



SECOND MICHIGAN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY REGIMENT



The Colors Must Fly¹

Of the thousands of visitors who annually pass through the Military Museum of Michigan's State Capitol, with but a perfunctory glance at the old Michigan battle flags, stored there in glass cases probably not more than one in a thousand of the present generation ever realizes or comprehends what a vast amount of heroism, sacrifice of noble lives and treasure it cost to bear them to a triumphant issue in that great crucial struggle for national existence; that most tragic period in the history of this country – the great Civil War. Oh, could they but speak, what touching scenes of heroism they could give, scenes that no tongue can now tell nor pen adequately describe.²

Colonel Frederick Schneider

In his "Incidental Flag History Second Michigan Infantry" 1905

The Second Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment was organized ten days after the fall of Fort Sumter. Like the [First Michigan Volunteer Infantry \(Three Months\)](#), the men came from local militia units who entered service together and made up the companies of the regiment. These militia units came from the southern part of the state from communities like Adrian (Adrian Guard), Kalamazoo (Kalamazoo Light Guard), Battle Creek (Battle Creek Artillery), Hudson (Hudson Artillery), Flint (Flint Union Greys), Constantine (Constantine Union Guard) and Saginaw (East Saginaw Guard).³ Many of these volunteers were young students attending Adrian, Hillsdale, and Kalamazoo Colleges and were filled with men who were related to or knew each other.



Colonel Israel B. Richardson





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The regiment was recruited to serve for three months, but before they could be mustered in, orders came from the War Department that enlistments were to be extended to three years. Those who did not want to serve the three years were allowed to withdraw and the Second Michigan Infantry was mustered in as a three year regiment on May 25, 1861.⁴ When they mustered in at Fort Wayne, near Detroit, the regiment numbered 1,013 volunteers and was commanded by Colonel Israel B. Richardson.⁵

Nearly every company of the Second Michigan Infantry brought their own flags when they mustered in. Company E, from Niles, was designated the color company, so their flag became the official banner of the regiment.⁶ The flag was presented to the Berrien County Volunteers by the women of Niles in a large celebration in the city on May 4, 1861. Almost a thousand people attended. The Niles Band played, "Hail Columbia" and Mary Penrose presented the flag to Captain Robert Bretschneider saying:

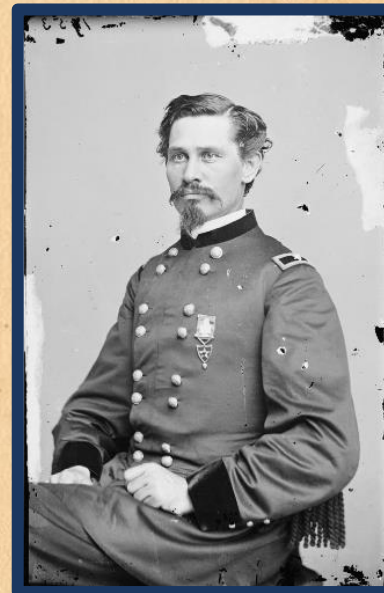
Go forth, then under its starry folds with our blessings and our prayers. Go forth in God's name and in His strength, to maintain the Constitution, the Union and to protect the FAIR!⁷

Captain Bretschneider responded:

We will show and prove to you, by our future acts and deeds, that we are worthy of your consideration . . . Thank you, ladies, for honoring us with this beautiful flag. May our names be forgotten if we ever desert it. If dying on the battle field, our last look shall be directed to this beautiful emblem, and our last breath shall utter, if called upon to surrend[er] it, never, Never, NEVER!⁸

The men of the Second Michigan were true to the words of Captain Bretschneider. The Second was engaged in many early battles including First Bull Run, where they provided cover for the retreating Union Army.⁹ During these engagements the captain of the color company appointed a man from the company to act as color bearer.¹⁰

By late 1861, command of the Second had transferred to Colonel Orlando Metcalfe (O. M.) Poe after Colonel Richardson was



Colonel Orlando M. Poe

promoted to Brigadier General.¹¹ Poe ordered a regulation set of colors and presented them to the regiment on October 31, 1861.¹² In his book, *Memoirs of the Second Michigan Infantry*, Herman Petzoid wrote of the presentation of this flag:

I will simply touch upon a certain dress parade held at Camp Michigan and to my thinking, it was an occurrence of great attraction. Colonel O. M. Poe having a brand new silken regimental flag, who presented it to his Battalion, and implicating the same in a well said patriotic speech charging his men with memorable appeal, 'Never



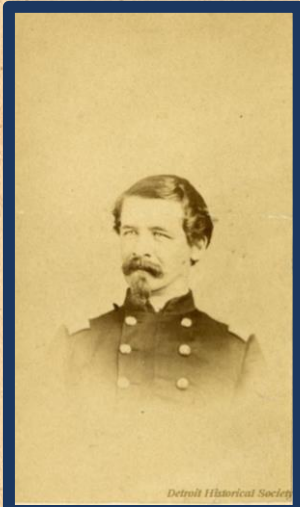


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forsake the flag!', and unfurling the beautiful banner, the glorious emblem of the Stars and Stripes, the line beheld it for the first time fluttering in the breezes of a setting sun and the Battalion receiving it in the highest spirits responded to it with three hearty cheers and pledged to the banner.[13](#)

In addition to procuring a new flag, Poe reorganized the way color guard duties were carried out. On October 31, 1861, Poe issued Battalion Order No. 61, which created a color guard under the adjutant of the regiment and independent of any of the established companies. The color guard was made up of one sergeant and five corporals. Captains were responsible for promoting sergeants to fill any vacancies.[14](#)



Lieutenant Colonel
Louis Dillman

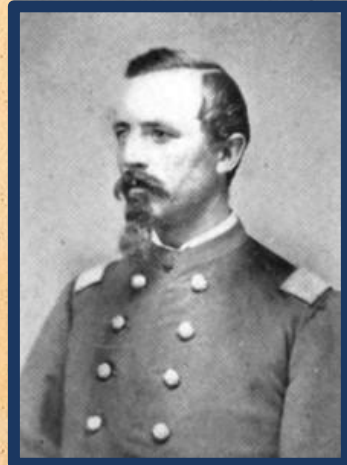
Poe was in command of the Second Michigan for less than a year before, like Colonel Richardson, he was promoted to brigade commander. He rose rapidly through the ranks and by the end of the war had attained the rank of brigadier general.[15](#) Because of Poe's rapid advancement, Lieutenant Colonel Louis Dillman was temporarily placed in charge of the regiment. He held this position for several months until after the Battle of Fredericksburg when William Humphrey was promoted to colonel.[16](#)

While the Second had acquired a second flag when Poe was in command, it appears that they continued to use their presentation flag until after Fredericksburg.

Frederick Schneider, who would later become colonel of the regiment, described the reason for returning the flag to the ladies of Niles in his *Incidental Flag History: Second Michigan Infantry*:

This flag being of very light silk, had become unserviceable . . . When it had become so tattered by wear, and by some forty bullet holes, that it was deemed unfit for further service, and was returned to the donors at Niles, who treasured it highly, and who finally caused it to be stored in the Military Museum at the Capitol.[17](#)

By the time the flag was sent home, it had been carried in many battles including Blackburn's Ford, First and Second Bull Run, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Malvern Hill, Chantilly and Fredericksburg.[18](#) The Detroit Advertiser and Tribune, in an article about the return published on April 30, 1863, mentioned that eleven members of the color guard had been killed or wounded under the flag.[19](#) These casualties included John S. Glidden and Cyrus Knight who were wounded at Williamsburg and Ulysses D. Russell who was wounded at Malvern Hill.[20](#)



Colonel William
Humphrey



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The red coloring in the photo of SC-16-90 is due to the red netting used during conservation efforts in the 1960's.

SC-16-90 has been frequently identified as the flag the ladies of Niles presented to the regiment. An account of the original dedication ceremony compiled for the centennial of the war using the family papers of Robert Bretschneider who was captain of the Niles company describes the original flag as being “nine by six feet, silk, and fixed on a staff surmounted by a blue dome and a golden eagle.. The eagle clutched a scroll that said, ‘At the Union’s sacred call, Her patriotic sons will peril all.’”^{21, 22} SC-16-90 fits

the description of this flag however, there are some inconsistencies between the flag and descriptions.

Both the centennial history and Schneider clearly state that the flag was retired due to its tattered condition, and a newspaper article from the Detroit Advertiser and Tribune states that it was returned “because it was all worn and torn to pieces, having some forty bullet holes in it”.²³ These accounts are problematic because SC-16-90 does not have the extensive damage described. SC-16-90 is also unusual because the canton is on the wrong side of the flag, an irregularity that would likely have been unacceptable to the men and would have surely been mentioned in documents from the time. Could the flag be an early replica? Is it possible that the ladies of Niles attached the original canton to a new piece of fabric? We know that two flags were handed over to the state during the flag ceremony in 1866.²⁴ Both of these flags are thirty-five star flags which indicate they would have been made after 1863 and thus are not the regiment’s first flag. In 1878, the *Hillsdale Standard* reported that, “the ‘first flag’ of the old Second Michigan Infantry has been delivered to Adjutant-General Robertson for safe keeping.”²⁵ Finally, in 1905, Schneider states the residents of Niles had handed over their flag to the state.²⁶ Since there were only three flags in the collection prior to the 1990’s, it is likely that SC-16-90 is the flag Schneider was referring to.

