

## The original: 'Camp Tintype' Portrait Weekends

# IT IS TIME!!!

Yes, it is time for the world to again have the opportunity to acquire a wet-plate collodion likeness made exactly how it was done in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

No longer should anyone have to settle for just a quickie 'wet-plate image' done by dubious methods and on materials that are not historically correct.

For Ferrotypes Tintypes up to quarter plate size (3 ¼ x 4 ¼ inches) I will be using actual original 19<sup>th</sup> century Ferrotypes plate stock. Larger plates will be the correct thickness of iron plates, properly black japanned by the original method.

I will NOT, I repeat, I will NOT be doing the common, dull, unfulfilling, cold grey looking, monotonous, all around inferior quality, requiring far less skill, non-authentic, never had them back in the day, cheap, farby aluminum plate Tintypes that have flooded the Civil War reenactment world and other wet-plate portrait photography venues in recent years. Further, I will be varnishing your portrait plates in the correct time honored historic manner, unlike some bad actors in high profile venues, who, in the interest of speed and profits, have skipped over that important step or adopted a quick, easy, waxy, cold grey tone imparting, modern shortcut method. Authentic varnishing takes extra skill, materials and labor to complete, but is essential for an archival image that gives the correct and far more flattering coffee and cream tone. We here at Camp Tintype are about quality archival workmanship and being true to the historic process, not what you can get away with by praying upon the general public's lack of knowledge of how photography was actually done in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in order to make a fast buck.

**TO BE FOUND NOWHERE ELSE**, your Ferrotypes Tintype and Ambrotype portraits can be put up in your choice of embossed authentic reproduction metal foil mats, letterpress printed and embossed Potter's Patent CDV paper mats, letter press printed correct larger format frame-able mats, or in original cases, or my hand made 'Super Fine' reproduction cases as to your preference and personal budget. Or you

can bring your own cases and have us mount your tin or glass plate images in them correctly at NO EXTRA COST.

Yes, we make authentic Ambrotypes on clear or ruby glass in all the correct sizes at the same prices as Tintypes of equal size.

I do not shoot 5x7 plates on glass or tin except for post Civil War images. 5x7 was not a plate size option during the war. If you are a Civil War reenactor and something large is your taste, I suggest the popular in its day, Whole Plate size (6 ½ x 8 ½). We can provide, at a small extra charge, a period correct letter press printed mat for proper mounting in an easily had 8x10 frame.

I DO NOT do so called digital Civil War photography, as in scans and ink jet copy prints. Instead, I offer actual Albumen paper prints made from glass wet-plate negatives just like prints were made in the Civil War. The prints are mounted, as was the custom, on letterpress printed Carte-de-Visite cards. Also, I can do Tintype and Albumen print stereo views of camp life, the latter being commonly done by Brady and his associates during the war.

Again, like no one else in the wet-plate collodion portraiture business, I will be offering **hand coloring and gold gilding** options on your Ferrotype and Ambrotype likenesses. This was the common practice in the era. Don't forget that tax stamps were required on the back of images after August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1864. I will affix the proper and **original** civil war vintage revenue tax stamps to late Federal images at **NO EXTRA CHARGE!**

My dedicated wet-plate collodion photography equipment is the finest to be found anywhere and is absolutely period correct. I use early 1860's through the 1870's vintage lenses made by the finest American and European lens makers of the day, giving the period look that later vintage lenses **cannot achieve.**

**FREE CAMPING!** Reenactors are welcome to come and pitch their tents and camp on site over the weekend. There is lots of room here on my 50 acre farm. Calvary and light artillery are welcome to bring their horses and cannons. Soldiers can practice their marksmanship with their muskets on our live fire gunnery range. This is a **GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR LARGE SCALE CAMP IMPRESSIONS!** Things like the Sanitary Commission, field hospital, regimental headquarters, accurate sutlery, embalmer, traveling photographer, and all manner of impressions that the photographers at

the large scale events are not going to drag their gear over yonder hill and dale and spend the afternoon photographing. Yes, it is a fact as true as our Tintypes, ambrotypes, and albumen prints, that you must **COME TO CAMP TINTYPE** for service, quality, and authenticity **not to be found anywhere else!!**

## **COME ONE COME ALL!**

Now for those folks who aren't Civil War or other 19<sup>th</sup> century reenactors but would love to have a real Ferrotype Tintype or glass Ambrotype done of themselves and their loved ones, just as they are, you are welcome to come for sittings these weekends as well. I will be offering 5x7, 8x10, 11x14, and the BIG MAMMOTH 20x24 plate sizes, along with the smaller civil war plate sizes correctly matted or in period cases. Also, we are the only place on the globe you can get an actual 'Photo Booth' style series Tintype made. The 5x7 Photo Booth plate has four or nine individually exposed images on it and the 11x14 has fifteen. **HAVE FUN!** Ham it up like you are in an old-time photo booth!

