



# FIRST MICHIGAN – THREE YEARS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY REGIMENT



## True to Their Country's Flag

*I trust that Michigan will believe that I tried to do my duty.<sup>1</sup>*

*Colonel Horace S. Roberts*

*Last words before leading his men at the Second Battle of Bull Run*

*August 30, 1862*

In Michigan, as in many other Northern states, enlistment terms at the beginning of the Civil War were three months long. Both the First and Second Michigan Infantries were originally raised as three months regiments. The First Michigan Infantry had already left for the field when the war department ordered that regiments should be enlisted for three years. The Second Michigan Infantry was subsequently converted to a three years regiment.<sup>2</sup> On June 28, 1861, prior to the return of the [First Michigan Volunteer Infantry \(three months\)](#), plans to create a reorganized regiment called the First Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment (three years) commenced. The regiment rendezvoused at Ann Arbor and companies were mustered in on various dates with a strength of 960 men and officers. Colonel John C. Robinson, then a captain in the U.S. Army, was placed in command. The regiment left the state for deployment in Virginia on September 16, 1861, with the exception of two detachments which followed soon after.<sup>3</sup>

The regiment's principal officers were drawn largely from the First Michigan Volunteer Infantry (three months). Colonel Robinson commanded the regiment until he was appointed a brigadier general of volunteers. He was succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel

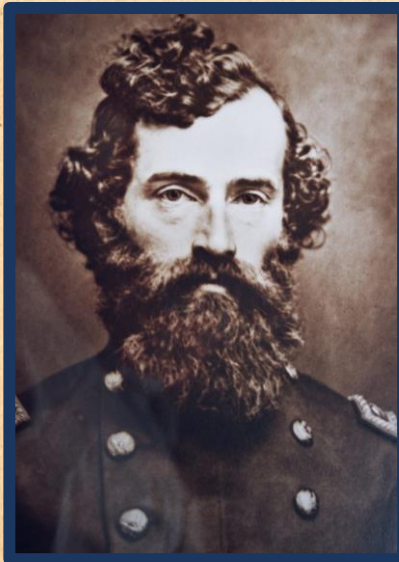


Colonel John C. Robinson





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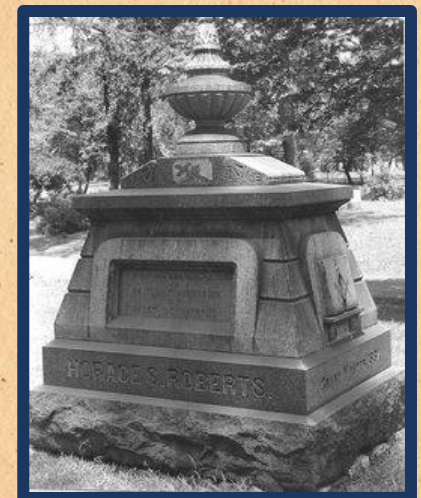


Colonel Horace S. Roberts

[Horace S. Roberts](#) who had served in the war with Mexico and as a Captain in the First (three months) regiment.<sup>4</sup> The regiment was assigned to guard the Washington and Baltimore Railroad, and was later stationed at Fortress Monroe near Washington D. C.. Subsequently they were assigned to the First Brigade, First Division, Fifth Corps and were heavily engaged in numerous battles of the Peninsula Campaign, south of the Confederate capitol of Richmond, Virginia. The regiment saw action at Mechanicsville, Gaines Mill, the Peach Orchard, and Savage Station and was actively engaged at Turkey Bend, White Oak Swamp and Malvern Hill, Virginia.<sup>5</sup>

On August 29, 1862, the regiment participated in a battle near Gainesville, Virginia, and on the next day they were heavily engaged at the Second Battle of Bull-Run. The First Michigan had taken position in some woods fronting the enemy's lines, opposite rebel artillery. The First Michigan, Thirteenth New York, and Eighteenth Massachusetts advanced against the enemy lines. Perhaps in a premonition of the grave danger that awaited them, the officers of the regiment all shook hands and wished each other a fond farewell.<sup>6</sup> Within a few minutes of being exposed to enemy fire, the First lost eight officers and fifty percent of the regiment was either killed or wounded, including Colonel Roberts. A brief biography of Roberts written shortly after the war explains, "The rebels afterward occupied the ground where he lay dead, and it is said, buried him with the other bodies in the trenches." A memorial marker was placed by his Masonic brethren at Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit.<sup>7</sup>

Horace S. Roberts' memorial  
marker at Elmwood  
Cemetery in Detroit.