One more noteworthy observation about SC-16-90 relates to the flagstaff. The staffs for the flags returned in 1866 were cut down to



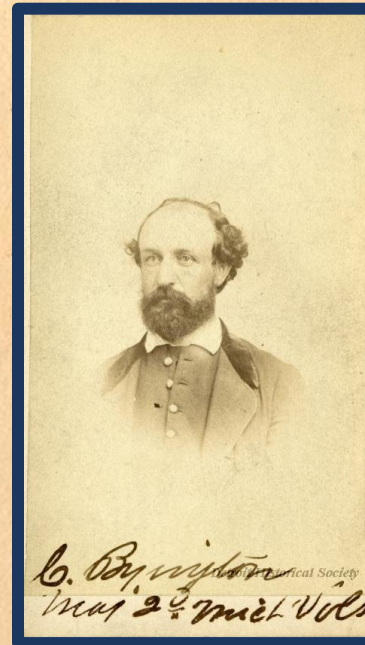
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allow them to fit in the cases in the capitol. The staff for SC-16-90 does not show any indication of being cut down, but it is also shorter than the other staffs. In fact, it is only slightly longer than the flag itself. However, the staff is of appropriate proportions to be a staff for a flag the size of what is now the canton.

After returning their presentation flag to Niles, the men used the flag procured by Colonel Poe. Much of what is known of the history of the regiment's second flag is due in part to Senior Color Corporal William Gundlach who dictated a letter to his daughter describing his role in caring for the flag. One of his most detailed descriptions is of action during the Siege of Knoxville. By this time, the Second's third colonel had, like Richardson and Poe, been promoted to brigade command, so Major Cornelius Byington took command of the regiment.²⁷ Gundlach explains:

On November 24 . . . when our regiment made that gallant charge on the enemy's works, our brave Major Byington, who was then in command of the regiment, said to me: 'Sergeant, don't unfurl the colors today, I am afraid you will never bring them back if you do.' I replied, 'The Colors must fly,' and they did. I planted the Colors on the enemy's rifle pit, which we had just captured, and driven the enemy out of, but the enemy immediately rallied with overwhelming force . . . it was a miracle that any of us escaped from that murderous fire. The rebels tried to take the flag from me, and had laid hands on it, but with the colors in one hand and my Colt's revolver in the other, and with the timely help of Color Corporal Martin Rheule, of Company H, who knocked one the rebels on the head with the butt of his gun, I got the colors back and down from the rifle pit. Just then came the



Major Cornelius Byington

orders to fall back to our lines. The noble Major Byington, our gallant Adjutant [William] Noble, and two of my color guards were killed close to me. I carried the colors safely back to camp, not flying, but on my shoulders.²⁸

Robertson's *Michigan in the War*, cites the number of casualties at Knoxville at eighty-six men.²⁹ Colonel Schneider puts the number at eighty four "including four officers and two color corporals killed, and six sergeants who lost a leg each".³⁰ Schneider also states that the flagstaff was hit three different times.

In addition to describing the Battle of Knoxville, Gundlach also explained his responsibilities when the regiment was not engaged in battle, "We had no regular regimental headquarters where the colors could be kept, so I kept them in my little dugout, day and night, sleeping with them in my arms at night, for fear they might be stolen from me."³¹

By the beginning of 1864, the terms of enlistment for many of the men were ending and they were given the option to reenlist. If seventy-five percent of the regiment reenlisted, the regiment was



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Captain William
Gundlach

given veterans status and granted a thirty-day furlough home. By January, 198 men of the Second Michigan reenlisted. Due to high casualty rates, this was over the required number, and on February 4, those who reenlisted were granted furlough.³²

Captain Gundlach was responsible for the flag during the furlough. While in Cincinnati on the way back to Michigan, he had battle honors painted on the flag. "Our Lieut.-Col. Hayden and I, pursuant to general orders from General Burnside, took the flag to a painter's establishment, and had the names of all the

principal battles, from Blackburn's Ford to Jackson, Miss., painted in gilt letters on it. I felt very proud of that list of battles on our flag."³³ After the flag was painted, Gundlach and the rest of the veteran Second continued on to Detroit. During the furlough, Gundlach kept the flag at his mother's house for safekeeping.³⁴

In the spring of 1864, the veterans of the Second, with new recruits to fill out the regiment, returned to the front. On the way to the front the regiment marched through Annapolis, MD and participated in a review of the troops before President Abraham Lincoln in Washington DC.³⁵ During the journey, Gundlach fell ill and was hospitalized. The colors were given to the care of Color

Corporal John J. Callahan.³⁶ The Second arrived just in time to participate in the Battle of the Wilderness in May of 1864. Six men

Souveniring

The men of the regiment had an intense love for the flags carried by their regiment. Often these men wanted to keep a piece of the flag as a memento of their time in the service. Captain Gundlach expressed this sentiment when he was forced to relinquish his responsibilities as a color bearer due to illness, "Before doing so [giving the colors to Corporal John J. Callahan], I severed a tattered piece of the flag from it, that hung by a few threads only. I put the fragment in my diary, thinking if I never see those colors again I will at least have a small piece of it as a precious keepsake".³⁷ The small piece taken by Gundlach was large enough that he was able to later divide it and give a piece to Colonel Poe's wife and a few other women:

Mrs. Poe told me that the flag had been lost, and expressed deep regret that she could or did not have a piece of it, as a memento of our great sacrifices, and its awful baptism in the blood of her husband's old regiment. I told her what I had done at Warrington, and that I had carried a precious fragment with me in the hospital, the Petersburg campaign, and for several months in Libby prison. I took the piece from my note book, and gave each of them a piece about the size of a half dollar. Each of the ladies had her piece put into a brooch."³⁸

Many of the flags in the capitol collection show signs of obvious souveniring. Some have very deliberate and precise cut marks to the extent that the stars of some flags are neatly clipped out.





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were killed including Color Bearer Stephen G. Colvin. Color Corporal Charles H. Rodgers was injured.³⁹

Over the next two months, the Second Michigan participated in the Overland Campaign seeing action at Spotsylvania, Oxford, North Anna, Tolpotomy, Cold Harbor, and Bethesda Church. By June they were stationed near Petersburg and, for a third time, their Colonel was promoted to brigade commander. Upon Colonel Humphry's promotion, Lieutenant Colonel Edwin March was placed in command (he would eventually be promoted and become the Second's fourth colonel).⁴⁰



Colonel Edwin March

Petersburg, one of the Confederate's largest supply depots, and a junction for five railroads was a valuable target.⁴¹ The Second participated in an attack on the city on June 17 and 18. One of the color bearers that day was Corporal Alfred Rowe. His service record in *The Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War 1861-1865* gives a detailed description of what happened next:

In the first charges on the enemy's outworks, made on that fatal day, the Color Bearer was wounded and Corporal Rowe became Color Bearer and in the last assault about 5 p. m. on the enemy's main line of defense before

Petersburg, Va., he carried the regimental colors and rushed ahead of the regimental line of battle about fifty yards through a storm of shot and shell, when he sank to the ground, shot through the head, but still holding up the colors in a firm grip, rigid in death, when Lieutenant Frederick Schneider of Company A went out to him under fire of the enemy and brought back the colors to the regimental line, the entire Color Guard having been either killed or wounded.⁴²

In addition to retrieving the colors, Schneider also saved one of his fellow soldiers on the field. The editor of Schneider's flag history added a footnote about the event:

About twenty feet from where Corporal Rowe had fallen, clasping the flagstaff in his dying grasp, lay a young comrade aged about eighteen, severely wounded through the shoulder; weakened by pain and loss of blood, he was unable to rise, and faintly pleaded with Lieut. Schneider to help him from the field. Responding to his appeal the lieutenant, grasping the flag in one hand, and lying flat beside the wounded boy, he drew the well arm around his neck and by sheer strength rose to his knees, then to his feet and bore the sufferer on his back and amid flying bullets, carried him and the rescued flag back to the line.⁴³

All total, twenty-two men were

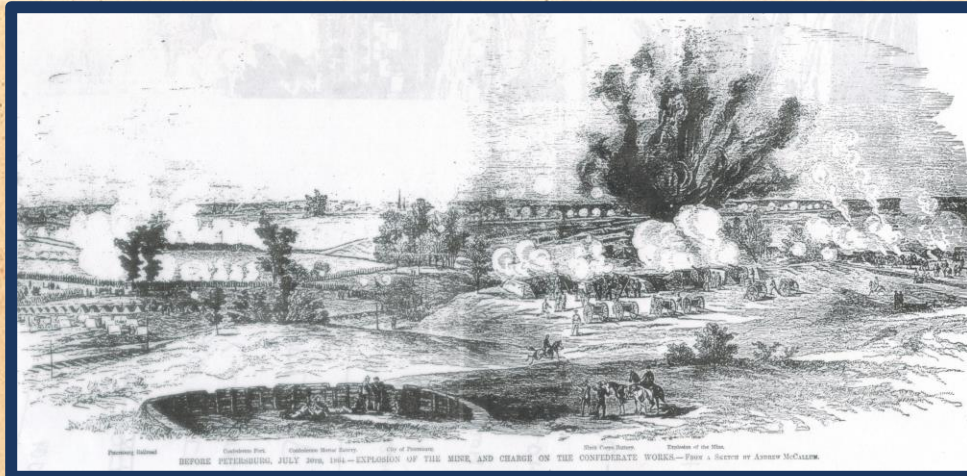


Frederick Schneider





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The Explosion of the Mine and Charge on the Confederate Works – Andrew McCallum

killed and 143 were wounded over the two day battle.[44](#) Following this assault, the Union withdrew and began a siege of the city.

