



SIXTH MICHIGAN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY / SIXTH MICHIGAN HEAVY ARTILLERY



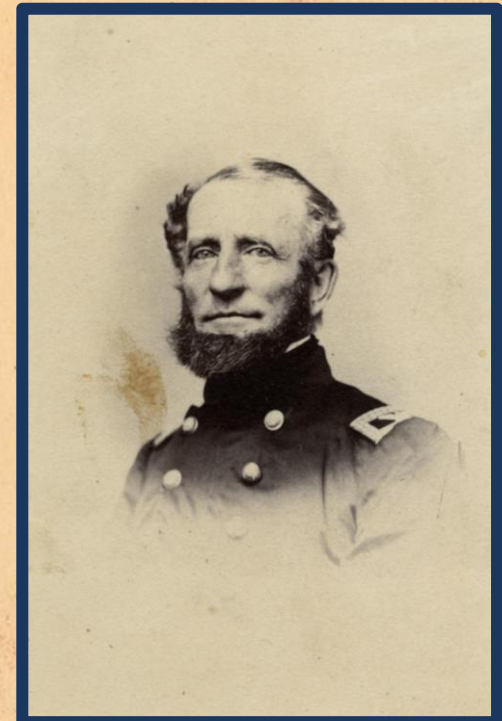
Do Your Duty

*To a soldier, a good soldier, the colors of his regiment are a priceless treasure. For their honor he will submit willingly to any sacrifice and a stain cast upon them is a stigma upon his own character.*¹

*Colonel Frederick W. Curtenius
Flag Presentation Ceremony September 30, 1861*

The Sixth Michigan Infantry (later redesignated as the Sixth Michigan Heavy Artillery) was mustered into service in Kalamazoo on August 20, 1861. The regiment was composed of men from Niles, St. Joseph, Schoolcraft, Dowagiac, Marshall, Saline, Allegan, Charlotte, and Albion.² The regiment was initially led by Colonel Frederick W. Curtenius who had been Adjutant General of Michigan and had served in the First Michigan Infantry during the Mexican American War.³ Just ten days later, on August 30, the regiment departed for the city of Baltimore.⁴

Unlike many Michigan regiments, when the Sixth Michigan departed the state, they were not presented with any flags. In retelling his experience during the war, Ben C. Johnson, a member of the Sixth explained that the regiment was ordered out sooner than the men expected and before they were fully equipped, "We had no arms except the ones nature gave us; no flag, although one was being made for us."⁵ This flag would be forwarded on to Baltimore where the regiment was presented three flags in two different ceremonies. Primary sources disagree on the dates that these ceremonies took place, but seem to indicate that both ceremonies took place in



Colonel Frederick Curtenius





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September.

During one ceremony, the ladies of Baltimore presented the Sixth Michigan with a silk regimental flag. In an article in September of 1861, the Ann Arbor Journal described the ceremony:

The event was the presentation of a beautiful silk regimental flag to the 6th Michigan Regiment, Col. Curtenius, a gift from the Union ladies of the 8th ward. As early as 3 o'clock throngs of citizens of both sexes, the ladies, however, being the majority, could be seen wending their way to the McKim estate, where the regiment is encamped. Shortly after 4 o'clock, thirty-four young misses, dressed in the national colors, escorted by the excellent band attached to the regiment . . . proceeded to the Headquarters of Col. Curtenius where the children sang . . . After the children had finished singing, the drums beat to arms, and in a short time the regiment formed in line on the outskirts of the encampment. At the word of command the soldiers wheeled into a hollow square and "stood at ease."

The thirty-four young ladies bearing the flag accompanied by John B. Seidenstricker, now made their appearance in the centre of the square where the flag was presented by Mr. Seidenstricker on behalf of the ladies . . . The beautiful gift was received by Col. Curtenius



From the collection of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum



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in his usual happy manner — In accepting the gift, the Colonel assured the fair donors and those present that the colors would never be disgraced by the 6th Michigan boys and would only be yielded to the enemy when there was not an arm left to protect the precious gift. At the termination of the presentation, the entire regiment doffed their caps and gave three such cheers that echoed far and wide. After the presentation, the band executed several beautiful pieces of music . . .