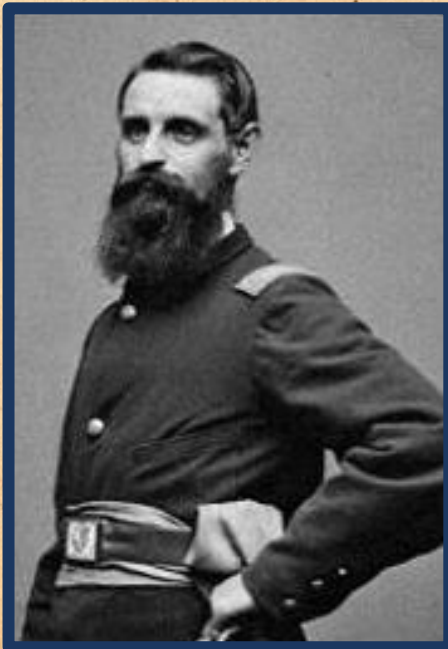




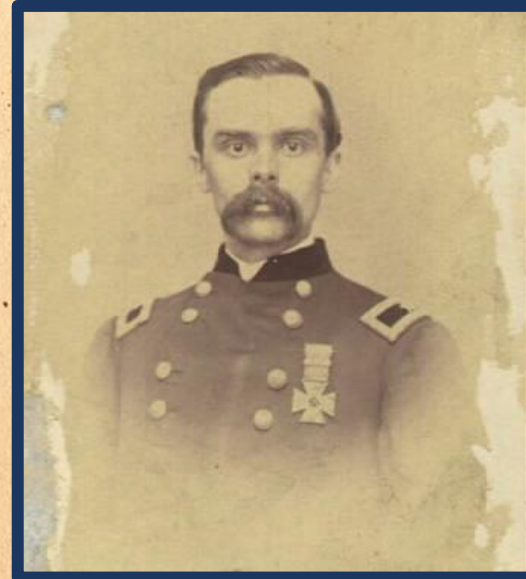
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On September 17, 1862, the single bloodiest day in American history, the regiment was engaged at the battle of Antietam, Maryland and in December at the Battle of Fredericksburg where according to their new Lieutenant Colonel Ira C. Abbott, the regiment stood, “true to their county’s flag.”<sup>8</sup> By the spring of 1863, the regiment found itself on a long march to Gettysburg. Arriving at the battlefield on July 2, it was placed in line near the “Wheatfield” between the Twenty-second Massachusetts and the



Colonel Ira C. Abbott



Colonel William A. Throop

118<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania. Lieutenant Colonel (later promoted to colonel) William A. Throop assumed command soon after the fighting began due to the wounding of Colonel Abbott. Throop wrote of the fight:

We had no sooner got our line fully established than the enemy drove in our skirmishers and appeared in force in the edge of a wood on our front, within two hundred yards of our line. We ordered our men to fix bayonets, and commenced firing on the enemy with a deadly effect, driving him back after a severe fire of



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half an hour. He, however, soon returned, and was a second time driven back with great loss. Our men stood up bravely under the storm of bullets sent against them, loading and firing as coolly as though on drill . . . Our color-bearer, Sergeant Patrick Connors, was the first man wounded after the firing commenced. The colors were at once again taken from the ground by Corporal John H. Harrington of Company A, and gallantly borne through the battle.<sup>9</sup>

The First remained attached to the First Division of the Fifth Corps until February, 1864 when 213 members of the regiment reenlisted as veterans and were given thirty days furlough in Michigan.<sup>10</sup>

While on furlough in Michigan, the regiment was presented with a new flag. The “Coldwater Union” reported on April 22, 1864, “The First Michigan Infantry veterans, left for the front last week. The regiment is small in number; it has seen much service. They have a



The First Michigan  
Infantry monument at  
Gettysburg

new a beautiful banner on which is inscribed the principal battles in which they have participated; Bull Run, Mechanicsville, Gaines Mill, Malvern Hill, Bull Run and Shepardstown Ford, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and Rappahannock Station.”<sup>11</sup>

Since [SC-6-90](#) is the only flag in the collection to list these extensive battle honors, it is possible that this flag is the flag that was referred to in the newspaper article.

By April of 1864, the regiment returned to the field of battle and shortly after participated in the Battle of Alsop’s Farm. During the battle, the First Michigan Infantry was involved in an interesting incident concerning a battle flag, but not their own or that of the enemy. Colonel Throop wrote of the battle that took place on May 8, 1864:

Lucius R. Mills of Company H, seized the colors of the 83d Pennsylvania from the ground, the color sergeant having been killed, and carried them twice with our front line to the top of the hill in two separate charges made by my regiment, in the second charge receiving a severe wound, but bringing the colors of the 83d safely off the field and returning them to the regiment.<sup>12</sup>

During the Siege of Petersburg, action took place around the flag of the First Michigan that was later detailed in the Kalamazoo Gazette. In 1909, the paper recounted that during the battle of Hatchers Run, “R.H. Stevens of Greeneville carried the battle flag of the First





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Michigan Infantry and bore it at the fight. He said that some 50 bullets passed through it at that time.”<sup>13</sup> It is unknown if this flag is the same flag that was given to the men in April of 1864.

