo.

It happened in Jacksboro in the spring of seventy-  
three,  
A man by the name of Crego came stepping up to  
me,  
Saying, "How do you do, young fellow, and how  
would you like to go  
And spend one summer pleasantly on the range of  
the buffalo?"

"It's me being out of employment," this to Crego  
I did say,  
"This going out on the buffalo range depends upon  
the pay.  
But if you will pay good wages and transportation  
too,  
I think, sir, I will go with you to the range of the  
buffalo."

Document 2: "The Buffalo Skinners," cont.

*The Buffalo Skinners*

"Yes, I will pay good wages, give transportation  
too,  
Provided you will go with me and stay the summer  
through;  
But if you should grow homesick, come back to  
Jacksboro,  
I won't pay transportation from the range of the  
buffalo."

It's now our outfit was complete — seven able-  
bodied men,  
With navy six and needle gun — our troubles did  
begin;  
Our way it was a pleasant one, the route we had to  
go,  
Until we crossed Pease River on the range of the  
buffalo.

It's now we've crossed Pease River, our troubles  
have begun.  
The first damned tail I went to rip, Christ! how I  
cut my thumb!  
While skinning the damned old stinkers our lives  
wasn't a show,  
For the Indians watched to pick us off while skinning  
the buffalo.

He fed us on such sorry chuck I wished myself most  
dead,  
It was old jerked beef, croton coffee, and sour bread.



Document 2: "The Buffalo Skinners," cont.

*The Buffalo Skinners*

Oh, it's now we've crossed Pease River and home-  
ward we are bound,  
No more in that hell-fired country shall ever we be  
found.  
Go home to our wives and sweethearts, tell others  
not to go,  
For God's forsaken the buffalo range and the  
damned old buffalo.



**Discussion Question:** How might the image on the cover of *Harper's Weekly* contrast with the realities of buffalo skinning described in the song "The Buffalo Skinners"?