The Second's next major engagement was at the Battle of the Crater. Union troops, in an attempt to break the siege and conquer Petersburg dug a 510 foot mineshaft, loaded it with 8,000 pounds of gunpowder, and detonated it, attempting to create a hole in the Confederate lines.[45](#) The Second was positioned south of the crater. After an initial advance, the regiment was pinned down and the color guard was eventually surrounded.[46](#) In 1887, Jessie Gains, who was color bearer at the battle, wrote a paper that was presented to the veterans of the Second. In the paper, he describes what happened:

The flag staff had been cut entirely off about two feet from the top by rebel bullets. I had just finished winding it up, and seeing no possible chance to escape with it I threw it with all the force I could command over their heads and works towards our lines. And so while the colors were for a time lost they were never surrendered.[47](#)

The entire color guard was captured including Gains and Nathan M. Richardson.[48](#) In spite of Gains' efforts the colors were captured and sent to the confederate capitol at Richmond. When Richmond fell, the Union flags were sent to Washington D.C. Regiments then had to petition to get their flags back. Flags were only returned if the regiment proved the flag had been captured under great duress.





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The battle honors that William Gundlach describes having painted on the flag are visible on SC-8-90.

The damage on the flag is consistent with damage described by Schneider and several newspaper articles feature a picture of this flag and label it as the regiment's second flag.

Like the regiment's first flag, though, there is a troubling inconsistency that raises some questions about the flag. SC-8-90 is one of two flags that was given to the state during the dedication ceremony in 1866. Robertson states that two flags were handed over during the dedication celebration and SC-8-90 is one of the

Almost all available sources indicate that SC-8-90 is the regiment's second flag that was carried from Fredericksburg through the Battle of the Crater. This flag is a national flag and has the battle honors that Gundlach ordered painted in Cincinnati.

two flags with a brass plaque attached in the 1860's.⁴⁹ However, a letter written by the Secretary of War William Endicott responding to questions posed to him by congress in 1888 details what happened to every flag that ended up in Washington. In this letter, he states that the United States flag of the Second Michigan captured on July 30, 1864 (the date of the Battle of the Crater) was returned to Michigan by Secretary of War W. W. Belknap in 1871.⁵⁰ In addition, a newspaper article describing the Second Michigan's reunion in 1887 details that General (former Colonel) Humphrey did not send the flag in his possession to the reunion. The article describes the flag as the one from the national capitol which was eventually returned by Secretary Belknap. The men decided to form a committee to encourage him to turn it over to the state.⁵¹

Is SC-8-90 the flag that was carried at the Battle of the Crater? If so, why do congressional records have it listed in Washington? Was the Crater flag really only the second flag of the regiment? If there were more flags, why doesn't Schneider mention them in his flag history of the regiment? The answer to these questions may never be known. It is highly likely that the Second Michigan possessed flags that never made it into the collection. The capitol collection does not contain any regimental flags of the Second Michigan featuring coat-of-arms of Michigan or the United States and the Second Michigan would have received at least one of these.

After the loss of the regiment's flag at the Crater, General Meade, the commander of the Army of the Potomac, ordered a new flag for



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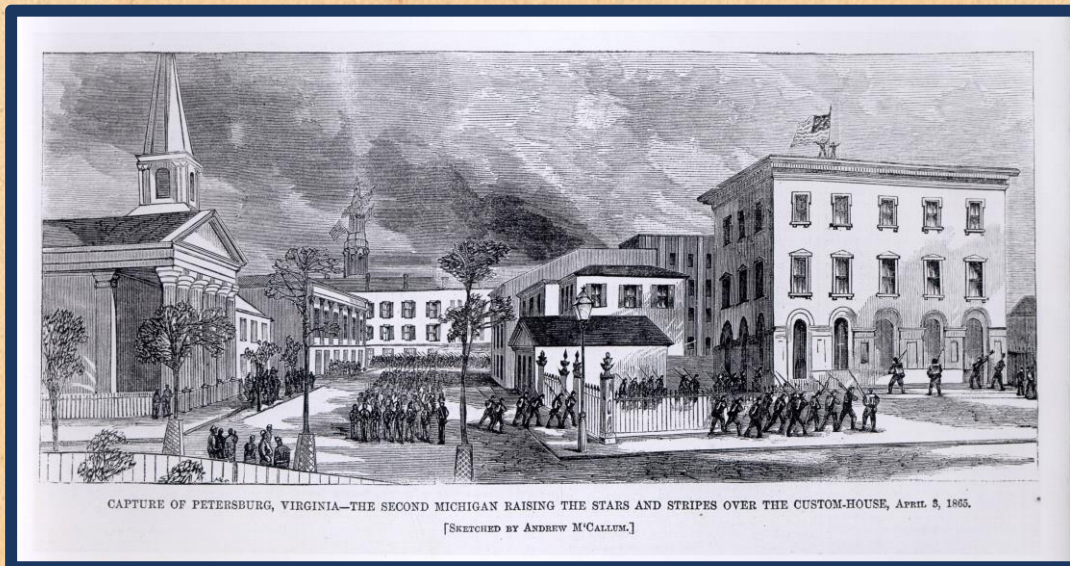


the regiment. This flag was painted with battle honors and presented to the regiment in August or September of 1864.[52](#)

The regiment remained in the area around Petersburg after receiving this flag. On March 25, 1865, the confederate troops captured Fort Steadman, one of the Union works around Petersburg. The confederates turned their guns on the Second Michigan and the Second counterattacked. In an account of the battle, John Hardy, who had previously carried the regiment's colors and had been wounded, says that the Second captured over three hundred Confederates. Thirty-five were captured by Hardy.[53](#)

Several days after Fort Steadman, the Second was involved with the Capture of Petersburg. On this occasion Joseph Richardson, color sergeant, was the flag bearer.[54](#) A letter from John Boughton, acting commander at the time, written to Colonel March from Petersburg on April 4, 1865 tells of an honor the regiment received that day:

I am happy to be able to tell you that we are encamped within the streets of the City of Petersburg Va. – We entered the city in company with the 1st Mich [Sharpshooters] at 13 minutes past 4 yesterday morning and at ½ past 4 I put our Regt Color[s] on the Custom House. No other troops than the 1st and 2nd Mich Entered the city until after daylight, Our Colors were the first up.[55](#)



The Second Michigan Raising
the Stars and Stripes over the
Custom-House – Andrew
McCallum



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Later it would be discovered that the First Michigan Sharpshooters had placed their flag on the courthouse just prior to the time that the Second could get their flag hoisted above the custom house.⁵⁶ So, the first two flags over Petersburg were both Michigan flags.

The flag that was hoisted over Petersburg was one of the flags turned over to the state during the flag dedication ceremony in 1866. Color Sergeant Nathan M. Richardson was responsible for handing the flag over to the state.⁵⁷ The flag was later designated SC-1-90. As described by Schneider, it is a silk national flag bearing the names of many of the battles the Second Participated in. The regiment's name was painted in the canton, which was somewhat unusual at the time, though this was probably done to allow more room to list the battles. This flag also notes the Second's distinction as a veteran regiment.



SC-1-90 is covered with battle honors and shows the regiment's veteran status.

Incidental Flag History: Second Michigan Infantry



Our knowledge of the flags of the Second Michigan Infantry is due in large part to Colonel Frederick Schneider. Schneider enlisted as a private in the Second Michigan Infantry on April 18, 1861. Schneider rose rapidly through the ranks and by the end of the war, he was the Colonel of the regiment.⁵⁸ In 1905, the Michigan Department of the Grand Army of the Republic, a veterans organization, held a contest for the best regimental flag history written by soldiers who served in the war. The winner of the contest was *Incidental Flag History: Second Michigan Infantry* by Col. Frederick Schneider. Schneider won twenty dollars in gold for his submission and his work has been frequently referenced to this day.⁵⁹ No other submissions for the contest are known to survive.



