



Raising the Bar

Your magazine gets better with every issue. Love it.

David L. Hartline
Marion, Ohio

One of the nicest and well-produced magazines on the planet. Look forward to receiving my copy all the time.

Garret Ogata
Mililani, Hawaii

Early Birthday Gift

In 2020, the State of Maine will be celebrating its Bicentennial. *MI*, in its Spring 2018 issue, has presented Maine an early birthday present—the Antebellum Warriors department features a splendid daguerreotype of Maj. James D. Graham of the Topographical



Engineers. To his left is a map of Maine denoting his involvement in the settling of the Northeast Boundary in the early 1840s. In 1839, armed conflict broke out between Maine and Canada in the so-called Aroostook War. Gen. Winfield Scott was rushed to Maine to quell the violence and open talks. The subsequent negotiations resulted in the Webster-Ashburton Treaty. Federal troops were stationed in Northern Maine, among them were future Civil War figures Joseph Hooker, George G. Meade and John Pope. In the photograph's background

is a painting of the pine tree, the symbol of Maine—the Pine Tree State.

Anthony J. Douin
Augusta, Maine

Emotional Reunion With a Family Photo

My family is in possession of 80 letters our ancestor, Col. James B. Griffin, wrote to his wife during the Civil War. I knew based on one of the letters that he had a picture taken in his uniform. For years I had searched and searched hoping someday I would find it. I was looking on civilwartalk.com



searching for information about his outfit, Hampton's Legion, hoping maybe I could recognize him in a group photo or other image. Scrolling through the page his name caught my eye. It was in a paragraph summarizing his life. Above the paragraph was his picture. I couldn't believe my eyes. Hesitant that it was really him I reached out to the person who posted the picture. He gave me the link to *MI*. I was able to track down the issue that had the picture and to my surprise it was a two-page story. The story made it absolutely apparent—The picture I was looking at was indeed my 3rd great grandfather, Col Griffin. I am currently working with the owner, Al Luckenbach, to purchase the picture and add it to the collection of letters.

I can't put into words all the emotions I have looking at an actual picture of my ancestor in his



Sutler's Row

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full uniform. Reading his letters and seeing his picture and his face truly brings me closer to him and all that he went through. When I was younger my grandfather and I would look through the letters and study the Civil War together. He would be so proud knowing we found this picture.

Jimmy Gilmore
Shady Shores, Texas

More From the Durable Man

As sometimes happens post publication, newly discovered images come to light. Such is the case with George L. Fisher, who served in uniform from the Civil War through World War I (“Hagerstown’s Durable Man” by Stephen R. Bockmiller in our Autumn 2017 issue). The cache of images included this circa 1918

photograph of Fisher standing with the Stars and Stripes in front of a tank.



Probable Props

The cutlery-handle knives and small civilian pistols sometimes

exhibited in Civil War soldier images, Union and Confederate, are most probably photographer’s props and not weapons they used in combat. As a Civil War image collector for 35-plus years I have viewed hundreds of original soldier images and observed hundreds more in books. These noncombat-worthy weapons, I have observed, are always held by soldiers with the rank of private. Some may be the personal property of the soldier, but I firmly believe that the vast majority are photographer’s props. Some photographers also provided long-arms for them to hold. I examined a ferrotype several years ago and the removal of the mat revealed a rack of several different type muskets to the side.

Five images published in the Summer 2018 issue were of privates armed with civilian type

pistols including the cover image. (See also pages 17, 45, 49, and 51.) This latter soldier also has a cutlery-handle knife stuck in his belt. Some of the photo captions referred to combat use of these civilian weapons which is inaccurate and misleading.

J. Dale West
Longview, Texas

Summer 2018 Corrections

The cover photo was identified as a tintype when in fact it is an ambrotype. In *Photo Sleuth*, 1st Lt. Charles A. Clark stayed with his battery until early 1865, not 1861. In “A Navy Lieutenant Faces Divided Loyalties in his Final Discharge of Duty,” we incorrectly located the Gosport Navy Yard in Newport, Va., instead of Portsmouth.

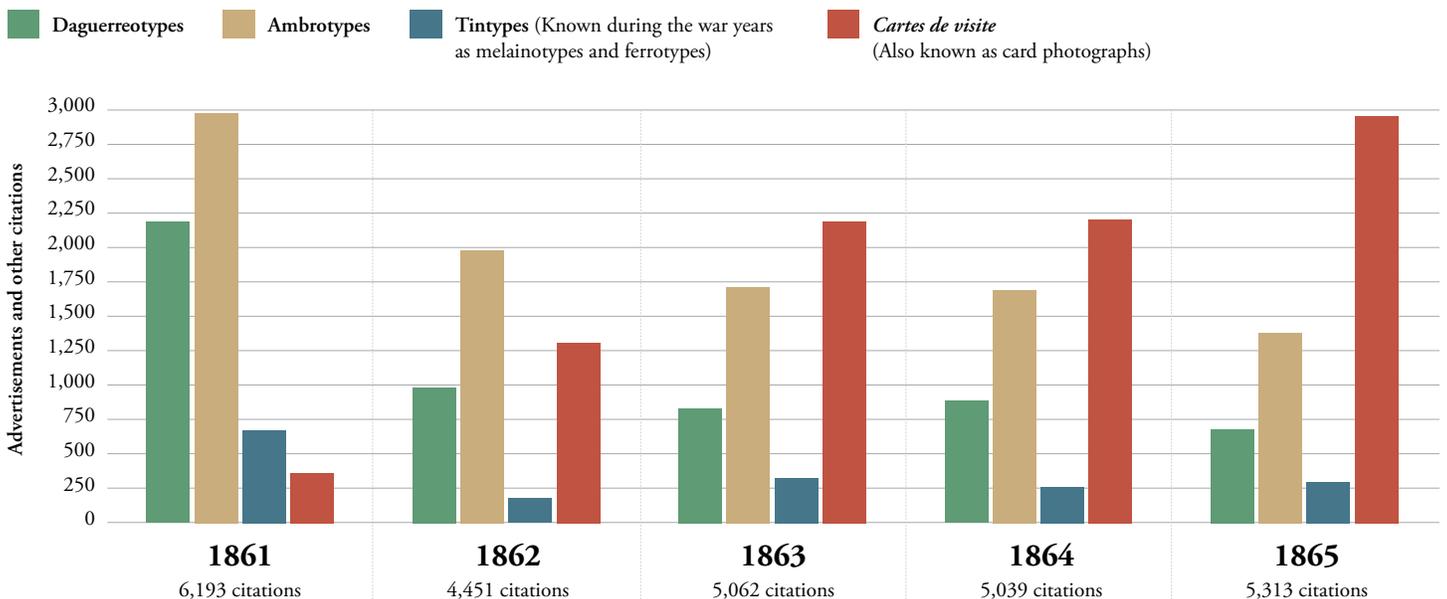


Military Anthropologist

Data visualizations of Civil War statistics

The Civil War Is a Time of Transition for Photographic Formats

An analysis of more than 25,000 photograph citations reveals that ambrotypes dominated in 1861. Four years later, the *carte de visite* ruled. Daguerreotype citations remained strong, the result of ads offering copy services for the fading format. The lack of tintype mentions is a mystery worthy of further research.



Source: Newspapers.com.