



## Tributes to Dan Henry Deeks

Dan Henry Deeks was a true American Original, hugely valued by his friends and the Civil War photo collecting community fortunate enough to know him. Dan would be the first to admit he was a bit of a purist and prickly pear in terms of both value and quality. When he put a price on something, your job was to agree it was fair! But when he put a price on something, you absolutely knew it was the real thing.

Dan's friendship over the nearly 40 years we go back was deeply satisfying and flattering in terms of his appreciation for the friendship, and his assumption that you would value and reciprocate as did he. I never walked into the Gettysburg Show, for example, without Dan immediately calling me over to discuss the latest politics and world events, especially his deep involvement in veteran's affairs from his days in the navy off the Vietnam coast.

Only then was I allowed to "make the circuit" and see what was on the tables.

I feel about Dan the same way I did about Brian Pohanka. DAMN. I'm going to miss that man!!!

**Chris Nelson**  
Washington, D.C.

It is impossible to express how much Dan will be missed, just not by me but by all his friends and acquaintances.

As many have said he was a true character, He was possibly the most head-strong and stubborn person I ever met but he was also a dear friend.

Dan and I shared many tables at numerous shows through the years, but he was really more interested in meeting friends than selling, especially in recent years when he had less stock to sell. We were together for several decades and he used my home as a stopover every year, even when I was not going to a show—much

to the annoyance of my wife.

He stuck to his personal code of controlling his sales throughout his life. He usually had someone in mind for many pieces. He enjoyed collecting and then selling other relics as well. He bought and sold cap boxes, cavalry sabers and canteens. He would gather a collection, enjoy and then sell it. He did not want to feel burdened with things too long. His decisions were usually wise, but the one thing he wanted to do was have a book store, He does not seem to have been able to do that. I was with him on the way back from Gettysburg when he bought a wooden "book store" sign I guess he never got to use. But I am sure one of his barns still holds boxes of books.

That is probably the real tragedy of Dan's death. There was so much more he could have done.

**Mike McAfee**  
Newburgh, N.Y.

I feel so sad that the original heart and soul of Civil War photography collecting has left us. He was my mentor, my teacher, but mostly he was my deeply respected and valued friend. He was a truly special person. I will miss him intensely.

**Karl Sundstrom**  
North Riverside, Ill.

He was a true gentle man. He gave the best hugs.

**Pat DeHaan**  
Kalamazoo, Mich.

## Jim Frasca, Remembered

Civil War collectors lost another pillar of the community with the passing of James Carman Frasca of Croton, Ohio, on March 4. A graduate of Kent State University and longtime purveyor of military antiques, he was well known for his depth of knowledge and his keen sense of humor. He is survived by his wife, Ellen, and beloved cats. Jim was 68.

Ellen remembered her late



# Sutler's Row

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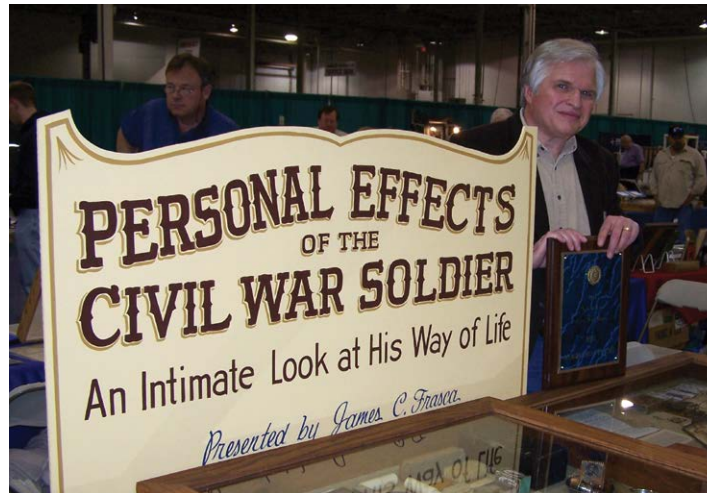


husband's contributions at the recent Ohio Civil War Show in Mansfield. On a table dedicated to his memory was a framed tribute titled "James C. Frasca, 1950-2019." It noted:

"Jim, Jamie, was a friend to many, a brother to some, but to whomever came to him for his expertise on Civil War uniforms and accoutrements, his evaluations were based on fact and he was the best. Jamie spent over 55 years researching and studying 'military antiquities, with a strong emphasis on the Civil War.' He was at the top in his field. He was adamant about preserving history with the item, no matter how significant or inconsequential it was. He felt just as strongly against the practice of some that 'added' histories to items."

