



Not a Quail

Readers questioned the identification of the stuffed bird held by Pvt. John D. Hays of the 62nd Pennsylvania Infantry as a quail (Winter 2015, page 47). Charter subscriber Ken Baumann of Milan, Mich., notes, "I think the bird in question looks more like a passenger pigeon than a quail." Many share Baumann's



Ruffed grouse Passenger pigeon

belief. Others however, support the assessment of Ken Bertholf of Blairstown, N.J.: "This would be a grouse and not a quail—the tail feathers give it away. The grouse is a mountain bird, and maybe has something to do with the 62nd Pennsylvania." After viewing engravings of both birds, *MI*'s opinion is...Ruffed Grouse.

(Ruffed grouse from the Library of Congress; passenger pigeon from the Roy Winkelman collection.)

LOC Images Re-Identified

On Feb. 3, 2015, Karen Chittenden of the Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division announced revisions to the descriptions of three photographs in the Liljenquist Family Collection. Two of the images, both ambrotypes, were donated to the Library, and identified the sitter as Capt. Jesse Sharpe Barnes of the 4th North Carolina Infantry. (Winter 2014, page 15.)

No one questioned the identification—at first.

Meanwhile, Katharina Schlichtherle, of Germany, found the Barnes ambrotypes on the Library's web site. Schlichtherle became hooked on the American Civil War, she noted, "When I was a kid and was allowed to watch the TV show *North & South*. The idea of Americans fighting against Americans was so strange to me that I needed to find out more and turned to books." She went on to get history and English degrees, and now teaches in her home country.

Schlichtherle's interest in the ambrotypes blossomed into an extensive research project about the Barnes family. During the course of her investigations, she discovered that the young officer pictured in the ambrotypes was not Barnes. The likeness of the real Jesse Sharpe Barnes, she learned after finding his portrait in a regimental history, was actually another photograph in the Liljenquist Collection. This pho-

tograph, another ambrotype, had been catalogued only as a South Carolina militiaman.

Additional research determined that the ambrotypes initially identified as Barnes were more likely his cousin, Thomas Alston Martin, who served in the 13th North Carolina Infantry.



Two portraits tentatively re-identified as Thomas Alston Martin, left and center, and Jesse Sharpe Barnes, right

The credit for this tentative identification goes to Schlichtherle and two *MI* contributors: Bryan Watson, who originally acquired the images from a Florida estate, and Greg Mast, a noted authority of North Carolina Confederate images. Mast is the author of *State Troops and Volunteers: A Photographic Record of North Carolina's Civil War Soldiers* (1995). He is currently at work on a companion volume.

The Library's Chittenden described how the re-identification came to pass: "Bryan made the connection to the Barnes family which led to the connection with the Martin family. Then, Katharina found the published photograph in the North Carolina regimental history that provided a visual match to Jesse Sharpe Barnes and did extensive research to verify his identity." Lastly, Chittenden continued, Greg shared his knowledge "to help us understand why a North Carolina soldier would be photographed in a South Carolina uniform." Mast

noted that a number of North Carolinians enlisted in South Carolina military organizations in early 1861, but returned home shortly after North Carolina seceded from the Union.

Schlichtherle summed up her feelings after the Library made the revisions to the three ambrotypes.

"It really means something to me that these young men can be correctly identified."

Militiaman's Palmetto Tree Clue

Subscriber Clayton Hunt of Greenville, S.C., purchased the digital edition of the Summer 2014 issue and offered this observation about the South Carolina dragoon pictured on page 51: "If you zoom in you will notice there is a Palmetto Tree on his helmet insignia which the caption references as a possible dragoon eagle. This photo has been touched up



with gold which was not correct for who it appears to be. This uniform is that of the Richland Light Dragoons of Columbia, S.C. during the 1850's. The ball buttons and helmet insignia are silver on a dark blue dragoon tunic." *MI* Senior Editor Ron Field adds that the braid across his chest was black cord which is visible beneath the silver paint. The colorist applied the paint over the braid, creating the impression that the sitter was an officer.