The ceremonies of the day terminated with a full dress parade and drill by the regiment . . . It was estimated there were not less than three thousand persons present to witness the presentation. The flag was manufactured by Mr. E. A. Gibbs in his best style.⁶

During a second ceremony, two flags were presented. These flags were sent to Baltimore from the citizens in Kalamazoo. Captain John Corden of Company F, wrote about the ceremony in a letter to his wife Sarah:

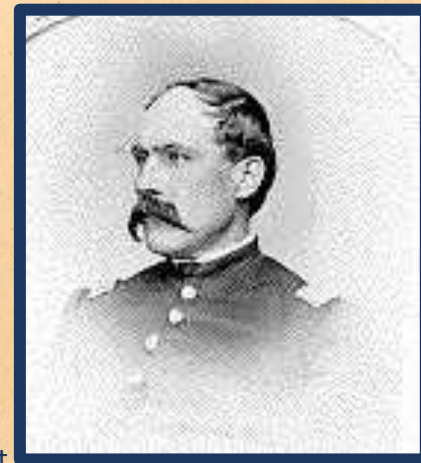
On Wednesday last we had another grand ceremony of presenting two splendid flags to the regiment made and sent here to us by the citizens of Kalamazoo. The regiment was drawn up forming three sides of a square when the colors were brought and presented by the colonel, accompanied with a very appropriate and patriotic address from the people of

Kalamazoo, after which three hearty cheers were given for our friends at Home.⁷

The Ann Arbor Journal also reported on this ceremony. The article states that Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Clark presented the flags for the regiment and printed his speech:

Soldiers of the Sixth Regiment of Michigan Infantry: The

People of Kalamazoo are honored in being permitted to present to you a suit of colors. “Do your duty,” is the injunction which you find inscribed on their silken folds by those who appreciate your patriotism in sacrificing the comforts of home, for camp life and the incidents of war. By our daily conduct, while in camp around this city, you gave to us the evidence that the true character of the soldier would never be tarnished by any act of yours, evidencing lack of discipline or loss of honor. If summoned to the field of battle, remembering that your country demands each of you and all of you to “do your duty,” although in the performance of that duty life is sacrificed. No prouder monument was ever reared over mortal remains, that



John Corden



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on which is carved the simple inscription, 'as a citizen and soldier, he done his duty; as a citizen, he was obedient to the laws; as a soldier, he went bravely to death in defense of his country's flag.' Carry the colors to conquer rebellion; carry these colors in honor and when peace is again restored the people of Michigan will point with pride to the survivors of the 9th [sic] Regiment, as the men, who in the hour of their country's danger were true and brave, and they will speak of the memory of him, who goes down to his grave in the perils of the fight, as one who loved his country wisely and well.^g

The paper also reported Colonel Curtenius' response when he accepted the flag on behalf of the regiment. Colonel Curtenius described the circumstance that caused the regiment to be raised and listed some of the sacrifices the men made in enlisting. After this, he spoke about the gift:

As a partial acknowledgement for these privations, our friends, whom we have left hundreds of miles behind, have presented to us, as a memorial of their gratitude, these two flags, that now so proudly float over us. One beautifully representing the coat of arms of our adopted State—the other with equal beauty representing that Union which has existed for more than three quarters of a century the admiration of the civilized world. Upon both we find inscribed the motto, "do your duty."