The First Michigan participated in the pursuit of rebel forces after the fall of Petersburg, being engaged at Amelia Court House, High Bridge, and at the battle at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, the same day Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered.<sup>14</sup>

On July 9, 1865, the First was mustered out of service in Jeffersonville, Indiana, they were paid and disbanded after arriving at Jackson, Michigan on July 12, 1865.<sup>15</sup>

Nearly a year later, on July 4, 1866, the First Michigan, along with the other regiments in the state, assembled in Detroit for a large parade and celebration. During this ceremony, many of the Civil War battle flags were given to the care of the state. The First Michigan handed over seven flags.<sup>16</sup> These flags remain in the collection as [SC-5-90](#), [SC-6-90](#), [SC-7-90](#) (two flags), [SC-17-90](#), [SC-18-90](#), and [SC-20-90](#). At later dates, two more flags of the First Michigan joined the collection. These flags were numbered as [SC-19-90](#) and [SC-219-90](#) and do not bear the distinctive brass plaques that were attached to the flagstaves after the 1866 ceremony. Because of a lack of detailed descriptions in original sources, it is difficult to know when each specific flag was used during the course of the war.





# COLOR COMPANY THE FLAG BEARERS



By regulation, every infantry regiment was to be issued a stand of colors, consisting of two flags: a national (the familiar “Stars and Stripes”) and a regimental (similar to the Michigan state flag, except that Michigan’s coat-of-arms was usually replaced by the federal coat-of-arms, its outstretched eagle a powerful symbol of the Union the regiment was fighting to preserve). Measuring six and one half feet by six feet and borne on ten foot staffs, bearing the regiment’s name emblazoned on them, and made of brilliant silk fringed and tasseled, these huge banners were designed to be easily seen and instantly recognized by every man of the regiment.

One company (approximately 100 men) was designated as the color company and was charged with the primary responsibility of guarding and carrying the flags into battle. From within the color company, the color bearers (who were most often noncommissioned officers) were selected for their military bearing, their exemplary moral character—and their bravery. The color company was placed in the center of the battle line and set the pace and direction of the regiment, with hundreds of men “guiding on the colors.” During the noise, confusion and smoke of battle, the flags were in the thick of the action. Men caught up in the melee looked to their colors to maintain their position and to prevent becoming separated from their regiment. Thus, the size and brilliance of the flags is easily understood: they had to be highly visible and instantly identifiable. Held aloft where all could see them, flags rallied the regiment in moments of confusion and despair and infused them with renewed determination.

Both Union and Confederate flags became instant targets of fierce enemy fire as each side realized that the simplest way to demoralize and disorient an opposing regiment was to shoot down its flag—or the person carrying it. The greatest casualties of the war both north and south—were suffered by those who carried the flags in battle. It was not unusual for a flag to be shot to tatters in a single engagement, its staff struck and shattered, and bearer after bearer killed or wounded. Every member of the color company—and, indeed, every member of the regiment— was expected to sacrifice his life, if necessary, to prevent the loss of the regiment’s flags in battle. Unimaginable acts of heroism were associated with their defense. The loss of a flag to the enemy meant humiliation and disgrace for the regiment. Conversely, capturing an enemy flag brought honor and fame. The Medal of Honor was instituted during the Civil War to reward Union troops for acts of extreme bravery. Sixty-nine Michigan men eventually received the medal—most through petition long after the war was over—for a variety of heroic actions. Only thirteen received it during the war, all for the capture of an enemy flag.





# COLOR COMPANY THE FLAG BEARERS



The following individuals can be documented as having served in the regiment's color guard. Their names appear in the Civil War Service Records Collection at the Archives of Michigan and on Michiganology website <https://michiganology.org/civil-war/>

**Patrick Connor.** "Enlisted in company C, First Infantry, Aug. 20, 1861, at Detroit, for 3 years, age 21. Mustered Aug. 24, 1861. Transferred to company G, Dec. 1, 1861. Corporal. Wounded in action at Gettysburg, Pa., July 2, 1863. Discharged at expiration of term of service near Weldon R. R., Sept. 1, 1864."[17](#)

**Dennis Cosier.** "(Veteran), Allegan. Enlisted in company K, First Infantry, July 16, 1861, at Allegan, for 3 years, age 24. Mustered Aug. 2, 1861. Missing in action at Gaines's Mill, VA., June 27, 1862. Re-enlisted as Sergeant Feb. 17, 1864. First Sergeant. Discharged at Slough General Hospital, Alexandria, Va., July 4, 1865, by reason of wound received in action."[18](#)

