



Misidentified Zouave

I'm writing to correct the regimental identification in the caption of the photo on page 19 of the Winter 2016 issue. The soldier in this image is clearly wearing the jacket of the 8th Missouri, also known as the "American Zouaves." The placement of the braid on the front of the jacket and the unique cuff treatment with the buttons riding the strip of braid are distinguishing features of this uniform. During its service,



the 8th was in a brigade with Indiana regiments. Perhaps this contributed to the misidentification. The 19th Indiana identification on the caption was a unit of the Iron Bri-

gade. Its soldiers would have worn the well-known uniform of that brigade which bears no resemblance to the uniform in this picture.

Jim Hennessey
Baltimore, Md.

Crossed Swords

Take a look at the "Spirit of '61" ambrotype occupying most of page 21 (Winter 2016). You're right on the money about the lack of the shoulder belts and the improvisation by the sergeants, but they aren't carrying musician's swords. They're carrying the regulation U.S. Model 1840 non-commissioned officer's sword required for sergeants. They are quite similar to the U.S. Model 1840 musician's sword but have shorter blades and no "clamshell-like" guard on the handle. You can clearly see the guards in the image. In addition to the absence of the shoulder belts, another indication of improvisation is the one sergeant's waist belt. Take a look at the second sergeant from our left, next to the

fifer. His waist belt plate is the circular 1826 pattern shoulder belt plate. It may be the plate for the infantry cartridge box belt, but I'd vote for the three-prong non-commissioned officer's shoulder belt plate. It may also be an altered



cross belt plate. If I'm not mistaken, these have been associated with musicians.

Dan Binder
Rockford, Ill.

Wisconsin Infantryman?

In looking at the image featured in *The Last Shot* (Winter 2016, page 60), I was wondering if the soldier with his cap having the letters



G-C-G may stand for the Grant County Grays, which became Company C of the 2nd Wisconsin Infantry, or the Green County Guards, which became Company E of the 13th Wisconsin Infantry. In that the infantryman is holding a Prussian Model 1809 Potsdam musket and, given the large German diaspora in Wisconsin, further research may provide additional details.

Paul Bucher
Arlington, Va.

More on a Local Hero and Efforts to Honor His Memory

I was pleased to see our local hero Milton Holland featured in *The Honored Few* (Winter 2016). Here's a little more of his remarkable life story. He was born a slave in Texas in 1844 and brought to the Southeastern Ohio village of Albany, Ohio, in 1851 by his father (and owner). He enrolled in the integrated Albany Manual Labor

degree from Howard University, established an insurance company and remained active in Republican politics.

On 11 November 2013, an historical marker was dedicated at the Athens County Fairgrounds to honor him. For more on the marker dedication, visit tinyurl.com/pd548j7.

Carl J. Denbow
Athens, Ohio



Photo by Thomas O'Grady.

Pictured from left to right are 5th U.S. Colored Infantry re-enactors Frederick Smith and Anthony Gibbs (portraying Milton Holland); Clark Morgan as John Mercer Langston, a colored troop recruiter and later the first dean of the law school at Howard University; and Michael Crutcher as abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

University and learned the trade of shoemaker. After service in a white regiment as an aide, in the summer of 1863 he formed Company C of the 5th U.S. Colored Infantry at Athens County Fairgrounds. In addition to receiving the Medal of Honor at New Market Heights, he was also awarded the Butler Medal and a battlefield commission to captain, the latter denied by the War Department on the basis of his color. Rep. Steve Stivers (R-Ohio) has introduced legislation to rectify this historical wrong. After the war Holland returned to Ohio and lived in Athens and Columbus for several years before moving to Washington, D.C. There he served at the Treasury Department, earned a law

On Surcingles

I loved the cavalry in the field images in the latest issue. Those of the 2nd Pennsylvania Cavalry's Andrew



Sullenberger (page 25) and the two unidentified cavalrymen on the opposite page further support my contention

and that of other cavalry re-enactors that surcingles were commonly used in place of breast straps.

Mike Martin
Amery, Wis.