SC-37-90

Whether we shall receive them in the spirit of liberality and kindness in which they are offered, or whether we shall cast them aside as worthless baubles is a question for us to decide. I think, however, that I reflect the sentiments of every soldier's heart to whom I now address myself when I say that Michigan could not possibly have presented to this regiment so acceptable a gift. To a soldier, a good soldier, the colors of his regiment are a priceless treasure. For their honor he will submit willingly to any sacrifice and a stain cast upon them is a stigma upon his own character. In the hour of peril he will rally around them heedless of the din of battle and he considers his



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life of no value in their defense—It is some such spirit as this that we accept of these colors, and, as a regiment, we pledge our honor, before our country and before Heaven, that we will try not to sully and never to desert them.⁹

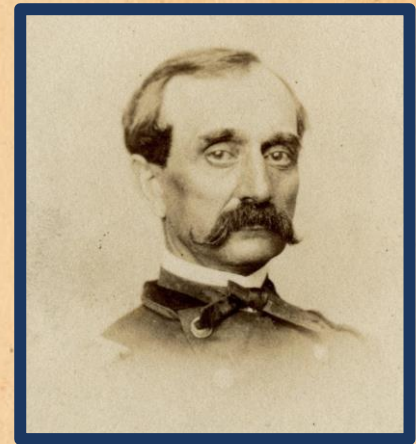
From the descriptions of the flags when they were given to the regiment, SC-37-90 can be identified as the national flag sent to the regiment by the ladies of Kalamazoo. This flag is the only one in the collection to feature the “Do your Duty” motto. This is also the only flag in the collection bearing the regimental designation “6th Regt. Michigan Infantry”. It is unknown what happened to the two other flags presented in these ceremonies.

The Sixth Michigan stayed in Baltimore until February of 1862 when they were sent south to New Orleans and then on to Baton Rouge.¹⁰ During this time, they suffered a very high rate of illness.¹¹ On June 20, 1862, Colonel Curtenius resigned because he disagreed with orders to return escaped slaves to their owners.¹² Lieutenant Colonel Thomas W. Clark was promoted to colonel.¹³ Shortly after this, an interesting incident caused four of the highest-ranking officers in the Sixth Michigan to be brought up on charges for disobeying orders. Edward Bacon, one of the officers, detailed the incident in his memoir *Among the Cotton Thieves*. He stated that the Sixth Michigan were occupying barracks near Baton Rouge when Brigadier-General Thomas Williams ordered Colonel Clark to

move to open land so that another regiment could occupy the barracks. Colonel Clark refused to order the men from the barracks explaining that the Sixth Michigan did not have tents (unlike the other regiment) and that there was a high rate of sickness in the regiment. He was arrested. Likewise, Major Bacon was given the same order and refused, as did Captain Griffin of company A and Captain Wheeler of company B. All were arrested and sent to New Orleans to face court martial.¹⁴

While they were in New Orleans, the Sixth Michigan participated in the Battle of Baton Rouge under the direction of Captain Charles Clarke.¹⁵ Official reports explained how the regiment dealt with the lack of leadership and commended the Sixth for their actions:

The 6th Michigan fought rather by detachments than as a regiment, but deserves the fullest commendation for the gallant behavior of its officers and men. Companies A, B, and F, under command of Captain Cordon, receive special mention of the coolness and courage with which they supported and retook Brown’s battery, routing



Captain Charles Clarke



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the 4th Louisiana and capturing their colors, which the regiment has leave to send to its native state.[16](#)

The flag mentioned in the official reports actually belonged to the 9th Louisiana Battalion, not the 4th Louisiana. It was sent back to Michigan along with a letter addressed to Governor Austin Blair.

Captain Cordon wrote:

Sir,~ I have the honor to place into your hands this trophy, to be placed with the archives of the State. It is the "battle flag" of the 9th Louisiana battalion (not the 4th Louisiana), captured by Company F, 6th Michigan Infantry, at the battle of Baton Rouge, August 5th, 1862.[17](#)

The flag remained in the state archives until the state of Michigan returned the flags captured during the war to their state of origin in 1941.[18](#)

During the Battle of Baton Rouge, men of the Sixth were killed and forty-three were