**John H. Harrington.** "(Veteran), Wayne County. Enlisted in company A, First Infantry, July 5, 1861, at Ann Arbor, for 3 years, age 19. Mustered July 13, 1861. Re-enlisted as Sergeant, Feb. 17, 1864. Mustered Feb. 18, 1864. Wounded in action in the Wilderness, May 5, 1864. Commissioned First Lieutenant Nov. 1, 1864. Mustered Nov. 23, 1864. Discharged to accept promotion June 21, 1865. Commissioned Captain May 30, 1865. Mustered June 22, 1865. Mustered out and honorably discharged at Jeffersonville, Ind., July 9, 1865. Was in the following battles: Wilderness, Spottsylvania [sic], North Anna, Pebble's Farm, and Hatcher's Run, Va."[19](#)

**Daniel Long.** "(Veteran), Washtenaw County. Enlisted in company F, First Infantry, Sept. 16, 1861, at Detroit, for 3 years, age 18. Re-enlisted as corporal Feb. 17, 1864, at Beverly Ford, Va. Mustered Feb. 18, 1864. Discharged March 15, 1865, from Lincoln General Hospital, Washington, D. C., for wounds received in action Sept. 30, 1864."[20](#)

**Oscar H. Nash.** "(Veteran), Branch County. Enlisted in company E, First Infantry, July 9, 1861, at Coldwater, for 3 years, age 20. Mustered Sept. 14, 1861. Transferred to company A, Dec. 1, 1861. Re-enlisted Feb. 17, 1864, at Beverly Ford. Mustered Feb 18, 1864. Detailed in Fifth U. S. Artillery, March 24, 1863. Wounded and taken prisoner at Gettysburg, Pa., July 2, 1863. Paroled. Corporal. Killed in action at Hatcher's Run, Va., Feb. 6, 1865."[21](#)





# COLOR COMPANY THE FLAG BEARERS



**Royal H. Stevens.** “(Veteran), Stockbridge. Enlisted in company A, First Infantry, Aug. 31, 1861, at Ann Arbor, for 3 years, age 19. Mustered Sept. 12, 1861. Re-enlisted Jan. 1, 1864. Mustered Jan. 4, 1864. First Sergeant. Commissioned First Lieutenant, company C, May 30, 1865. Mustered June 23, 1865. Mustered out as of company B, near Jeffersonville, Ind., July 9, 1865.”[22](#)

**Charles E. Stuart.** “Enlisted in Company F, First Infantry, April 20, 1861, at Detroit, for 3 months, age 28. Mustered May 1, 1861. Mustered out at Detroit, Mich., Aug. 7, 1861. Re-entered service in company H, First Infantry, as Sergeant. Enlisted Aug. 17, 1861, at Detroit, for 3 years. Mustered Aug. 24, 1861. Killed in action at Malvern Hill, Va., July 1, 1862.”[23](#)

**George Tillotson.** “(Veteran). Enlisted in company B, Fourth Infantry, June 20, 1861, at Adrian, for 3 years, age 25. Mustered June 20, 1861. Corporal July 1, 1862. Re-enlisted Dec. 29, 1863. Mustered Jan. 1, 1864. On detached service with company B, First Infantry, by order, July 2, 1864. Sergeant. Killed in action at Hatcher’s Run, Va., Feb. 6, 1865.”[24](#)

**James G. Villard.** “Huron County. Enlisted in company G, First Infantry, Sept. 16, 1861, at Pigeon River, for 3 years, age 23. Mustered Sept. 16, 1861. Corporal. Color Bearer. Transferred to Fifth U. S. Cavalry Jan. 20, 1863.”[25](#)

**Hiram T. Watkins.** “Calhoun County. Enlisted in company F, First Infantry, July 18, 1861, at Marshall, for 3 years, age 23. Mustered Aug. 1, 1861. Color Guard. Corporal. Wounded in action at Gettysburg, Pa., July 2, 1863. Transferred to Veterans Reserve Corps March 15, 1864. Discharged from company K, Ninth Regiment, Veteran Reserve Corps, at Washington, D. C., May 5, 1864, for re-enlistment. Re-enlisted in company K, Ninth Veteran Reserve Corps, May 6, 1864. Discharged at Washington, D. C., Nov. 17, 1865.”[26](#)

There is no record of Lucius Mills carrying a flag for the First Michigan Infantry, but the record of his service indicates he did carry a Union flag during battle:

