



# Mail Call

## Remembering John

Our announcement in the last issue of the passing of beloved collector John Sickles resulted in an outpouring of condolences and remembrances through various means, including this note of tribute to John's essential goodness of heart, written on a postcard.

*John Sickles is among those; that the relationship is more important than the image, or the deal.  
Rest in peace, my friend.*

**Henry Deeks**  
Ashburnham, Mass.

He was a kind man and generous to a fault. I've known John as long as I've been collecting and traded images with him over the years and never had a bad trade. He was one of the first collectors I sent my *Regimental Gazette* to. He'll surely not be forgotten.

**Scott Valentine**  
Island Park, N.Y.

**Editor:** Valentine published the *The Regimental Gazette* in the early 1990s, and I asked him to provide details for the record. He replied that it "was first and foremost a labor of love, secondly it was a series of Civil War soldier vignettes



I composed as a one page self-advertisement that I would mail out quarterly to some of the 'shakers and movers' of the Civil War photograph collecting community. Some of the better known recipients were Mike McAfee, Henry Deeks, Ronn Palm, Tom Harris and of course John. I guess all in all I sent it to about 35-40 people. I would offer the

featured soldier's cdv for trade. It didn't get me many trades but it did help me to get to know a bunch of really great people."

## Praise

*MI* in a nutshell: "Wow!"

**Norman C. Delaney**  
Corpus Christi, Texas

Thank you for publishing a world class magazine! In each successive issue you've managed to elevate Civil War photography and editorial to an unprecedented standard. Fantastic work now enjoyed by many!

**Allen Cebula**  
Naperville, Ill.



My arsenal of knowledge just keeps growing. That I can attribute to one of several major factors, *MI* magazine. Somehow, it just keeps getting better and better with images and informative articles that continue to amaze and educate! Case in point, having a great interest in and even playing a small role in the Spring 2017 "Faces of Ball's Bluff" story, I can remember at the time, being so very pleased that so many other were willing and able to share some of their collection images as well. This past November, while killing time scanning images for sale on the computer, on yet another rainy day, I happened upon a familiar face buried in the back pages of the web site, an unidenti-



# Sutler's Row

A guide to advertisers in this issue

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fied image of 2nd Lt. Isaac Harris Hooper marked down to a near give away price. Because of *MI* and a fellow collector, it now has a home with others that Hooper served with during the Battle of Ball's Bluff. Thank you *MI* and thank you fellow collectors for sharing. A word of advice to dealers and non-subscribers, SUBSCRIBE TO *MI* and READ IT! It just might keep you from making a BIG mistake. Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU!

Ken Fleming  
Round Hill, Va.

**Editor:** Ken is far too humble in referring to his own role as small in the Ball's Bluff story. It would not have happened without him.

**Alternative View**

The militia officer we featured in *Antebellum Warriors* in our last issue offered one explanation to account for the missing plate on the man's shako. Author Tony Gero shared another thought: "I propose that he removed it since he was



leaving the regiment or battalion, perhaps resigning his commission as the rolled paper next to the shako might suggest. Militia units came and went, as did companies within regiments. Officers and men resigned or left due to various disputes." He adds, "In the years I've been collecting and reading books on militia I never seen a shako plate missing a center piece. Ah, forensic military history indeed."

**Dishing It Out**

While looking through the many wonderful images from the Buck Zaidel Collection in the Winter 2019 issue, I was startled to see the photo of a POW's wooden dish on the bottom of page 26. I knew immediately that I had seen



The bowl as it appeared in the 19th century (above) and today.

this bowl before. It was on display at the Iowa Historical Museum in Des Moines, although the museum did not identify its creator. I even took a picture of it when I was there in April 2012. Mr. Zaidel may be interested to learn that the bowl still exists, if he does not know so already.

Mike Fitzpatrick  
Annapolis, Md.

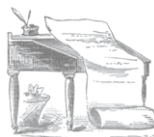
**Editor:** Zaidel expressed delight when informed that the bowl survives: "WOW!!! That's amazing. It's really something to see the bowl in real life." The museum has been alerted.