1941 Confederate Flag Return

During the Civil War, capturing an enemy flag typically required acts of incredible bravery. Since flags were often a regiment's most prized possession, they were treated as the spoils of war when they were captured and regiments would often send them to their home states, as the Sixth Michigan did with the flag of the Ninth Louisiana Battalion. At the end of the war Northern states retained these flags. In 1905 the Federal Government passed a resolution that allowed for the return of some of the Confederate flags held by the north.[19](#) Michigan did not participate in returning their flags in 1905, instead the state held on to them until 1941. On Saturday September 20, 1941, the state hosted delegates from twelve southern states and formally returned the flags to their state of origin.[20](#) The emphasis of the day was on reconciliation. As the program for the event stated, "Their return symbolizes a common desire to always remain a united people."[21](#) Thirteen flags and a ceremonial sword were returned at the event and the ceremony was broadcast by radio throughout the country. Union and Confederate Civil War Veterans were present at the event.[22](#) Silent video coverage can be found on the [capitol's website](#).



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wounded.²³ Brigadier-general Williams was also killed. Later that night, the charges against Colonel Clark, Major Bacon, Captain Griffin and Captain Wheeler were dropped and they were allowed to return to the regiment.²⁴

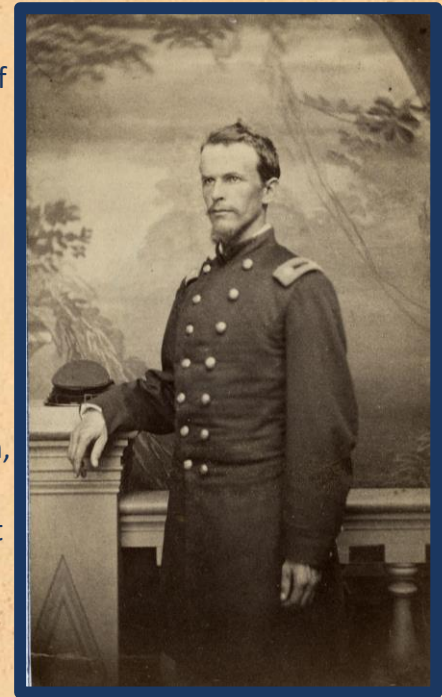
Over the next several months, the Sixth Michigan was stationed in swampy regions of Louisiana at a location they coined "Camp Death".²⁵ By December 6, 1862, there were only 191 men out of 755 fit for duty. When they were finally relocated to New Orleans the men began to recover. The Sixth participated in the capture of a rebel gunboat, the Cotton on January 14, 1863. On March 23, they participated in the Battle of Ponchatoula. In recounting the Battle of Ponchatoula, Colonel Bacon mentions seeing the flag of the regiment, "At one place our old Michigan colors happen to be borne along some distance in the road".²⁶ The Sixth also engaged in several other small battles throughout the early months of 1863.²⁷

By May, the regiment was stationed at Port Hudson. There they participated in the Siege and Attack on Port Hudson. Colonel Clark reported on the action and losses sustained at Port Hudson:

On the 23d of May, 1863, arriving before that stronghold the regiment was placed in the most advanced position, and maintained it until the surrender, on the 9th of July. During the siege of this formidable place, it participated in three

desperate assaults upon its works. In the assault of the 27th of May, the regiment under my command, led the division of General T. W. Sherman, and lost more than one-third of the men it had engaged . . . An assault was made on the 14th of June, when the 6th then commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Bacon (I having command of the bridged), advanced by detachments . . . On the 29th of June the regiment, then commanded by Captain Cordon, again advanced to the assault, when 35 of the regiment, composing a forlorn hope, assailed the enemy's works at the point known as the Citadel. The party succeeded, in gaining the ditch, but were overpowered and driven back with a loss of eight killed and nine wounded.²⁸

Major Edward Bacon, who later became Colonel of the regiment, includes some details about what happened to the regiment's flag