**Lucius Mills.** “(Veteran), Calhoun County. Enlisted in company H, First Infantry, Feb. 24, 1861. Paroled prisoner at Alexandria Aug. 30, 1862. Re-enlisted Feb. 17, 1864, at Beverly Ford. Mustered Feb. 18, 1864. Absent, wounded, May 8, 1864. Mustered out near Jeffersonville, Ind., July 9, 1865. At battle of Allsop’s Farm May 8, 1864, seized colors of Eighty-third Penn., from the ground (the Color Sergeant being killed), and carried them on our front line in two charges to top of hill, receiving a severe wound, but bringing the colors safely off and returning them to the Eighty-third Penn. Regiment.”[27](#)







# COLOR COMPANY THE FLAG BEARERS



**Charles Wonderlicks.** “(Veteran), St. Clair County. Enlisted in company G, First Infantry, July 13, 1861, at St. Clair, for 3 years, age 19. Mustered July 22, 1861. Wounded in action at Gaines’s Mill, Va., June 27, 1862. Missing in action at Chancellorsville, Va., May 5, 1863. Returned to regiment at Grove Church, June 9, 1863. Re-enlisted Dec. 25, 1863, at Beverly Ford, Va. Mustered Jan. 4, 1864. Wounded before Petersburg, Va., Aug., 1864. Killed in action at Hatcher’s Run, VA., Feb 6, 1865.”[28](#)

**Charles Worthington.** “Washtenaw County. Enlisted in company C, First Infantry, as Corporal, Sept. 21, 1861, at Ann Arbor, for 3 years, age 19. Mustered Nov. 2, 1861. Wounded in shoulder May 18, 1864. Sergeant. Discharged at expiration of term of service at Weldon R. R., Sept. 25, 1864.”[29](#)

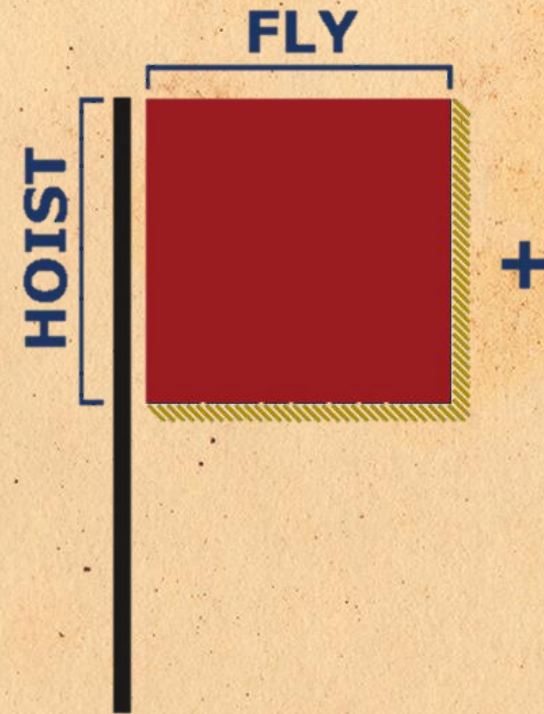


# THE FLAGS



**Note on Measurements:** All dimensions give the height of the flag (called the “hoist” and measured along the staff side of the flag) first, followed by the width (called the “fly” and measured from the outside edge of the sleeve to the flag’s free edge). Measurements exclude the fringe, which is measured separately. All measurements are in inches. A plus symbol (+) following a measurement means the flag is fragmentary and once extended further in that direction.

**Note on Catalogue Numbers:** “**SC**” refers to the State Capitol (the flags are State Capitol artifacts). The two-digit number at the end refers to the year the flags were catalogued and accessioned by the Michigan Historical Museum.





# THE FLAGS



**SC-5-90:** *Silk national.* ▪ *Dimensions: 67"x75"*

Although the blue canton is not intact and many of the five-pointed, gold painted stars are missing, the star pattern is consistent with other thirty-four-star flags in the collection with four rows of seven stars each and a middle row of six stars. This arrangement indicated that it was produced in the early years of the war, prior to West Virginia's entry into the Union in 1863, which added a thirty-fifth star. On the third white strip from the top is painted in gold "1<sup>st</sup> REG. MICHIG[AN]" The painted portion reads correctly on the obverse (front) and incorrectly on the reverse (back). The fabric on the hoist was fashioned into a sleeve for attachment to the staff, although this fabric is not a part of the whole silk, but rather a separate piece stitched onto the flag for attachment to the staff.

The staff, which measures 97" long x 1 ¼" in diameter is intact, with a gold painted wood spear finial. The staffs of flags returned to the state at the 1866 Detroit ceremony marking the end of the war, all bear identical brass plaques. The brass plaque reads in Spencerian script "1<sup>st</sup> Mich. Infantry."

One tassel remains. The twisted green and gold cord measures 78" long and the gold bullion tassel is formed on a wooden core and measures 2 ¼".

