



Saluting Great Stories

This is one of the best and most informative printings on the people and times of the American Civil War I have ever read. Please keep up the great work.

Robert Blankenship
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Your magazine has a real knack to bring out the human side of the Civil War. Thank you for making such a valuable magazine!

Heather Shaffer
Hillsboro, Kan.

Love your magazine. Just keeps getting better and better!

Ken Naser
DeLand, Fla.

Osborne on Sharpe and Pulaski

Seward Osborne of Newberry, Fla., observes, "In Mike Medhurst's excellent profile of Gen. Philip St. George Cooke, he mentions one of the general's sons-in-law, Jacob Sharpe, who started out as a lieutenant in the 20th New York State Militia. Medhurst states that Sharpe was at West Point, however he never graduated. In fact, he spent only two

Information and colonel of the 120th New York Infantry. Sharpe became colonel of the 156th New York Infantry and commanded a brigade for two years. He was grievously wounded in the groin at Winchester and suffered terribly the remainder of his life. He died in Cooke's house."

Osborne adds, "However, it was something about the article's title that eventually peeked my curiosity—Father of the American Cavalry. I had come upon that title before but not in relation to Cooke! In the introduction of his 1861 *Cavalry Tactics*, Cooke stated, 'I have freely chosen what I judged to be the best points in the systems of France, Russia, Austria and England. I have added to all.' In my opinion, owing to Cooke's own words, his treatise cannot be considered purely American, thereby his pantheon title as suggested by this article is not apropos!"



Library of Congress.

Pulaski.

Osborne points out that the man deserving of the title is Casimir Pulaski (1745-1779), the Polish national who became one of the heroes of the American Revolution. Osborne explains, "On Nov. 6, 2009, 230 years after his death, President Barack Obama signed a joint resolution of Congress making Pulaski an American citizen, only the eighth honorary in U.S. history. Proclamation 9658 of Oct. 10, 2017, was signed by



years there. He was second cousin to General George Henry Sharpe, head of Bureau of Military



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President Donald J. Trump as ‘General Pulaski Memorial Day, 2017.’ The first paragraph of this document states that Pulaski is known as the ‘Father of the American Cavalry.’”

Return to the Cherokee Nation

Krystan Moser, a cultural art coordinator with the Cherokee Nation, contacted *MI* about our recent profile of Lewis Downing, who served in the Confederate and Union armies during the Civil War. He went on to reunite the Cherokee Nation, which had been divided during the war, until his untimely death in 1872. The *carte de visite* of Downing that illustrated the profile will be included in a forthcoming exhibit at the Cherokee National Capitol Museum.

“Prototypical” Confederate

In keeping with the Summer 2017 issue’s “Sons of Virginia” theme, the unidentified soldier on page 59 may also be such a son. What makes me surmise this is that, contrary to the caption, the soldier is not “prototypical,” but rather sports a distinctive jacket with six buttons (an unusual number), light trim (also unusual for a Confederate infantryman) consisting of stripes on the cuffs and around the collar (also unusual).

**John Braden
Fremont, Mich.**

The image appears to be a western theatre soldier and not a Virginian. The buttons look to be 2-piece block I buttons of the ‘western style’ (See CS 183 in Al-



phaeus Albert’s *Record of American Uniform and Historical Buttons*. This is significant because any image showing that version of block I button is rare indeed. The relic collectors I have spoken with say that that button style is not found very often in Virginia.

**Howard Ewing
Sterling, Va.**

Nathan Bedford Forrest Terms and Titles

A reader took issue with two captions in our recent gallery of portraits of Nathan Bedford Forrest and members of his family. One caption referred to the Ku Klux Klan because it was familiar to modern readers instead of the various references to Ku Klux and KuKluxers found in period news reports. In another caption, Forrest was referred to as “Grand Wizard,” a title used by the Ku Klux Klan after Forrest’s death. Titles used during his lifetime include “Grand Cyclops,” “Grand Cyclop” or “Great Grand Cyclops.” At least one report, dated Sept. 16, 1868, in the *Semi-Weekly Wisconsin* of Milwaukee, recognizes Forrest as the head of the Order in Tennessee.



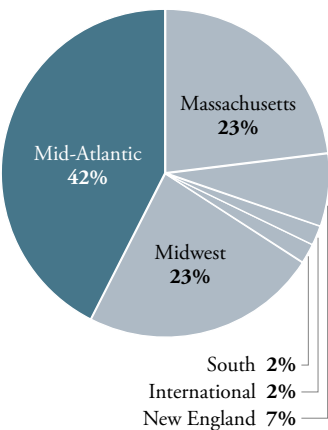
Military Anthropologist Data visualizations of Civil War soldier statistics

The Union’s Regiment: 54th Massachusetts Infantry

An analysis of the residences reported by 1,275 men of color upon their enrollment in the 54th Massachusetts Infantry reveals that more than three-quarters of the rank and file hailed from outside the state for which the regiment took its name.

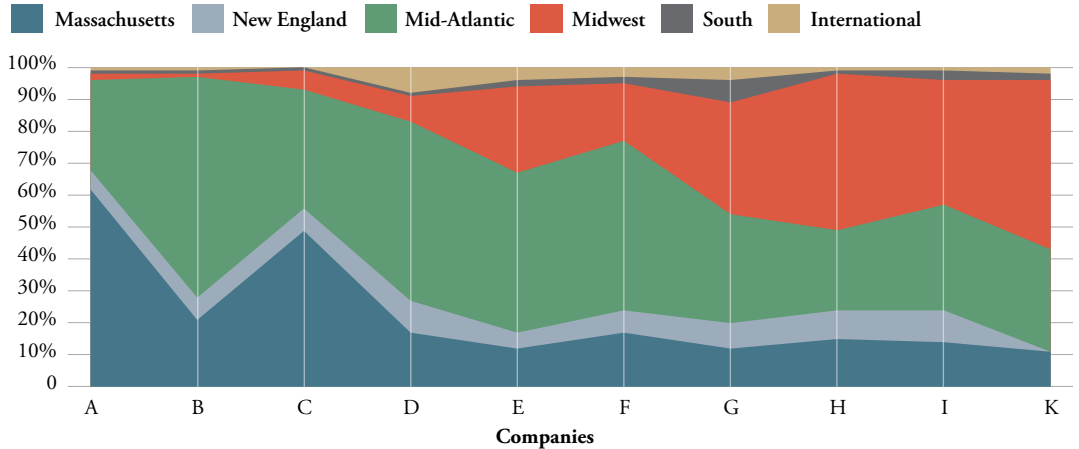
TOTAL ENLISTMENT

Mid-Atlantic Dominates



BY COMPANY

In Company A, Majority Are Massachusetts Men; In Company K, the Midwest Rules



Note: Numbers do not always add up to 100 percent due to rounding. New England includes Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. The Mid-Atlantic includes the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. The Midwest includes Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin. The South includes the Union loyal border state of Kentucky and Confederate states Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Three countries are represented: Bermuda, Canada and the West Indies.

Sources: *Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors and Marines in the Civil War* by the Adjutant General’s Office (Norwood Press, 1931-1933); *A Brave Black Regiment* by Luis F. Emilio (Boston Book Co., 1891).