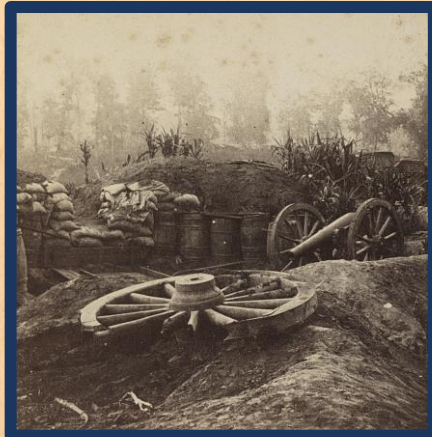
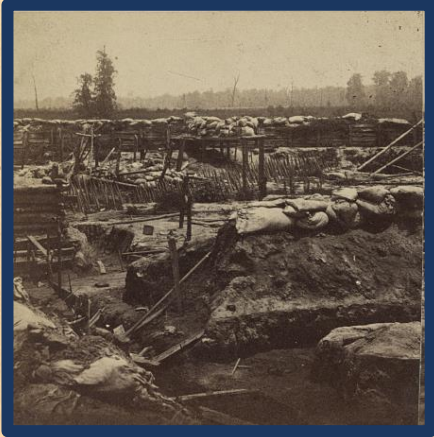


Colonel Edward Bacon





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Photographers McPherson & Oliver took a series of photographs of Port Hudson after the battle. These are just a few of the images available in the Library of Congress's digital collections.

during the battle. After Port Hudson was captured, Bacon visited the fortifications. He was given a tour by an ill Confederate. "One of these sick men very willingly leaves his resting place and shows me the spot where the colors of the Sixth Michigan were planted on the 27th of May by our wounded color-bearer, not far from the parapet. Few were those who came as far forward that day. Not a few were those who fell in protecting and bringing off those colors."²⁹ It is unfortunate that Colonel Bacon did not record the name of the color-bearers who carried the flags that day. One of the men may have been George Welton as his biography in the Portrait and Biographical Album of Calhoun County, Michigan states that he was a color bearer in 1863.³⁰ Another may have been Richard D. Kennedy. His photograph in the collection of the Courthouse Square Museum in Charlotte states that he "was severely wounded in the side while carrying the colors at the storming party at the 2nd Div of the 19th Inf. Corp. at Port Hudson, La. May 27th, 1863."³¹

This account from Colonel Clark one of the last mentions of any of the three flags given to the regiment by the ladies of Michigan and Baltimore. At some point, one of the regiment's "Do Your Duty" presentation flags was sent back as a gift to Colonel Curtineus in





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Kalamazoo.³² It is unknown whether Colonel Curtineus received the national or regimental flag presentation flag.

After the Battle of Port Hudson, the Detroit Free Press reported that the Sixth Michigan lost about 180 men and that fewer than three hundred were fit for duty.³³ As a reward for their service at Port Hudson, General Nathaniel Banks ordered the regiment converted to a heavy artillery regiment. His order states that the regiment was “to retain, until otherwise officially designated, its infantry number, and to have the organization, pay, clothing, and equipment prescribed by law and regulations from the artillery arm.”³⁴ From that time, the regiment was known as the Sixth Michigan Heavy Artillery.

The regiment remained at Port Hudson serving garrison duty until the expiration of their initial three-year term of service. Two hundred forty-seven men in the regiment reenlisted qualifying the regiment for veteran status and allowing the men a thirty-day furlough back to Michigan.³⁵

Upon returning to Port Hudson after their furlough, its ranks reinforced by new recruits from Michigan, the regiment served for the next several months as infantry and performing engineer duty before they were given orders typical of a heavy artillery regiment.



SC-38-90

Heavy Artillery participated in action at Fort Morgan, Spanish Fort, Fort Blakely, Fort Huger, Fort Tracey and the Siege of Mobile. The regiment was mustered out on August 20, returned to Michigan on August 28, and were discharged on September 5.³⁶ On July 4, 1866, the Sixth Michigan Infantry joined all the other Michigan Regiments in Detroit for a flag return ceremony. The regiments reformed and marched through the streets of Detroit where they relinquished their regimental colors to the keeping of the state. At this time, the Sixth Michigan presented two flags to the state.³⁷ One of the flags returned is now labeled as SC-38-90. This flag is a thirty-five star national flag and bears the designation “6th. Regt.