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In addition to the three flags donated in the 1800's, the Michigan Capitol Battle Flag collection also contains a fourth flag that was not donated until much later. In 1995, the descendants of John C. Hardy donated a flag that had been carried by their father during the war. This flag (93.57.1) is smaller than a standard regimental flag and appears to be handmade out of cotton or linen. Hardy told his children that the flag was given to him by Austin Blair, who was Governor of Michigan during the war.⁶⁰ After a ceremony where John Hardy's son and daughter handed the flag over to Governor John Engler, the flag joined the others in the Michigan Capitol Battle Flag collection where it is preserved for future generations to see.



Father John J. Hardy and Sister Frances Clare donating the flag their father had in the Civil War in the governor's office at the Michigan State Capitol on June 8, 1993.



93.57.1, more commonly referred to as the Hardy Flag.



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 in gold, 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 honor 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 the Michiganology website <https://michiganology.org/civil-war/>

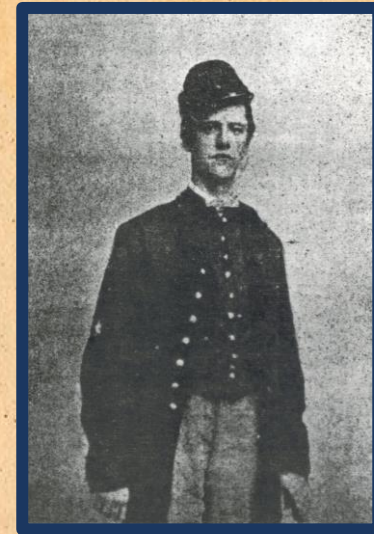
Charles C. Baker. "Calhoun County. Enlisted in company C, Second Infantry, as Corporal, May 10, 1861, at Battle Creek, for 3 years, age 20. Mustered May 25, 1861. Discharged to date Sept. 26, 1862, to accept promotion as First Lieutenant, company H, 159th N. Y. Volunteers. Commissioned Nov. 10, 1862, to date Sept. 27, 1862." [61](#)

William Blomberg. "Saginaw. Enlisted in company H, Second Infantry, May 10, 1861, at Ft. Wayne, for 3 years, age 22. Mustered May 25, 1861. Corporal. Sergeant Aug. 6, 1862. First Sergeant Dec. 1, 1862. Acting Sergeant Major from July to Nov. 16, 1863. Died at Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 21, 1863, of wounds received in action at Campbell's Station, Tenn., Nov. 16, 1863." [62](#)

Charles H. Butler. "Enlisted in company I, Second Infantry, April 22, 1861, at Kalamazoo, for 3 years, age 26. Mustered May 25, 1861. Corporal. On duty with company I, Seventeenth Infantry, from Jan. 30, 1864, to April 9, 1864. Discharged at expiration of term of service at Detroit, Mich., July 21, 1864." [63](#)

John J. Callahan. "Veteran, Kalamazoo. Enlisted in company K, Second Infantry, May 10, 1861, at Kalamazoo, for 3 years, age 20. Mustered May 25, 1861. Corporal. Re-enlisted Dec. 31, 1863, at Blain's Cross Roads, Tenn. Mustered Jan. 1, 1864. Sergeant. Discharged to accept promotion June 14, 1865. Commissioned First Lieutenant, company C, June 6, 1865. Mustered to date June 13, 1865. Commissioned Adjutant July 22, 1865. Brevet Captain and Major, U. S. Volunteers, March 13, 1865, for gallant and meritorious services during the war. Commanding company July 1, 1865. Mustered out and honorably discharged at DeLaney House, D. C., July 28, 1865." [64](#)

Elisha P. Clark. "Enlisted in company G, Second Infantry, as Corporal, May 10, 1861, at Constantine, for 3 years, age 23. Mustered May 25, 1861. Sergeant June 12, 1862. On duty with company F, Seventeenth Infantry, from Jan. 30, 1864, to April 9, 1864. Discharged at expiration of term of service at Detroit, Mich., July 12, 1864." [65](#)



John J. Callahan



COLOR COMPANY

THE FLAG BEARERS

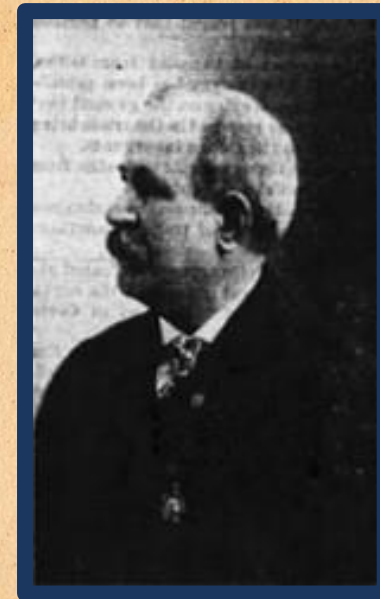


Stephen G. Colvin. “(Veteran), Van Buren County. Enlisted in company I, Second Infantry, April 22, 1861, at Kalamazoo, for 3 years, age 21. Mustered May 25, 1861. Re-enlisted Dec. 31, 1863. Mustered Jan. 1, 1864. Killed in action at the Wilderness, Va., May 6, 1864.”[66](#)

Frederick Cook. “Hudson. Enlisted in company B, Second Infantry, April 21, 1861, at Hudson, for 3 years, age 28. Mustered May 25, 1861. Sergeant. Discharged on Surgeon’s certificate of disability at Fort Monroe, Va., Sept. 16, 1862.”[67](#)

William H. Delano. “Berrien County. Enlisted in company E, Second Infantry, as Corporal, April 17, 1861, at Niles, for 3 years, age 23. Mustered May 25, 1861. Sergeant on duty with company E, Seventeenth Infantry, from Jan. 30, 1864, to April 9, 1864. Discharged at expiration of terms of service at Detroit, Mich., July 21, 1864.”[68](#)

Roscoe E. [D.] Dix. “Berrien Springs, Mich. Enlisted in company K, Second Infantry, April 20, 1861. On non-acceptance by the Government of the Second Infantry for 3 months’ service, enlisted in same company as Corporal, May 10, 1861, at Detroit for 3 years. Mustered May 25, 1861. Sergeant, 1863. Acting First Sergeant from July, 1863, to Nov. 24, 1863. Wounded and taken prisoner at Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 24, 1863. Exchanged Nov. 29, 1863, and sent to hospital at Knoxville, from where he was sent to Harper Hospital at Detroit, Mich., in March, 1864. Discharged at expiration of term of service at Detroit, Mich., May 25, 1864. Participated with his regiment in the following engagements: Blackburn’s Ford, Va., Bull Run 1st, Va., Bailey’s Cross Roads and Munson’s Hill, Va., Siege of Yorktown, Va., Williamsburg, Va., Fair Oaks, Va., White Oak Swamp, Va., Glendale, Va., Malvern Hill, Va., Bull Run 2d, VA., Groveton, Va., Chantilly, Va., Fredericksburg, Va., Siege of Vicksburg, Miss., Blue Springs, Tenn., Loudon, Tenn., Lenoir Station, Tenn., Campbell’s Station, Tenn., Siege of Knoxville, Tenn., and Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 24, 1863.”[69](#)



Roscoe Dix (1890’s)



COLOR COMPANY THE FLAG BEARERS



William H. Flagg. "Battle Creek. Enlisted in company C, Second Infantry, March 10, 1861, at Battle Creek, for 3 years, age 21. Mustered May 25, 1861. Sergeant. Wounded in action at Blue Springs, Tenn., Oct. 10, 1863. On duty with company C, Seventeenth Infantry, from Jan. 30, 1864, to April 9, 1864. In all battles with regiment up to Nov. 1, 1863, when attached to Engineers' Department, Ninth Army Corps. Discharged at expiration of terms of service, at Detroit, Mich., July 21, 1864."[70](#)

Nelson Fletcher. "Flint. Enlisted in company F, Second Infantry, as Corporal, April 22, 1861, at Flint, for 3 years, age 27. Mustered May 25, 1861. Quartermaster Sergeant Dec. 1, 1862. Discharged to accept promotion Jan. 12, 1863. Commissioned Second Lieutenant, company I, Dec. 7, 1862. Mustered Jan. 12, 1863. Transferred to company F, Feb. 24, 1863. Killed in action at Oxford, North Anna River, Va., May 24, 1864."[71](#)

William Fuller. "Enlisted in company D, Second Infantry, as Corporal, April 20, 1861, at Adrian, for 3 years, age 25. Mustered May 25, 1861. Wounded and taken prisoner at Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 24, 1863. Exchanged and returned to duty Dec. 1, 1863. On duty with company K, Seventeenth Infantry, from Jan. 30, 1864, to April 9, 1864. Discharged at expiration of term of service at Detroit, Mich., July 9, 1864."[72](#)

Jesse A. Gaines. "(Veteran), Constantine. Enlisted in company G, Second Infantry, as Corporal, May 10, 1861, at Constantine, for 3 years, age 21. Mustered May 25, 1861. Sergeant Sept. 13, 1862. Re-enlisted Dec. 31, 1863, at Blain's Cross Roads, Tenn. Mustered Jan. 1, 1864. Color bearer June, 1864. Taken prisoner near Petersburg, Va., July 30, 1864. Commissioned First Lieutenant April 25, 1865. Mustered May 2, 1865. Mustered out and honorably discharged at DeLaney House, D. C., July 28, 1865."[73](#)