The flag was netted (sewn between layers of dyed net) in the 1960s in an early attempt at conservation.



# THE FLAGS



**SC-6-90:** *Silk national.* ▪ *Dimensions: 70"x70"* ▪ *Silk Fringe: 1.75"*

The blue canton of the flag is not intact and many of the five-pointed, gold painted stars are missing, making establishment of a star pattern and number difficult. Painted in gold block lettering and outlined in black are battle honors, starting on the first white strop from the top: "BULL RUN, MECHANIC[SVILLE], GAINS [MILL], MALVERN HILL, SH[EPARDSTOWN FORD?]" The flag has gold silk knotted fringe. The fabric on the hoist was fashioned into a sleeve for attachment to the staff.

The staff which measures 97" x 1.25" in diameter is intact with a gold orb finial. The staff of flags returned to the state in 1866 Detroit ceremony marking the end of the war all bear identical brass plaques. The plaque reads in Spencerian script, "1<sup>st</sup> Mich. Infantry."

No tassels or cord remain.

The flag was netted (sewn between layers of dyed net) in the 1960s in an early attempt at conservation.



# THE FLAGS



**SC-7-90** *Two silk swallowtail national guidons on one staff, probably used as flank markers.*

**Flag 1:** *Dimensions: 25"x37.5" (to extremity of the swallowtail)*

Flag one has thirty-five, five-pointed stars painted on the canton in concentric circles with twelve stars in the inner circle and nineteen stars in the outer circle, and one star in each corner. The fabric on the hoist was fashioned into a sleeve for attachment to the staff.

**Flag 2:** *Dimensions: 25"x38.5" (to extremity of the swallowtail)*

Flag two has thirty-five, five-pointed stars painted on the canton in concentric circles with twelve stars in the inner circle and nineteen stars in the outer circle, and one star in each corner. The canton is a lighter blue than that of flag one. The fabric on the hoist was fashioned into a sleeve for attachment to the staff.

The staff, which measures 98.25" long x 1.25" in diameter is intact with gold metal spade finial. The staffs of flags returned to the state at the 1866 Detroit ceremony marking the end of the war all bear identical brass plaques. The brass plaque reads in Spencerian script "1<sup>st</sup> Mich. Infantry."

No tassels, or cords remain.

The flags were netted (sewn between layers of dyed net) in the 1960s in an early attempt at conservation. In the Summer of 2023, conservation specialists at the capitol began more modern conservation work in lab in Heritage Hall.



# THE FLAGS



**SC-17-90:** *Silk swallowtail national guidon* ▪ *Dimensions: 25"x40"*

The flag is a swallowtail national flag and was probably used by the regiment as a flank marker. It has thirty-five, five-pointed stars painted on the canton in concentric circles with twelve stars in the inner circle and nineteen stars in the outer circle, and one star in each corner. The fabric on the hoist was fashioned into a sleeve for attachment to the staff.

The staff which measures 97" long x 1.25" in diameter, is intact with a gold metal spade finial. The staffs of flags returned to the state at the 1866 Detroit ceremony making the end of the war all bear identical brass plaques. The brass plaque in Spencerian script reads, "1<sup>st</sup> Mich. Infantry."

No tassels or cords remain.

The flag was netted (sewn between layers of dyed net) in the 1960s in an early attempt at conservation.



# THE FLAGS



**SC-18-90:** *Silk national.* ▪ *Dimensions: 69.5"x74"* ▪ *Gold Bullion Fringe: 2.5"*

Although the blue canton is not intact and many of the five-pointed, silver embroidered stars are missing, the star pattern is consistent with other thirty-four-star flags in the collection, with four rows of 6 stars and two center rows of five stars. On the fourth red strip from the top is embroidered in silver Gothic lettering "1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Inf." The flag has gold bullion fringe which is partially intact. Five cloth ribbons were added (presumably during the 1960's restoration attempts) for attachment to the staff.

The staff, which measures 98" long x 1.5" in diameter is intact, with a gold, metal spade finial. The staffs of flags returned to the state at the 1866 Detroit ceremony marking the end of the war all bear identical brass plaques. The brass plaque in Spencerian scrip reads "1<sup>st</sup> Mich. Infantry".

No tassels or cords remain.

The flag was netted (sewn between layers of dyed net) in the 1960s in an early attempt at conservation.