When acting as a heavy artillery regiment, the Sixth did not always fight as one unit, rather the companies were detached as support to other regiments throughout Alabama. Through the end of 1864 and beginning of 1865, men of the Sixth Michigan



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Michigan Heavy Artillery” so must have been presented sometime after the regiment was re-designated in June of 1863. No records describing this event have been found. The flag is mostly intact and lists battle honors for the Sixth Infantry on one line and battle honors of the Sixth Heavy Artillery on two additional lines. The battle honors all appear to be written in the same hand. This, in combination with the intact nature of the flag makes it likely the flag was procured towards the end of the war, possibly made for the Grand Review, a two-day parade held in Washington D.C.

Two other flags are held in the collection, but the records do not clearly indicate which flag was presented at the return ceremony. Flags presented at the return ceremony typically bear a distinctive plaque with the regimental designation in Spencerian script. Neither of the other two flags in the collection bear this plaque. SC-37-90 is one of the presentation flags given by the citizens of



Michigan's Second Capitol
(1847-1878)

Kalamazoo. It is unknown if this is the same flag that was sent to Colonel Curtenius and he later donated it to the collection or if this is the other presentation flag given by the citizens of Kalamazoo. What is known is that the flag made its way to Lansing sometime before 1871 and if it was donated during the return ceremony, it was not kept with the rest of the collection. In April of 1871, the Detroit Free Press reported on the presentation of a portrait which was held in the House chamber of the second Capitol. The article states, “The portrait was suspended temporarily in front of the Speaker’s stand and was much admired. Above it, draping the front of the Speaker’s canopy, was the old silken battle of the Sixth Michigan Infantry.”³⁸ SC-37-90 was eventually incorporated into the rest of



Lansing, Mich. The Patrick Henry Rostrum in State Pioneer Room and Historical Museum in State Capitol.

The flag of the Sixth Michigan was draped on this rostrum which was used in Michigan’s First and Second Capitols.



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the collection when the current capitol building opened. The other flag that also lacks the distinctive plaque is SC-24-90. This flag is an artillery flag with crossed cannons on a white background. A banner at the top reads "US" at the bottom a banner has a space for a regimental designation and then reads "Regiment Artillery". While the regimental designation was never painted in, the flag was placed in a holder labeling it as belonging to the Sixth Michigan Heavy Artillery. At the time it was displayed, some of the men of the regiment would have been alive and would have surely protested if the flag did not belong to their regiment.



SC-24-90



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

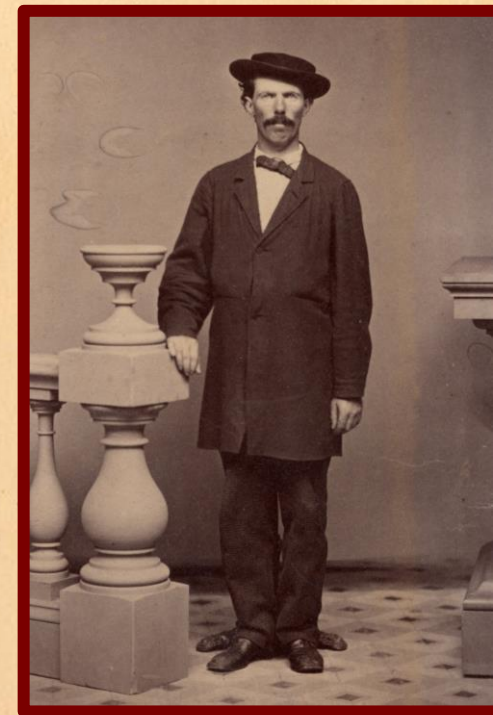


The following individuals can be documented as having served in the regiment's color guard or were documented as having carried the flag. Their names appear in the Civil War Service Records Collection at the Archives of Michigan and on the Michiganology website <https://michiganology.org/civil-war/>