We also offer Ferrotype Tintype, one of a kind, 'Photo Buttons' made from black japanned recycled large mouth canning jar lids. Further, in the vein of recycling and creativity, we offer 'Hobo Tintypes'. These are Ferrotypes up to size 5x7 that are shot on tin cut from discarded tin cans (think Olive Oil or gun powder can). The can's logo and advertising and some pretty cool art are left as is on the back of the finished Ferrotype plate. Your likeness would appear on the black japanned front side. **Wet-plate doesn't get any more 'Outsider Art' than that, folks!**

Well, I guess it can. Here's how: Pour the collodion on your own plate! It is one of the more exciting and creative steps in the process, but isn't that hard to do. If you so chose, with a little instruction and practice, using our materials at **no extra charge**, you can learn and do the technique well enough to pour your own 5x7 or smaller plate in as little as ten minutes. What fun to be able to say you poured your own image! Where else but at Camp Tintype!!

Again, and I cannot stress enough, these special portraiture weekends will be a **NON-ALUMINUM ZONE**. Any Tintypes made will only be the superior quality, real deal authentic Ferrotype kind! Also, only real deal **natural light** will be used. We do not use the much simpler and often unflattering electric light banks or strobes many in

the wet-plate photography business tend to use nowadays because it is so much more convenient and lucrative for *them*, but at your peril. Natural light has always been the best light for fine portraiture and always will be! When the light is right, make that special trip any weekend, **mid-May to mid-October**, except for our Jamboree weekend or scheduled workshop weekends. Check my site for these off weekends.

**Look at the Prices!** They are incomparable. This simply is because no one else offers the same at any price! Nor would anyone else ask you to write a real letter ahead of time to set up an appointment either, but that's the difference between Camp Tintype and the aluminotype crowd. If you're the kind of person who does not follow the pack, and can sense this is an extraordinary opportunity, you'll be glad to contact me by good ol' reliable, United States Postal Service, "classic mail". Send to:

**John Coffey**  
**CAMP TINTYPE Portrait Weekend**  
**1236 Dombroski Road**  
**Dundee, NY 14837**

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SATISFACTION IS GUARANTEED

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## Prices:

1/16<sup>th</sup> plate \$25

1/9<sup>th</sup> plate \$35

1/6<sup>th</sup> plate \$45

1/4 plate \$55

1/2 plate (4 1/4 x 5 1/2) \$65

Whole plate (6 1/2 x 8 1/2) \$100

5x7 plate \$85

8x10 plate \$200

11x14 plate \$650

20x24 plate \$3500 (ferrotype only)

Photo booth style 5x7 4 or 9 image plate \$165

Photo booth style 11x14 15 image plate \$425

Photo button Tintype (3 1/2 diameter)\$65

Albumen CDV \$450, additional prints \$100 ea.

Mounted Stereo Tintype \$300

Albumen stereo mounted prints \$750, additional stereo mounted albumen prints \$225 ea. Our famous and totally unmatched for detailed craftsmanship and authenticity Super Fine Cases with image start at \$195 for a typical civil war period style ninth plate case, to \$1,800 for the exquisite embossed skiver leather covered half plate size case. We also have on hand a large assortment of original 1850's to 1860's cases in nicely restored condition in plate sizes 1/16, 1/9, and 1/6 with your ambrotype or tintype portrait included and mounted in them starting at only \$85. Finally, if Tintype and ambrotype **jewelry** is your thing, have a gem size tintype or an extremely unusual and just as authentic mica glass ambrotype made and put up in one of our antique brass locket for \$200 with tintype or \$275 with mica glass ambrotype.

Also, there is no extra charge for more than one person in a portrait picture, up to four people. Beyond that there is a \$25 per head fee.

## New for 2017: Archival Sound

And just when you thought it is as cool as it gets to have a tintype portrait done cause it's so analog and permanent, Camp Tintype takes things to ever higher levels of creativity, authenticity, and just plain fun. Using our 1903 vintage Edison talking machine, you'll have the incredibly rare opportunity to have a two minute wax cylinder recording made. Playback is immediate on our Edison for your listening and modern recording pleasure. The wax cylinder will then be carefully packaged in its own period correct padded tube, for you or someone in the far distant future to keep and play on a vintage talking machine. The cost for one of these archival cylinders is only \$125. Now imagine, if you will, getting your own authentic real deal ferrotype tintype portrait made here at Camp Tintype with perhaps your musical instrument **and** a two minute wax cylinder recording to go with it. I mean, how much better does it get than that when it comes to keeping an audio and a visual record of who you were during a certain space in time in your life (remember our portrait exposure

times are not an electrified, modern blinding, one ten-thousandth of a strobe lit second but rather several seconds of your life under the good old blue sky long, just like they used to be). YES!! All this is only to be found at Camp Tintype!!

**Check my Gallery Page for samples of my work and also click link for scan of an unsolicited letter of endorsement by America's most famous and hardest of the hardcore Civil War reenactors, Rob Hodge.**