At one time, stereoscopes and sets of stereo cards could be found in just about every American home. From the 1850s through the era of World War I, the stereoscope allowed people to virtually visit every corner of the world. Today, you might be more familiar with this technology when using a child's viewmaster to look at photos in 3-D. This enduring form of photography has left us with a historic three-dimensional record of bygone eras.

Another Form of 3-D Imagery
Below is one of Gibson's photos altered to create an anaglyph. An anaglyph is produced when two different color layers, usually red and cyan (blue), of an image are superimposed over the left and right views of the stereo pair. When the anaglyph is viewed through colored filter glasses, a stereoscopic 3-D effect is created. The discovery of anaglyphic 3-D first appeared in the 1850s as the result of experiments by Wilhelm Rollmann in Germany. In 1858, Frenchman Joseph D'Almeida began projecting 3-D slide shows using lantern light with red and green filters, while the audience wore red and green goggles.

Use anaglyph glasses to see the USS Monitor in anaglyphic 3-D.
Additional images can be found on the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary website:
http://monitor.noaa.gov

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