



Thank You for Sharing

Just wanted to say that the more recent issues have been simply crazy good—many images have simply knocked my block off and I really do appreciate the willingness of collectors to share their historical bounty with the rest of us.

James Jacobsen
Des Moines, Iowa

Credit Where and When It Is Due

Bryan Watson saw the images of the pair of early war volunteers in “Palmetto Faces” (Autumn 2015, page 12) and was surprised to see the credit “Courtesy of Sean Seifer.” In fact, they have been in Bryan’s possession for about 10 years. Ron Field, who researched and wrote the captions, noted, “Sean Seifer at Saving History Antiques, who sold the images to Bryan, provided me with high resolution scans before the



Bryan Watson collection.

sale. I make every effort to acquire scans of important South Carolina images whenever I see them, as sometimes they disappear into obscurity in private collections.” *MI*

recognizes that photographs change hands through sales and trades, and seeks to provide proper credit where and when it is due.

MI Editor

Observation About Barrel Band Leads to New Identification of Musket

I wonder if the South Carolina soldier pictured on page 7 of “Palmetto Faces” (Autumn 2015) might be



Brian Boeve collection.

holding a Model 1842 “Palmetto” contract musket and not a Model 1822 as described in the caption. I base this on the lack of wear on the stock and the brightness of the barrel band, which suggests that the band is made of brass. The Palmetto had brass-mounted furniture.

Phil Spaugy
Vandalia, Ohio

MI: Phil’s observation marked the

start of a detailed email thread that included “Palmetto Faces” author Ron Field and Dan Binder, who has consulted on other images that have appeared on the pages of *MI*. After much deliberation, Tim Prince of College Hill Arsenal Civil War Antiques in Nashville examined the image. He made four points, including an observation about the composition of the barrel band that was consistent with Phil’s original thought. “Based upon the circumstantial evidence,” Tim concluded, “I vote that it is a Palmetto variant 1842 style musket.”

Tepid Is Too Tame an Adjective

Let me start by saying that I enjoyed & applaud this issue & the article by Isidora Stankovic (Autumn 2015). I did, however find fault with her comparisons of the fighting of the Civil War with that of the Napoleonic Wars. The bloodbaths of Borodino and Waterloo along with the gruesome atrocities

during the Peninsular War and the retreat from Moscow require some much stronger adjectives than “tepid.”

James N. Kocur
Linden, N.J.

On Bugles as Props

I suggest adding images of soldiers with bugles to the list of possible props on the basis of studying my own collection (*MI*, Vol. XXIV, Number 4) and seeing many others over the years. In evaluating bugles as props, two questions arise. First, does the horn have the regulation carrying cord? Second, if there is no cord, does that tell us anything? If no cord is present, that doesn’t necessarily either make it a prop or rule out that the soldier is a bugler. For what it’s worth, some cordless bugles seem to be clearly a military prop from the way the soldiers are handling them, but others without a cord seem to be grasped in a way that indicates some familiarity with the instrument. If there is a cord, and if the soldier has it slung across his shoulder in a regulation way, it seems logical to project that he is a bugler and not just holding what may be a photographer’s prop. A final point: In collecting anything, you have to go on vibes or experience if there’s no identification to allow verification of some kind.

Chris Nelson
Washington, D.C.



Chris Nelson collection.