John Glidden. "(Veteran), Cass County. Enlisted in company E, Second Infantry, April 17, 1861, at Niles, for 3 years, age 24. Mustered May 25, 1861. Sergeant. Re-enlisted Dec. 31, 1863, at Blain's Cross Roads, Tenn. Mustered Jan. 1, 1864. Wounded in action at Williamsburg, Va., May 5, 1862. First Sergeant. Discharged to accept commission in colored regiment. Commissioned Sept. 21, 1864."[74](#)





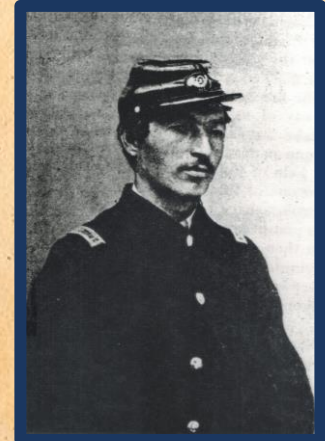
COLOR COMPANY THE FLAG BEARERS



William Gundlach. “(Veteran), Detroit. Enlisted in company A, Second Infantry, as Corporal, April 18, 1861, at Detroit, for 3 years, age 22. Mustered May 25, 1861. Corporal. Re-enlisted Dec. 31, 1863, at Blain’s Cross Roads, Tenn. Mustered Jan. 1, 1864. Assigned to Color Guard. First Sergeant. Discharged for promotion April 30, 1865. Taken prisoner before Petersburg, Va., July 30, 1864. Exchanged Feb. 22, 1865. Commissioned First Lieutenant April 25, 1865. Mustered May 1, 1865. Mustered out and honorably discharged at DeLaney House, D. C., July 28, 1865. Participated in all engagements of his regiment prior to July 31, 1864.”[75](#)

Richard H. Halstead. “Genesee County. Enlisted in company F, Second Infantry, April 23, 1861, at Flint, for 3 years, age 23. Mustered May 25, 1861. Corporal March 6, 1862. Sergeant. Taken prisoner at Campbell’s Station, Tenn., Nov. 16, 1863. Returned to regiment June 4, 1864. Mustered out at expiration of term of service at Detroit, Mich., July 21, 1864.”[76](#)

John C. Hardy. “(Veteran), Detroit. Enlisted in company D, Second Infantry, April 20, 1861, at Adrian, for 3 years, age 19. Mustered May 25, 1861. Corporal July 25, 1861. Re-enlisted Feb. 25, 1861, at Detroit, Mich. Mustered Feb. 26, 1864. On duty with company K, Seventeenth Infantry, from Jan. 30, 1864, to April 9, 1864. Wounded in action at Wilderness, Va., May 6, 1864. First Sergeant. Discharged for promotion Oct. 16, 1864. Commissioned First Lieutenant, company B, Sept. 24, 1864. Mustered Oct. 17, 1864. Commissioned Captain, company D, April 25, 1865. Mustered April 27, 1865. Participated in the following engagements: Blackburn’s Ford, VA., Bull Run, Va., Bailey’s Cross Roads, Munson’s Hill, Va., Siege of Yorktown, Va., Williamsburg, Va., Fair Oaks, Va., near Richmond Va., June 18, 1862, White Oak Swamp Va., Malvern Hill, Va., Second Bull Run, Va., Chantilly, Va., Fredericksburg, Va., Siege of Vicksburg, Miss., Siege of Jackson, Miss., Jackson, Miss., Blue Spring, Tenn., Loudon, Tenn., Lenoir Station, Tenn., Campbell’s Station, Tenn., Siege of Knoxville, Tenn., Charge on enemy’s works in front of Knoxville, Tenn., Fort Saunders, Tenn., Thurley’s For, Tenn., Strawberry Plains, Tenn., near Knoxville, Tenn., Jan. 22, 1864, Wilderness, Va., May 6, 1864 (where he was severely wounded), Night assault on Fort Steadman, Va., Capture of Petersburg, Va. Brevetted Captain U. S. Volunteers March 25, 1865, for conspicuous gallantry in attack on Fort Steadman. Mustered out at Delaney House, D. C., July 28, 1865.”[77](#)



William Gundlach



John C. Hardy



COLOR COMPANY

THE FLAG BEARERS



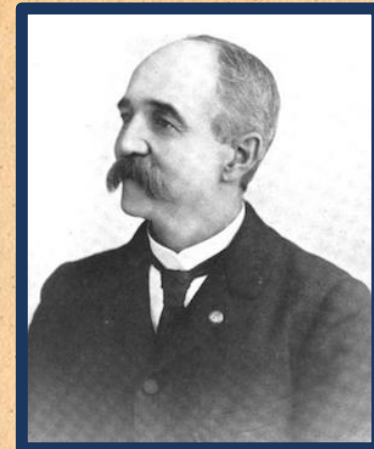
Alonzo Huxley. “(Veteran), Kalamazoo County. Enlisted in company K, Second Infantry, as Corporal, May 10, 1861, at Kalamazoo, for 3 years, age 18. Mustered May 25, 1861. Re-enlisted as Sergeant Dec. 31, 1863, at Blain’s Cross Roads, Tenn. Mustered Jan. 1, 1864. Mustered out at Delaney House, D. C., June 28, 1865.”[78](#)

William H. Johnson. “Wayne County. Enlisted in company H, Second Infantry, as Corporal, May 21, 1861, at Fort Wayne, for 3 years, age 18. Mustered May 25, 1861. Sergeant. Died of disease in general hospital, Newport News, Va., July 21, 1862.”[79](#)

Thomas P. Jones. “Enlisted in company C, Second Infantry, as Corporal, May 10, 1861, at Battle Creek, for 3 years, age 23. Mustered May 25, 1861. Sergeant. Wounded in action at Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 24, 1863. On duty with company D, Seventeenth Infantry, from Jan. 30, 1864, to April 9, 1864. Was in the following battles: Bull Run, Blackburn’s Ford, Siege of Yorktown, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Richmond, Glendale, Malvern Hill, Second Bull Run, Chantilly, Fredericksburg, Vicksburg, Jackson, Blue Springs, Campbell’s Station, and Knoxville. Discharged at expiration of terms of service at Detroit, Mich., July 21, 1864.”[80](#)

Cyrus Knight. “St. Joseph. Enlisted in company G, Second Infantry, May 18, 1861, at Constantine, for 3 years, age 19. Mustered May 25, 1861. Wounded in action at Williamsburg, Va., May 5, 1862. Died at Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 24, 1863.”[81](#)

Oscar F. Lochhead (Lockhead). “(Veteran), Plymouth. Enlisted in company H, Second Infantry, May 10, 1861, at Fort Wayne, for 3 years, age 22. Mustered May 25, 1861. Corporal July, 1862. Sergeant Jan. 13, 1863. Re-enlisted Dec. 31, 1863, at Blain’s Cross Roads, Tenn. Mustered Jan. 1, 1864. Discharged to accept promotion on Nov. 2, 1864. Commissioned First Lieutenant, company E, Oct. 12, 1864. Mustered Nov. 2, 1864. Commissioned Regimental Quartermaster Sept. 30, 1864. Mustered Dec. 20, 1864. Mustered out and honorably discharged at DeLaney House, D. C., July 28, 1865.”[82](#)



Oscar Lochhead
(1880's)



COLOR COMPANY THE FLAG BEARERS



Stephen W. Lovett. “Enlisted in company D, Second Infantry, as Corporal, April 20, 1861, at Adrian, for 3 years, age 20. Mustered May 25, 1861. Sergeant Oct., 1861. On duty with company K, Seventeenth Infantry, from Jan. 30, 1864, to April 9, 1864. Discharged at expiration of term of service at Detroit, Mich., July 9, 1864.”[83](#)

Hugh McCabe. “Wayne County. Enlisted in company A, Second Infantry, as Corporal, April 18, 1861, at Detroit, for 3 years, age 23. Mustered May 25, 1861. Discharged for disability at Philadelphia, Pa., Oct. 8, 1862.”[84](#)

Charles W. Mitchel. “Wayne County. Enlisted in company F, Second Infantry, May 21, 1861, at Fort Wayne, for 3 years, age 20. Mustered May 25, 1861. Corporal Nov. 4, 1861. Absent without leave Aug. 11, 1863. No further record.”[85](#)

John S. Moore. “Niles. Enlisted in company E, Second Infantry, as Corporal, April 17, 1861, at Niles, for 3 years, age 21. Mustered May 25, 1861. Color Bearer. Commissioned Second Lieutenant Aug. 9, 1862. Commissioned First Lieutenant, company H, Feb. 24, 1863. Mustered Feb. 24, 1863. Commissioned Captain, company E, July 30, 1863. Mustered Sept. 13, 1863. Wounded in action July 30, 1864. Mustered out and honorably discharged April 30, 1864.”[86](#)