# THE FLAGS



**SC-19-90:** *Silk state regimental.* ▪ *Dimensions: 61"x61"* ▪ *Gold Bullion Fringe: 2.5"*

The partially intact flag has a dark blue field consisting of a single layer of silk and painted. The obverse (front) is charged with a painted red scroll with the regimental designation (only part of which remains). Above the designating scroll, the flag is charged with a painted rendering of the Michigan coat-of-arms. It features an eagle (partial remaining) with outstretched wings. The eagle rests atop a shield (partial remaining). The shield is supported on the left and right by elk (partial remaining) both rampant. The reverse (back) is charged with the national emblem, featuring an eagle (partial remaining) with outstretched wings perched atop the federal shield (partial remaining). Beneath the shield is a painted scroll with the regimental designation (partial remaining). As a result of the single layer construction, some of the painted areas on the obverse have "bled" through the silk and can be seen on the reverse and some of the painted areas on the reverse have also "bled" through the silk and can be seen on the obverse side. The result of this "bleeding" has the unfortunate effect of obscuring some of the painted areas on both sides of the flag. The flag has gold bullion fringe that is partially intact. Six cloth ribbons were sewn to the flag for attachment to the staff.

The staff which measures 96" long x 1.5 in in diameter is intact, with a gold, metal orb finial (partially intact). The staffs of flags returned to the state at the 1866 Detroit ceremony celebrating the end of the war all bear identical brass plaques. There is no plaque on this staff indicating that it may have been turned over to the state at a later time.

No tassels or cords remain.

The flag was netted (sewn between layers of dyed net) in the 1960s in an early attempt at conservation. The ribbons were also netted at this time. The conservator also added modern stitching around the outer edge of the painted area.







# THE FLAGS



**SC-20-90:** *Silk national.* ▪ *Dimensions: 71"x76"* ▪ *Silk Fringe: 1.75"*



The flag has thirty-five painted gold stars in the blue canton arranged in two concentric ovals with ten stars in the inner oval, twenty stars in the outer oval, and a star in each corner and in the center of the canton. This indicates that it was carried in the later part of the war, after West Virginia became a state. The flag has gold silk knotted fringe. Fabric on the hoist was fashioned into a sleeve for attachment to the staff.

The staff, which measures 97" long x 1.25" in diameter is intact with a gold spade finial. The staffs of flags returned to the state at the 1866 Detroit ceremony marking the end of the war all bear identical brass plaques. The brass plaque reads in Spencerian script "1<sup>st</sup> Mich. Infantry."

No tassels or cords remain.

The flag was netted (sewn between layers of dyed net) in the 1960s in an early attempt at conservation. At this time, the conservator also added a piece of modern fringe to fill in a space along the top edge near the hoist.



# THE FLAGS



**SC-219-90:** *Silk national.* ▪ *Dimensions: 77"x79"* ▪ *Silk Fringe: 2.5"*

Although the canton is not intact and many of the five-pointed, gold, painted stars are missing, the star pattern is consistent with other thirty-five star flags in the collection. With these flags, the stars are arranged in two concentric ovals with ten stars in the inner oval and twenty in the outer oval, one star in each corner, and one star in the center. The flag has silk gold knotted fringe which is partially intact. The fabric on the hoist was fashioned into a sleeve for attachment to the staff.

There is no staff accompanying this flag, instead it was stored in a box for many years.

No tassels or cord remain.

In 1999 the flag was conserved by Textile Preservation Associates and was stabilized between layers of shear Stabiltex.

**Above:** SC-219-90 Pre-conservation  
**Right:** SC-19-90 Post-conservation





# PHOTOGRAPHS



Brady, Matthew, photographer **“John Cleveland Robinson”** c. 1855-1865. Library of Congress Prints and Photograph Division, [reproduction number, e.g., LC-USZ62-123456], Wikimedia Commons

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John\\_Cleveland\\_Robinson.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_Cleveland_Robinson.jpg) (accessed February 1, 2019).

Glendenning, Peter, photographer. **“[SC-219-90](#)”** c. 1990. State of Michigan: *Save the Flags Collection*.

**“Grave Horace S. Roberts”** Michigan Masonic Museum and Library: Masonic World Collection, Find A Grave <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/77637558/horace-s-roberts#view-photo=60033549> (accessed February 1, 2019).

**“Horace S. Roberts”** Michigan Masonic Museum and Library, Find A Grave <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/77637558/horace-s-roberts#view-photo=60033288> (accessed February 1, 2019).

**“Ira Corey Abbott”** Wikimedia Commons [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ira\\_Coray\\_Abbott.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ira_Coray_Abbott.jpg) (accessed February 1, 2019)

Kerr, Doug **“Gettysburg Battlefield”** c. 2009. Wikimedia Commons [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gettysburg\\_Battlefield\\_\(3441631028\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gettysburg_Battlefield_(3441631028).jpg) (accessed February 1, 2019).