Richard D. Kennedy "Niles. Enlisted in company K, Sixth Infantry, Aug. 8, 1861, at Niles, for 3 years, age 24. Mustered Aug. 20, 1861. Commissioned Sergeant, Feb. 1, 1863. Wounded in assault upon Port Hudson, La., May 12, 1863. Commissioned First Lieutenant July 19, 1864. Discharged at expiration of term of service in Kalamazoo, Mich., Aug. 23, 1864."³⁹

Alexander H. Scott "Schoolcraft. Enlisted in company C, Sixth Infantry, as Sergeant, June 19, 1861, at Fort Wayne, for 3 years, age 21. Mustered Aug. 20, 1861. Promoted to Hospital Steward Dec. 10, 1862. Discharged to accept commission in Corps d'Afrique Aug. 13, 1863. Commissioned First Lieutenant, Twelfth Corps d'Afrique. Reentered service as Assistant Surgeon in Twelfth Infantry at De Vall's Bluff, Ark. Commissioned Oct. 10, 1864. Mustered Dec. 26, 1864. Mustered out at Camden, Ark., Feb. 15, 1866."⁴⁰

George A. Whelton "Calhoun County. Enlisted in company E, Sixth Infantry, Aug. 22, 1861, at Kalamazoo, for 3 years, age 18. Mustered Aug. 22, 1861. Corporal May 1863. Sergeant Jan. 1864. Discharged on Surgeon's certificate of disability at Port Hudson, La., Jan. 11, 1864."⁴¹



Postwar Photo of Richard D. Kennedy

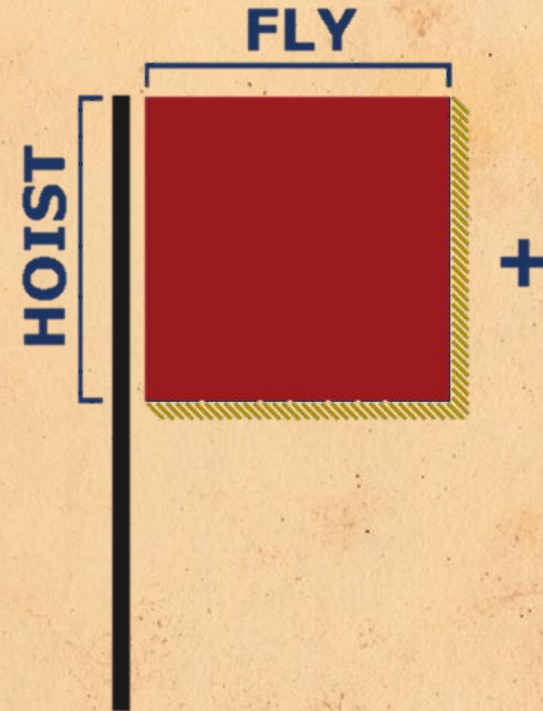


THE FLAGS



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-24-90: *Silk regimental.* ▪ *Dimensions: 71.5"x77.5"* ▪ *Silk Fringe: 2"*



The white silk flag is a one-sided flag constructed from two pieces of silk sewn together to achieve the desired height. The sew line is horizontal running through the center of the flag. The painted design features crossed cannons in the center of the flag. Ribbons are also painted on the above and below the cannons. The top ribbon reads "U.S." On the bottom ribbon, there is a space that was not painted in for the regimental designation. "Regiment" and "Artillery" are painted into the other two spaces on the ribbon. There is some fracturing in the paint on the cannons. The fly end of the silk has some damage, and there is a fairly large area of loss near the top ribbon. A gold-colored silk fringe is attached on top, bottom, and fly end of the flag and is relatively intact. The hoist end was fashioned into a sleeve for attachment to a staff.

The flag does not have an original accompanying staff, finial or cords.

