



## 6,000 Soldier Ambrotypes: Where Did They Go?

Kurt Luther's **Photo Sleuth** column about Civil War soldier *cartes de visite* processed by the Dead Letter Office (Spring 2016) inspired *MI* senior editor Ron Field to perform his own independent research. He turned up this notice in the May 1, 1867, edition of a Massachusetts newspaper, the *Springfield Republican*: "Six thousand ambrotypes, the product of the dead letter office, are soon to be sold at auction." Field wonders, "I wonder why the DLO clerks did not deal with these?"

## "Please Keep It Up"

I received "The Confederacy's Commander-in-Chief" issue today. This is the first issue of *Military Images* after being a fan of Facebook page. Great magazine! Thank you for all your hard work, please keep it up.

Todd Denger  
Amherst, Ohio

## 1960s Sketch Connects 1860s Image to Ohio

In response to the speculation concerning the regimental identity of a Union infantryman published in *The Last Shot* (Winter 2016), I wish to point out that I saw the image in a distinctly Ohio collection in the 1960s and made a sketch note of it at that time, which is



included here. I believe it is more likely that the unidentified soldier was a member of the 6th Ohio Volunteer Infantry that included the militia company known as "Guthrie

Greys." The 6th did have German or as then described "Prussian" muskets as part of its armaments during the war. That collection also contained several *carte de visite* albums, all of Ohio origins.

Michael J. McAfee  
Newburgh, N.Y.

## Praise for Custer's Red Ties

I have subscribed to *Military Images* since it first appeared in July/August 1979, and I remain a highly satisfied customer. I cannot recall an



issue that did not contain something that commanded my intense interest, and that includes your latest, which just came to hand. As a

close student of George A. Custer's Civil War career, I found Richard A. Wolfe's treatment of "Custer's West Virginia Red Ties" to be particularly useful, and I appreciate the way the magazine showcased the photographs accompanying that fine article.

Gregory J. W. Urwin  
Professor of History, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa.

## What More Could One Ask?

I received my complimentary issue for subscribing and am very impressed. I was a subscriber many, and I mean MANY, years ago before I let my Civil War images collecting lapse. The issue that arrived in my mailbox yesterday is light years better than the ones I'd known before. Congratulations on such a fine production—Great articles and great photos. What more could one ask from a magazine named *Military Images*?!

Brian Bennett  
Katy, Texas

## A "Minute Man" Is Identified

I have some interesting information to share regarding the Union image published on page 48 of the spring issue. The caption reads in



part, "The company letter E attached to his cap provides the only other clue to his identity." I humbly submit that there is quite another clue in the form of a period paper tag glued to the reverse that reads "Uncle Ben Moore." Adding to the evidence is a companion ambrotype that I once owned of Moore and Col. Samuel C. Lawrence as militiamen in the Lawrence Light Guards, which became Company E of the 5th Massachusetts Volunteer Militia Infantry.

"Uncle Ben Moore" is in fact Cpl. Benjamin N. Moore during his enlistment in Company E of the 5th. During the course of the Civil War, Moore and his regiment were called to duty three times. This image likely dates to April or May of 1861, shortly after the regiment was ordered to report for active duty.

Kevin Canberg  
Merrick, N.Y.

## "Lean Into the Hurricane Force Winds"

The Spring 2016 issue is an excellent piece of work and substance from cover to cover. Here we are over 150 years after the Civil War—the second most written about subject in the history of the world, and new information still comes forth. The Jefferson and Varina Davis images are very well presented, and the reflections of William C. Davis and Joan E. Cashin are excel-

lent. Mr. Davis's commentary in his last paragraph regarding "cultural cleansing" are critically timely as I have just read details of the efforts in New Orleans, La., to remove the statues of Beauregard, Davis and Lee. Those of us who honor the sacrifice of the soldiers of the Civil War (both North and South) are mostly 50 or older with few coming up behind. I am ever hopeful that good literary efforts like your recent issue may focus a greater truth seemingly



lost among younger generations. That truth should pull us together as Americans, and not divide us. Until such better understanding is achieved,

I join you as we lean into the hurricane force winds that wish to eradicate or distort the history of the Civil War.

Ron Maness  
Englewood, Fla.

## Sword and Musket Issues

A couple items need to be addressed in the spring issue. On page 33, Quincy (pictured here) is not



leaning on a Model 1850 Officers' sword, but it appears to be either a British Pattern 1821 sword or a copy of that sword type. Also, I believe that the musket being held by

the soldier on page 49 is a Model 1816/1822 as the bayonet has no locking ring on it.

Phil Spaugy  
Vandalia, Ohio