**“[SC-5-90](#)”** 2023. State of Michigan: *Save the Flags Collection*.

**“[SC-6-90](#)”** 2023. State of Michigan: *Save the Flags Collection*.

**“[SC-7-90](#)”** 2023. State of Michigan: *Save the Flags Collection*.

**“[SC-17-90](#)”** 2023. State of Michigan: *Save the Flags Collection*.

**“[SC-18-90](#)”** 2023. State of Michigan: *Save the Flags Collection*.

**“[SC-19-90](#)”** 2023. State of Michigan: *Save the Flags Collection*.

**“[SC-20-90](#)”** 2023. State of Michigan: *Save the Flags Collection*.

**“[SC-219-90 Conserved](#)”** 2018. State of Michigan: *Save the Flags Collection*.

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# END NOTES



- (1) John Robertson, *Michigan In the War* (Lansing: W. S. George and Co. State Printers and Binders, 1882), 176.
- (2) Ibid, 187.
- (3) Ibid, 174.
- (4) MIMasonicCharitable. "Most Worshipful Grand Masters of Michigan: Horace S Roberts, MWGM." YouTube, June 28, 2013, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2vT9bqtKno](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2vT9bqtKno). (accessed January 23, 2019)
- (5) Robertson, *Michigan in the War*, 175.
- (6) Ibid, 176
- (7) Robert Budd Ross, *The Early Bench and Bar of Detroit from 1805 to the End of 1850* (Detroit: Richard P. Joy and Clarence M. Burton, 1907), 169-70, <https://books.google.com/books?id=VNHhAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA169&lpg=PA169&dq=Horace+S.+Roberts+first+michigan&source=bl&ots=kjWceDdBj4&sig=XxNfZgQmmsVhChYNcaGqxHDGVu4&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjf3ZTsu-DQAhWJwiYKHQIoChEQ6AEIJDAC#v=onepage&q=Horace%20S.%20Roberts%20first%20michigan&f=false> (accessed January 23, 2019).
- (8) Robertson, *Michigan in the War*, 177.
- (9) Ibid, 179.
- (10) Ibid, 181.
- (11) *The Coldwater Union*, April 22, 1864.
- (12) Robertson, *Michigan in the War*, 182.
- (13) *The Kalamazoo Gazette*, June 24, 1909.
- (14) Robertson, *Michigan in the War* 185-6.



# END NOTES



[\(15\)](#) Ibid, 186.

[\(16\)](#) Ibid, 90.

[\(17\)](#) Michigan, Adjutant-General's Dept., *Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, 1861-1865*. Vol. 1 of 46 (Kalamazoo: Ihling bros. and Everard, 190-), 28.

[\(18\)](#) Michigan, Adjutant-General's Dept., *Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, 1861-1865*. Vol. 1 of 46 (Kalamazoo: Ihling bros. and Everard, 190-), 30.

[\(19\)](#) Michigan, Adjutant-General's Dept., *Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, 1861-1865*. Vol. 1 of 46 (Kalamazoo: Ihling bros. and Everard, 190-), 58.

[\(20\)](#) Michigan, Adjutant-General's Dept., *Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, 1861-1865*. Vol. 1 of 46 (Kalamazoo: Ihling bros. and Everard, 190-), 80.

[\(21\)](#) Michigan, Adjutant-General's Dept., *Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, 1861-1865*. Vol. 1 of 46 (Kalamazoo: Ihling bros. and Everard, 190-), 93.

[\(22\)](#) Michigan, Adjutant-General's Dept., *Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, 1861-1865*. Vol. 1 of 46 (Kalamazoo: Ihling bros. and Everard, 190-), 128.

[\(23\)](#) Michigan, Adjutant-General's Dept., *Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, 1861-1865*. Vol. 1 of 46 (Kalamazoo: Ihling bros. and Everard, 190-), 130.

[\(24\)](#) Michigan, Adjutant-General's Dept., *Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, 1861-1865*. Vol. 4 of 46 (Kalamazoo: Ihling bros. and Everard, 190-), 110.

[\(25\)](#) Michigan, Adjutant-General's Dept., *Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, 1861-1865*. Vol. 1 of 46 (Kalamazoo: Ihling bros. and Everard, 190-), 139.



# END NOTES



[\[26\]](#) Michigan, Adjutant-General's Dept., *Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, 1861-1865*. Vol. 1 of 46 (Kalamazoo: Ihling bros. and Everard, 190-), 141.

[\[27\]](#) Michigan, Adjutant-General's Dept., *Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, 1861-1865*. Vol. 1 of 46 (Kalamazoo: Ihling bros. and Everard, 190-), 90.

[\[28\]](#) Michigan, Adjutant-General's Dept., *Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, 1861-1865*. Vol. 1 of 46 (Kalamazoo: Ihling bros. and Everard, 190-), 148-9.

[\[29\]](#) Michigan, Adjutant-General's Dept., *Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, 1861-1865*. Vol. 1 of 46 (Kalamazoo: Ihling bros. and Everard, 190-), 150.