



Photo Sleuth, Portrait Analysis Recognized by AHF

Two stories that appeared in recent issues of MI were finalists in the 2015 Army Historical Foundation (AHF) Distinguished Writing Awards. "Revealed: The Identity of an Officer in an Iconic Group Portrait," was written by Kurt Luther, author of Photo Sleuth. Luther de-



scribes his journey to determine the name of the white officer pictured in a lithograph of African-American soldiers at Camp William Penn outside Philadelphia. "Tintype Stares and Regal Airs: Civil War Portrait Photography and Soldier Memorialization," was authored by Isidora



Stankovic of Yale University. "In this total war, the volunteer fighters secured a new individualized identity for the common soldier through portrait photographs," she writes. Congratulations to Kurt and Isidora for this well deserved recognition.

Louisiana Connection

The middle soldier in the group of three Confederates featured in "Colts, Knives and Cigars" (Autumn 2016) is almost certainly from Louisiana. The device appears

to be a pelican feeding its young, which was a traditional Louisiana symbol. Also, a number of



Louisiana units wore blue so this is another clue these fellows are from Louisiana.

Mike Welch
Smyrna, Ga.

Muskets held by N.C. Boys

The firearms held by the North Carolina Boys in Lee's Army ("Colts, Knives and Cigars," Autumn 2016)



are actually Model 1842 3-band muskets, not Model 1841 rifles as indicated in the caption.

Paul Johnson
Acworth, Ga.

Blue Light, Not Flare

Thanks for an informative and entertaining article on Cpt. Faunce and the Harriet Lane ("The Love of His Life," Autumn 2016). One minor point is that the aerial launch of "a blue flare into the night sky" did not signal the approach of the ship

to Charleston Harbor. As reported 15 April 1861 in the Charleston Mercury: "two red rockets burst in the air, followed by the burning of a blue light." Blue light was actually an intensely white, handheld



Faunce

pyrotechnic signal. Such blue light has often been misunderstood by historians: they mistakenly believed that the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley's iconic blue light signal came from a lantern. My research on blue light was published in Civil War Navy magazine's premier issue (2012), and one can see 1861 blue light in action on my YouTube video: [youtube.com/watch?v=v9C6_FfySiI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9C6_FfySiI)

Christopher Rucker
Spartanburg, S.C.

Rounded Belly Distinguishes Saber

The saber held by the boy dressed in a Zouave uniform ("The American Zouave: Mania and Mystique," Autumn 2016) appears to be the Model 1840 rather than the Model 1860. Probably the best way to distinguish them in images in



which the handles are prominently displayed is to see if there is—or isn't—a "belly." The underside of the Model 1860 handle has a rounded belly in the middle whereas the underside of the 1840 handle is essentially straight/parallel to the top line.

Dan Binder
Rockville, Ill.

Zouaves Identified

The identities of two soldiers pictured in Dan Miller's gallery of Zouave portraits ("Natty Glory," Autumn 2016) were inadvertently omitted from the captions.



Whitcher

Ordnance Sgt. Frank J. Whitcher mustered into the 2nd Massachusetts Battery of Light Artillery, or Nim's Battery, in July 1861. A medical student at the time of his

enlistment, he was designated the "Chief of Piece" on his gun. He left the regiment before the end of the year to accept a second lieutenantcy in the 1st Maryland Light Artillery. He resigned from the army the following year and lived until 1881.



Chadwick

British immigrant Matthias Chadwick enlisted as a private in Company F of the 114th Pennsylvania, or Collis' Zouaves, in the summer of 1862. Captured on May 5, 1863, during the Battle of Chancellorsville, he was paroled 13 months later. Chadwick returned to his regiment and served until 1865. The last time his name appears on a government record is 1880.