Charles D. Morse. “Cass County. Enlisted in company E, Second Infantry, April 17, 1861, at Niles, for 3 years, age 20. Mustered May 25, 1861. Corporal. Enlisted in Battery K, Third U. S. Artillery”[87](#)

Sidney R. Prentice. “Kalamazoo County. Enlisted in company I, Second Infantry, April 22, 1861, at Kalamazoo, for 3 years, age 23. Mustered May 25, 1861. Discharged for disability at Baltimore, Md., Sept 29, 1862.”[88](#)

Joseph Richards. “Detroit. Enlisted in company E, Second Infantry, April 17, 1861, at Niles, for 3 years, age 22. Mustered May 25, 1861. Sergeant. Quartermaster Sergeant Dec. 6, 1862. Discharged to accept promotion April 21, 1863. Commissioned Second Lieutenant, company I, Feb. 24, 1863. Mustered to date April 21, 1863. Transferred to company B, Jan. 10, 1864. Commanding company I, Jan., 1864. Resigned and honorably discharged April 21, 1864.”[89](#)

Joseph Richardson. “(Veteran), Calhoun County. Enlisted in company C, Second Infantry, May 10, 1861, at Battle Creek, for 3 years, age 18. Mustered May 25, 1861. Re-enlisted Dec. 31, 1863, at Blain’s Cross Roads, Tenn. Mustered Jan. 31, 1864. Sergeant. Mustered out at DeLaney House, D. C., July 28, 1865.”[90](#)





COLOR COMPANY THE FLAG BEARERS



Nathan M. Richardson. “Caro, Mich. First enlisted in Fifteenth U. S. Infantry Oct. 4, 1861, age 17. Discharged on Surgeon’s certificate of disability at Newport Barracks, Ky., Jan 8, 1863, as of company D. Enlisted in company F, Second Infantry, Feb. 20, 1863, at Flint, age 18. Mustered Feb. 22, 1863. Joined regiment at Newport News, Va., March 11, 1863. Wounded in action at Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 24, 1863. Corporal May 25, 1864, and assigned to duty with Color Guard. Wounded in charge on enemy’s rifle pits in front of Petersburg, Va., June 18, 1864. Taken prisoner at explosion of mine in front of Petersburg, Va., July 30, 1864, and confined at Danville, Va., and Libby prison, Richmond, Va. Exchanged Feb. 22, 1865. Sergeant May 2, 1865; Color Sergeant June, 1865. Was the last Color Bearer of his regiment. Participated in the following engagements: Siege of Vicksburg, Siege of Jackson, Miss., Charge at Jackson, Miss., Blue Springs, Tenn., Loudon, Tenn., Lenoir Station, Campbell’s Station, Tenn., Siege of Knoxville, Tenn., Knoxville, Tenn., Wilderness, Va., Nye River, Va., Spottsylvania [sic], Va., Ox Ford, Ba., North Anna, Va., Tolopotomy, Va., Bethesda Church, Va., Cold Water, VA., The Crater, Va. Mustered out at DeLaney House, D. C., July 28, 1865. Was appointed and served as Lieutenant Colonel and Assistant Adjutant General of the state for the years 1897, 1898, 1899.”[91](#)



Nathan Richardson

Sheldon Rinehart. “Pontiac. Enlisted in company B, Second Infantry, May 10, 1861, at Hudson, for 3 years, age 20. Mustered May 25, 1861. Corporal July 2, 1862; Sergeant June 1, 1863. Wounded in action at Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 24, 1863. On duty with company B, Seventeenth Infantry, from Jan. 30, 1864, to April 9, 1864. Discharged at expiration of term of service at Detroit, Mich., June 6, 1864.”[92](#)

Charles H. Rodgers. “Plymouth. Enlisted in company H, Second Infantry, May 10, 1861, at Ft. Wayne, for 3 years, age 20. Mustered May 25, 1861. Corporal Aug. 6, 1862. Sergeant Nov. 17, 1862. Reenlisted Dec. 31, 1863, at Blain’s Cross Roads, Tenn. Mustered Jan. 1, 1864. Wounded in action May 6, 1864. First Sergeant. Discharged to accept promotion Dec. 17, 1864. Commissioned First Lieutenant, company F, Oct 7, 1864. Mustered Dec. 18, 1864. Commissioned Captain, company H, April 25, 1865. Mustered May 2, 1865. Was in the following battles: Blackburn’s Ford, Bull Run, Yorktown, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Richmond, Glendale, Malvern Hill, Second Bull Run, Chantilly, Fredericksburg, Vicksburg, Jackson, Blue Springs, Campbell’s Station, Knoxville, Wilderness, and all before Petersburg since Aug1, 1864. Mustered out and honorably discharged at DeLaney House, D. C., July 28, 1865.”[93](#)



COLOR COMPANY THE FLAG BEARERS



Herrmann (Herman) Rohns. “Enlisted in company A, Second Infantry, April 18, 1861, at Detroit, for 3 years, age 24. Mustered May 25, 1861. On duty with company A, Seventeenth Infantry, from Jan. 30, 1864, to April 9, 1864. Sergeant. Discharged at expiration of term of service at Detroit, Mich., April 25, 1864. Participated in all engagements of his regiment until June 11, 1863. Present residence, Detroit, Mich.”[94](#)

Alfred Rowe. “Wayne County. Enlisted in company G, Second Infantry, May 15, 1861, at Detroit for 3 years, age 18. Mustered May 25, 1861. Re-enlisted Dec. 31, 1863, at Blain’s Cross Roads, Tenn. Mustered Jan. 1, 1864. Corporal June, 1864, and assigned to Color Guard. Killed in action at Petersburg, Va., June 18, 1864. In the first charges in the enemy’s outworks, made on that fatal day, the Color Bearer was wounded and Corporal Rowe became Color Bearer, and in the last assault about 5 p. m. on the enemy’s main line of defense before Petersburg, Va., he carried the regimental colors and rushed ahead of the regimental line of battle about fifty yards through a storm of shot and shell, when he sank to the ground, shot through the head, but still holding up the colors in a firm grip, rigid in death, when Lieutenant Frederick Schneider of company A went out to him under fire of the enemy and brought back the color to the regimental line, the entire Color Guard having been either killed or wounded.”[95](#)

Martin Ruehle (Rhuele). “East Saginaw. Enlisted in company H, Second Infantry, May 10, 1861, at Fort Wayne, for 3 years, age 26. Mustered May 25, 1861. Corporal Aug. 6, 1862. Re-enlisted Dec. 31, 1863, at Blain’s Cross Roads, Tenn. Mustered Jan. 1, 1864. First Sergeant Dec. 18, 1864. Wounded in action before Petersburg, VA., Feb. 22, 1865. Commissioned Second Lieutenant, company B, July 22, 1865. Absent wounded at Satterlee Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa., at muster out of regiment. No further record.”[96](#)

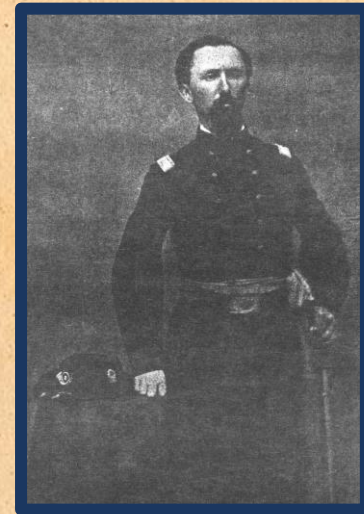
Ulysses D. Russell. “Kalamazoo County. Enlisted in company I, Second Infantry, April 22, 1861, at Kalamazoo, for 3 years, age 20. Mustered May 25, 1861. Corporal. Wounded in action at Malvern Hill, Va., July 1, 1862. Color Bearer Sept., 1863. Died at Knoxville, Tenn., Dec. 4, 1863, of wounds received in action at Campbell’s Station Tenn., Nov. 16, 1863.”[97](#)



