



## Howard Pyle

**Title**

The Shell

**Medium**

Oil on canvas

**Date**

1908

**Dimensions**

30 1/4 × 20 in. (76.8 × 50.8 cm)

**Accession number**

2007.11.38

**Credit Line**

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Howard P. Brokaw, 2007

**Web Description**

In his painting The Shell, Howard Pyle depicts the caves dug into a hillside as bomb shelters by families in

Vicksburg, Mississippi, during the city's Civil War siege. The great danger of these cave is described in detail in a first-hand account by William W. Lord, Jr. in "A Child at the Siege of Vicksburg," published in Harper's Monthly in December 1908. Despite the fact that the caves were shelters for non-combatants, errant shells caused collapses of the tunnels carved into the earth. In addition to this painting, the article was also illustrated with photographs, foreshadowing the demise of the use of illustrations in the popular media.