**Correction**

Drew Pallo of Vienna, Va., noticed that we misidentified Samuel Cooper as Brig. Gen. James J. Archer in "British Invasion: Confederate Portraits in England" (Winter 2019). The error was introduced during the design process.

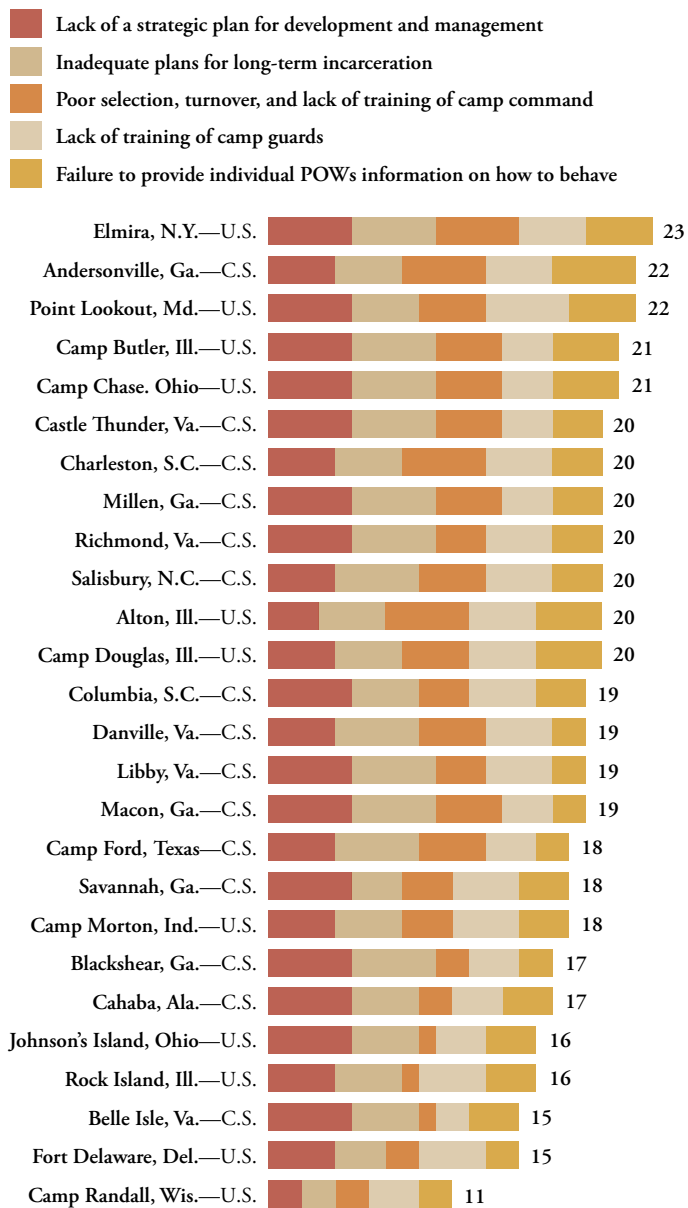
**Comments?**

We want to hear from you! [militaryimages@gmail.com](mailto:militaryimages@gmail.com)



**Analysis of Five Less Discussed Factors That Negatively Impacted POWs**

Author David Keller found five factors that significantly affected camp conditions and death rates in his 2015 book, *The Story of Camp Douglas, Chicago's Forgotten Civil War Prison*. Keller points out that these factors are often overshadowed by more traditional influences, including sanitation, food, medical care, climate and conspiracies to starve or mistreat prisoners. He expanded on his work in a separate study for the Andersonville National Site POW Research Program, and his findings reveal the most impacted prisons. *MI* totaled the scores for each factor for 11 Union and 15 Confederate prison camps:



Source: "Analysis of Five Factors Impacting Confederates In Union Prisoner of War Camps During the Civil War" (2017) and "Analysis of Five Factors Impacting Union Soldiers In Confederate Prisoner of War Camps During the Civil War" (2018) by David L. Keller.