COLOR COMPANY THE FLAG BEARERS



Frederick Schneider. ““Detroit. Born at Saline, Mich., Nov. 24, 1840. First enlisted in Detroit Scott Guard, company B, First Battalion, Frontier Guards of Michigan Militia, Oct. 26, 1859. Removed to Chicago, Ill., May, 1860. Enlisted as Sergeant in company C, First Illinois Infantry, April 15, 1861, at Chicago, Ill., for 3 months, but on receipt of telegram from Secretary Goebel of Detroit Scott Guard, saying that his company had enlisted for the war, would he join? He at once cancelled his Illinois enlistment and immediately returned to Detroit, where he enlisted as a private in the Detroit Scott Guard, subsequently company A, Second Infantry, April 18, 1861, for 3 months, age 20. Mustered into state service April 23, 1861. Promoted Corporal May, 1861. Sergeant May, 1861. On non-acceptance by the Government of Second Infantry for 3 months’ service he re-enlisted as Sergeant for 3 years in same company. Mustered into U. S. service May 25, 1861. Acting First Sergeant Aug. to Nov., 1861, and June to Dec., 1862. First Sergeant Dec. 7, 1862. Acting Sergeant Major Nov., 1863. Severely injured and knocked unconscious by a blow on the left side of his head in a runaway accident of an artillery horse on the night of June 30, 1862, while the army was retiring from the battle near Charles City Cross Roads, Va. Re-enlisted at Blain’s Cross Roads, Tenn., Dec 31, 1863, and mustered Jan. 1, 1864. Sergeant Major May 14, 1864. Commissioned First Lieutenant, company A, June 6, 1864. Mustered July 27, 1864. Acting Adjutant July 30, 1864. Wounded in right arm in action near Petersburg, Va., June 18, 1864. Taken prisoner at explosion of mine under rebel fort before Petersburg, Va., July 30, 1864. Escaped same day. Wounded in left thigh and taken prisoner near Hatcher’s Run, Va., Oct. 27, 1864. Again escaped, but was recaptured after great hardship and suffering and confined in jail at Petersburg, Va., in Nov., 1864, in Libby prison at Richmond, Va., Stockade prison at Salisbury, N. C., and Danville prison, Va. Exchanged at Richmond, Va., Feb. 22, 1865. Commissioned Captain of company A, to date July 30, 1864. Mustered April 12, 1865. Commissioned Lieutenant Colonel Dec. 18, 1864. Mustered to date April 18, 1865. Commissioned Colonel April 18, 1865. Mustered out and honorably discharged at DeLaney House, D. C., July 28, 1865. Was the last commander of his regiment, which he brought home to Detroit, Mich., where it was paid off and disbanded on Aug. 8, 1865, after a continuous service, mostly at the front in the field, from April 18, 1861, during which he participated in every march, campaign, siege, battle and skirmish in which his regiment was engaged, except the two engagements such movements which took place while he was a wounded prisoner of war.”⁹⁸



Frederick Schneider



COLOR COMPANY THE FLAG BEARERS

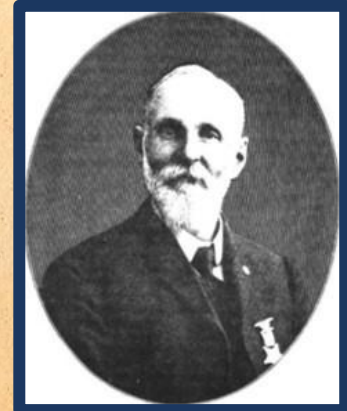


John Schultz (Schulz). “Wayne County. Enlisted in company A, Second Infantry, April 18, 1861, at Detroit, for 3 years, age 25. Mustered May 25, 1861. Sergeant. Re-enlisted Dec. 31, 1863, at Blain’s Cross Roads, Tenn. Entered Mower Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa. Transferred to Michigan Oct. 3, 1864. No further record.”[99](#)

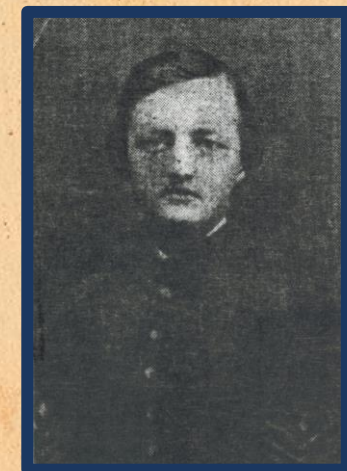
Zephaniah Sexton. “Oakland County. Enlisted in company D, Second Infantry, Sept. 2, 1861, at Pontiac, for 3 years, age 22. Mustered Sept. 18, 1861. Corporal May 4, 1862. Color Guard. Sergeant March 2, 1863. Re-enlisted Dec. 31, 1863, at Blain’s Cross Roads, Tenn. Mustered Jan. 1, 1864. Mustered out at DeLaney House, D. C., July 28, 1865.”[100](#)

William Shakespeare. “Kalamazoo, Mich. Enlisted in company K, Second Infantry, as Corporal, April 12, 1861, at Kalamazoo, for 3 months, age 17. Mustered into state service April 21, 1861. On non-acceptance by the Government of the Second Infantry for 3 months’ service, he enlisted in the same company May 10, 1861, at Detroit for 3 years, and mustered into U. S. service May 25, 1861. Sergeant May 27, 1862; Frist Sergeant March 1, 1863. Wounded in action at Jackson, Miss., July 11, 1863, fracture of both thigh bones and other wounds, which at the time were supposed to be mortal. Discharged on Surgeon’s certificate of disability at Cincinnati, Ohio, June 1, 1864. Participated with his regiment in the following engagements. Blackburn’s Ford, VA., Bull Run 1st, Va., Bailey’s Cross Roads and Munson’s Hill, Va., Siege of Yorktown, Va., Fair Oaks, Va., near Richmond, Va., White Oak Swamp, Va., Glendale, Malvern Hill, Va., Bull Run 2d, Va., Groveton, Va., Chantilly, Va., Fredericksburg, Va., Siege of Vicksburg Miss., charge on the enemy’s lines before Jackson, Miss., July 11, 1863, which terminated his active career in the field. Appointed and served as Quartermaster General of the state for the years 1883 and 1884, with the rank of Brigadier General.”[101](#)

Frederick J. Sheldon. ““Enlisted in company B, Second Infantry, May 10, 1861, at Hudson, for 3 years, age 21. Mustered May 25, 1861. Corporal May 28, 1861. Sergeant Sept. 24, 1862. Wounded in action at Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 24, 1863. On duty with company B, Seventeenth Infantry, from Jan. 30, 1864, to April 9, 1864. Discharged at expiration of term of service at Detroit Mich., June 6, 1864.”[102](#)



Zephaniah Sexton
(1900's)



William Shakespeare



COLOR COMPANY THE FLAG BEARERS



Elias Q. Shockly (J. Schokley). “Berrien County. Enlisted in company E, Second Infantry, April 17, 1861, at Niles, for 3 years, age 26. Mustered May 25, 1861. Died at Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 27, 1863 of wounds received in action Nov. 24, 1863.” [103](#)

Peter Smith. “Enlisted in company G, Second Infantry, May 10, 1861, at Detroit, for 3 years, age 21. Mustered May 25, 1861. Corporal June 12, 1862. Wounded in action at Ft. Saunders, Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 29, 1863. On duty with company F, Seventeenth Infantry, from Jan. 30, 1864, to April 9, 1864. Discharged at expiration of terms of service at Detroit, Mich., July 9, 1864.” [104](#)

George A. Southworth. ““Leoni. Enlisted in company I, Second Infantry, April 22, 1861, at Kalamazoo, for 3 years, age 19. Mustered May 25, 1861. Sergeant. Color Bearer. Discharged Oct. 2, 1863, to enable him to accept commission in U. S. Colored Troops. Commissioned Second Lieutenant, company A, First Colored Infantry, at organization Nov. 5, 1863. Commissioned First Lieutenant, company G. Nov. 15, 1864. Mustered out at Charleston, S. C., Sept. 30, 1865” [105](#), [106](#)

Edward (Edwin) F. Tucker. “Hudson. Enlisted in company B, Second Infantry, May 10, 1861, at Hudson, for 3 years, age 21. Mustered May 25, 1861. Deserted at Conrad’s Ferry, Sept. 25, 1862.” [107](#)

Charles D. White. ““Enlisted in company C, Second Infantry, as Corporal, May 10, 1861, at Battle Creek for 3 years, age 27. Mustered May 25, 1861. Sergeant. On duty with company D, Seventeenth Infantry, from Jan. 30, 1864, to April 9, 1864. Was in the following battles: Bull Run, Blackburn’s Ford, Siege of Yorktown, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Richmond, Glendale, Malvern Hill, Chantilly, Fredericksburg, Blue Springs, Campbell’s Station and Knoxville. Discharged at expiration of term of service at Detroit, Mich., July 21, 1864.” [108](#)

James N. Willett. “Genesee County. Enlisted in company F, Second Infantry, April 23, 1861, at Flint, for 3 years, age 20. Mustered May 25, 1861. Corporal April 17, 1862. Wounded in action at Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 24, 1863. Was in the following battles: Bull Run, Siege of Yorktown, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Glendale, Malvern Hill, Second Bull Run, Chantilly, Fredericksburg and Jackson, Miss. Discharged at expiration of terms of service at Detroit, Mich., May 25, 1864.” [109](#)