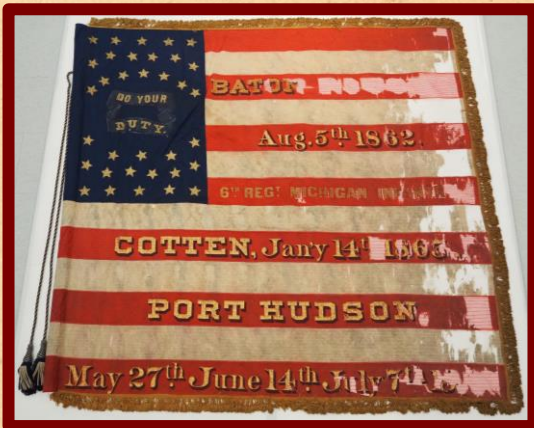
The flag was netted (sewn between layers of dyed net) in the 1960's as an early attempt at conservation.



THE FLAGS



SC-37-90: *Silk national.* ▪ *Dimensions: 70"x73"* ▪ *Cotton Fringe: 2.5"*



The flag is a one-sided, 34-star, silk national flag. The gold painted stars are arranged in the canton in six curved rows around the words "Do Your Duty." The first row contains five stars; the second, six; the third, seven; the fourth, five; the fifth, six; and the sixth, five. The flag is decorated with battle honors on the red stripes. The honors start on the second red stripe with "BATON ROUGE", however, most of the word Rouge is missing due to the paint making the silk more rigid and falling out. On the third strip is the words "Aug. 5th. 1832". The fourth red stripe bears the regimental designation "6th REGT MICHIGAN INFANTRY". The fifth red stripe reads "COTTEN, Jan'y 14th, 1863." The fifth red stripe reads "PORT HUDSON". The last red strip reads "May 37th, June 14th, July 7th, 1863", however, the last two digits of the number are missing. There is significant loss along the fly end of the flag. The hoist end of the flag was folded to form a sleeve attachment. Golden colored fringe has been attached to the top, bottom and fly end of the flag.

The staff, which measures 86 5/8" long x 1 7/16" in diameter has twenty nail holes along the length. Five of these holes contain nails. There is one large hole that goes through the staff located at the base of the 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. There is no brass plaque on this staff. The staff is topped with a spade finial. The finial measures 10 1/8" x nearly 2" at the widest point is attached to the staff with a screw.

The flag is accompanied by a blue and white cord measuring 104" and two blue and white tassels measuring 8".

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



THE FLAGS



SC-38-90: *Silk national.* ▪ *Dimensions: 70"x74.5"* ▪ *Cotton Fringe: 2"*



The flag is a one-piece, 35-star silk national. The gold painted stars are arranged in a grid pattern with five rows of seven stars each. The regimental designation is painted on the fourth red stripe and reads "6th. REGt. MICHIGAN HEAVY ARTILLERY". Battle honors are painted on the bottom three red stripes. The fifth red stripe reads "BATON ROUGE, COTTON, PORT HUDSON" The sixth red stripe reads "PONCHATOULA, FORTS SPANISH" The last red stripe reads "HUGER AND TRACY, MOBILE ALA." There is some loss in the white stripes along the fly end of the flag. The hoist end was folded to form a sleeve attachment. A golden colored fringed is attached on the top, bottom and fly end of the flag.

The staff, which measures 87 7/8" long x 2" in diameter appears varnished and has six nail holes consistent to where the flag would have been attached. 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 plaque reads in Spencerian script "6th Heavy Artillery". At some point the staff was shortened (probably to get it to fit in the display cases at the capitol). The staff is topped with a spade finial. The finial measures 8 1/8" x 3 7/8" at the widest point and is attached with a screw.

The flag is accompanied by a gold-colored cord measuring 138" and two gold-colored tassels measuring 7".

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



PHOTOGRAPHS



B. Moses and Co. "**Charles E. Clarke**" c. 1860. U-M Library Digital Collections: Bentley Historical Library: Milton Chase Civil War Photo Album. <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/b/bhl/x-hs17699/hs17699> (accessed December 3, 2021).

B. Moses and Co. "**Edward Bacon**" c. 1860. U-M Library Digital Collections: Bentley Historical Library: Milton Chase Civil War Photo Album. <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/b/bhl/x-hs17698/hs17698> (accessed December 3, 2021).

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