**Jim, Mentor and Friend**

The passing of James C. Frasca on March 4th was a surprise to all of us. Though he was recognized nationally for his authentication skills and artistic presentations,



Jim Frasca.

Library of Congress.

he will also be remembered as a great storyteller with an outlandish sense of humor. His peers and those he mentored appreciated his willingness to share his vast expertise of Civil War headgear, insignia and uniforms, saving many from costly mistakes, as well as his ability to give them a good belly laugh. Admired for his knowledge and generosity, Jim's presence will truly be missed.

Jim encouraged me to achieve my goals while educating me and enriching my life in more ways than I ever could have imagined. As my mentor and friend, Jim taught me to think better and work harder regarding research and presentation. As he did with others that he took under his wing Jim was my cheerleader, encouraging me to reach heights I thought I was incapable of. He

helped me find the confidence in myself that I needed to excel in my collecting passion.

Jim would remind us that the point of life is not to live it routinely or to a code but to make the most of it and leave something to be remembered. I hope to never disappoint him.

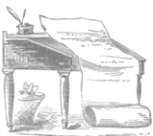
**Elizabeth Topping**  
Howell, Ohio

**Correction**

Larry Munther is the owner of the ambrotype of the "clean-shaven and intense Johnny Reb," pictured on page 78 of the last issue. It was credited to Matt Cranford, who owned the photo at the time it was scanned. Though *MI* tries to stay on top of the latest transactions as images move through the marketplace, it is a challenge to keep up with the activity after a portrait is digitized. This image slipped through the cracks.

**Comments?**

We want to hear from you!  
militaryimages@gmail.com

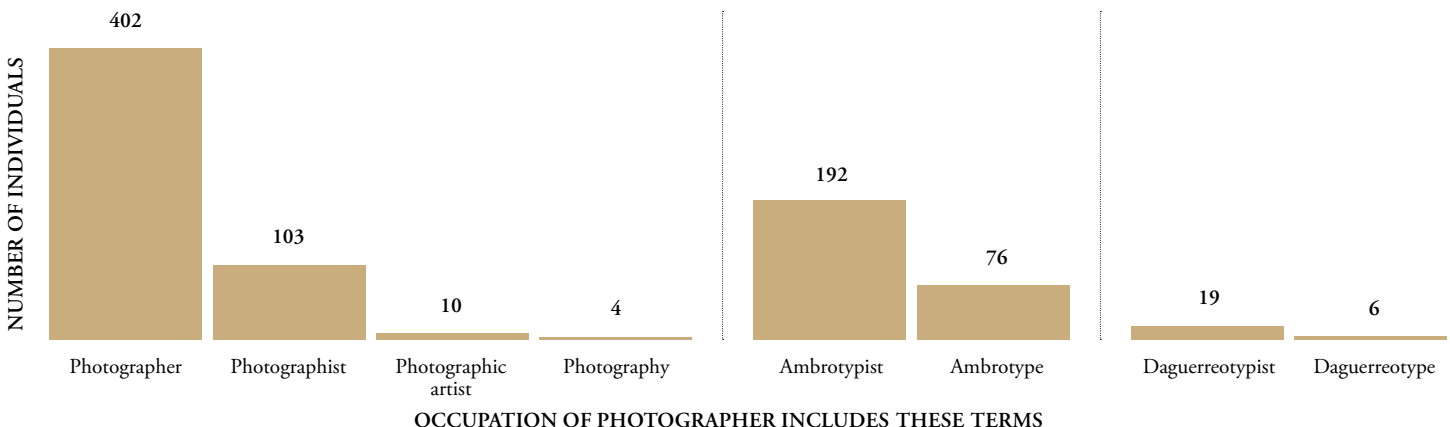


**Military Anthropologist**

Data visualizations of Civil War statistics

**1860 Census Occupation: Photographer**

An analysis of the 1860 U.S. Census reveals 812 individuals with a photograph-related occupation. How the occupation is listed varies. The majority are defined as photographers or by related titles, while a much smaller number are labeled as ambrotypists or daguerreotypists.



Source: 1860 U.S. Federal Census on Ancestry.com.