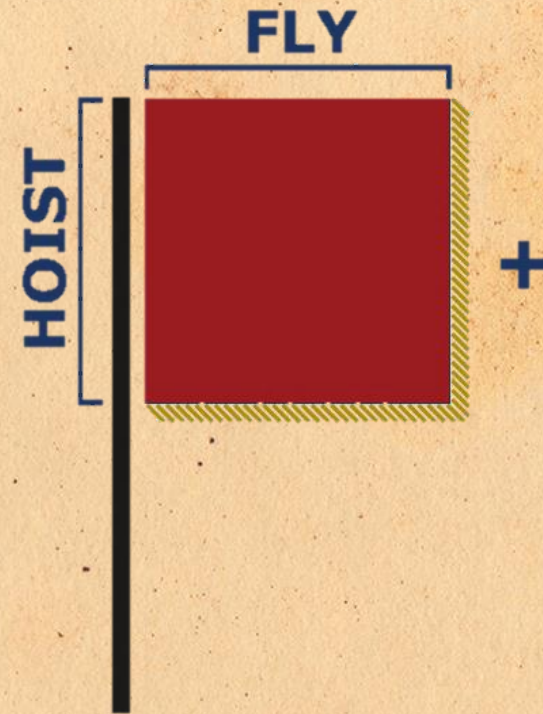


THE FLAGS



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-1-90: *Silk national.* ▪ *Dimensions: 73"x75½"* ▪ *Cotton Fringe: 2"*



A gold painted, thirty-four star national flag. The stars are arranged in two concentric ovals with nine stars on the inner oval, twenty stars in the outer oval, one star in each corner, and one star in the center. Between the two concentric ovals "2nd MICHIGAN" and "V. V. INFTY" are painted in gold. "V. V." stands for Veteran Volunteer which dates the flag after regiment's reenlistment date of January 1864. Peculiarly, the flag only has thirty-four stars when there were thirty-five states at the time. In addition, the perfectly spaced battle honors suggest that the flag was acquired after the Battle of Hatcher's Run, October 27, 1864. The battle honors are painted in gold paint with block letters inside curving, banner-like outlines except for those written in block letters on the fourth red stripe. 1st row: "BLACKBURN'S FORD, 1st [B]ULL RUN, [YORK]TOW[N]", 2nd row: "WILLIAMSBURG, FAIROAKS, [RICH]MOND", 3rd row: "GLENDALE, [MA]LVERN Hill, [2nd BULL R]UN", 4th row: "CHANTILLY, FREDERICKSBURG", 5th row "SIEGE OF VICKSBURG, SPOTSYLVANIA, NORTH ANNA, BETHESDA, SE[IGE of] KN[OXVILLE]", 6th Row: "WILDERNESS, JACKSON, BLUE SPRINGS, CAMPB[ELL] STA[TION]", 7th Row: "SIEGE of PETERSBURG, WELDON RAILROAD, POPLAR SPRINGS CHURCH, REAM'S S[TATION], AND H[ATCHER'S RUN]". The fabric on the hoist was fashioned into a sleeve for attachment to the staff.

The staff, which measures 97" x 1.5" in diameter is topped with a regulation brass spade finial and stamped with "E.H." (the mark of Evans and Hassle Co.). 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 "2nd Mich. Infantry".

The flag has a 10' long blue and white silk cord and two blue and white silk tassels. A black piece of crepe is tied to one of the tassels, probably as a symbol of mourning after the assassination of President Lincoln.

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



THE FLAGS



SC-8-90: *Silk national.* ▪ *Dimensions: 70"x65½"*



A gold painted, thirty-four star national flag made of a single piece of silk. The stars are arranged in two concentric ovals within the canton with ten stars in the inner oval, twenty stars in the outer oval, one star in each corner, and one star in the center. Some of the stars are missing due to silk loss. Battle honors are painted in gold paint over the stripes, however much of the fly end of the flag is missing due to silk loss. It is likely that the flag initially had more honors than can now be deciphered. The visible battle honors read from top to bottom: "BLACK B[U]R[N]'S FORD], [BU]LL RUN], WILLIAMSBURG, [FA]IR OAKS, RICHMOND, 2nd MICH. I[N]FANTRY], [MA]LVERN HILL, BULL RUN, FREDERICKSBURG, EAST TEN[ESSEE], BLUE SPRINGS, CAMP[BELL]" "VICKSBURG" is painted on the hoist side of the flag, running vertically below the canton.

The staff measures 8'2" x 1 ½ in in diameter and is topped with a brass spade finial. The staff of flags returned to the state in the 1866 Detroit ceremony marking the end of the war all bear identical brass plaques. The plaque reads in Spencerian script, "2nd Mich. Infantry".

The flag has an 11' long blue and white silk cord with two blue and white tassels. The tassels are 2.25" wound over a wood base.

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



THE FLAGS



SC-16-90: *Silk* ▪ *Dimensions: 73"x102"* ▪ *Cotton Fringe: 2"*



A curious flag with a canton in the upper right corner bearing a regimental design. This is opposite of traditional flags. Painted on the canton is a federal eagle. The word "MICHIGAN" is painted above along with thirty-four stars. In its beak, the eagle holds a banner reading "at the union's sacred call our Patriot Sons will Peril all". The field either had no red stripes to begin with or they were bleached over time (the red visible in the picture is from netting used to stabilize the flag). On the fourth red stripe, embroidered in gold bullion thread, is the designation "2nd Regt. Mich. Infantry." The unusual dimensions and arrangement of the flag has led to speculation that the canton may have been designed as its own flag at one point in time and the rest of the material added later. The flag is mostly intact with the exception of some wear at the fly end (in this case the fly end being the on the left when the flag reads right).

The staff which measures 93.5" x 1.5" diameter appears to be too short for the dimensions of the flag. The staff has four groves along its length. The groves are 3/8" wide and are spaced 12" apart. The sleeve on the staff is too small for this staff, suggesting that the staff may not have originally accompanied this flag. At some point in time, a modification was made adding 1/2" blue and red twill tape ties to the flag to allow it to be tied to the staff.

The flag has an 82" blue and white silk cord and tassel.

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



THE FLAGS



93.57.1: Wool National. ▪ Dimensions: 41"x70"

This flag is not a standard regulation flag. It is a personal flag made of wool and appears to be handmade. The flag has twenty-six stars. One of the easiest ways to date a flag is by the number of stars. A twenty-six star flag was in use from 1837-1846. However, given the history connected to the flag, in this instance, the twenty-six stars may be a tribute to Michigan's place as the twenty-sixth state. The stars are arranged in rows in a 6-5-6-5-4 pattern. They are linen and sewn to both sides of the canton. Three holes on a reinforcing material strip on the hoist end provide a place for rope (some of which is still intact) to be threaded and attached to a flagstaff. Velcro was later hand sewed to this reinforcing material strip as yet another display method. On the back side of the hoist are the words "J. C. Hardy" and "3rd Cutter" written in what appears to be ink. These two phrases were written by different hands and in different inks. The flag has many holes in it and is tattered on the fly end. A dark residue covers the flag which appears to be leftover staining from mold or mildew which was remediated at some point.

There is no staff, finial, cord, or tassels accompanying this flag.





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(7) Minnie Dubbs Millbrook, *Twice Told Tales of Michigan and Her Soldiers in the Civil War* (Lansing: Michigan Civil War Centennial Commission, 1966), 6.

(8) Ibid, 6.

(9) Robertson, *Michigan in the War*, 189.

(10) Schneider, *Incidental History*, 7

(11) Robertson, *Michigan in the War*, 190.

(12) Schneider, *Incidental History*, 7

(13) Herman Petzold, *Memoirs of the Second Michigan Infantry* (1897)

(14) Schneider, *Incidental History*, 7

(15) Robertson, *Michigan in the War*, 908.

(16) Ibid, 194-195.



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- [\(18\)](#) Robertson, *Michigan in the War*, 201.
- [\(19\)](#) “A Valuable Flag” *Detroit Advertiser and Tribune*, April 30, 1863.
- [\(20\)](#) Schneider, *Incidental History*, 20-21.
- [\(21\)](#) Millbrook, *Twice Told Tales*, 6.
- [\(22\)](#) The flag actually reads “Her Patriot Sons Will Peril All”.
- [\(23\)](#) “A Valuable Flag” *Detroit Advertiser and Tribune*, April 30, 1863.
- [\(24\)](#) Robertson, *Michigan in the War*, 90.
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- [\(26\)](#) Schneider, *Incidental History*, 7.
- [\(27\)](#) Robertson, *Michigan in the War*, 197.
- [\(28\)](#) Schneider, *Incidental History*, 9.
- [\(29\)](#) Robertson, *Michigan in the War*, 197.
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- [\(31\)](#) *Ibid*, 9.
- [\(32\)](#) Robertson, *Michigan in the War*, 199.
- [\(33\)](#) Schneider, *Incidental History*, 9.
- [\(34\)](#) *Ibid*, 9, 11.



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(35) Schneider, *Incidental History*, 11.

(36) Ibid.

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[\[89\]](#) Michigan, Adjutant-General's Dept., *Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, 1861-1865*. Vol. 2 of 46 (Kalamazoo: Ihling bros. and Everard, 190-), 142.

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[\(106\)](#) George A. Southworth is somewhat of a mystery. Frederick Schneider states that he was “Supposed to have been wounded and lost. No record” [*Incidental History*, 20] and Volume 2 which details the Second Michigan’s service does not have a listing for George Southworth. However, George A. Southworth does show up in a record for the First Michigan Colored Troops and his record there references the Second. It seems that there may have been an error in the records of the Second; however it also seems peculiar that Schneider would not know the fate of a fellow Sergeant who became an officer in another regiment.

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