

THE FLAGS OF MICHIGAN

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The flags of Michigan by Jno. Robertson

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JNO. ROBERTSON

**THE FLAGS
OF MICHIGAN**

STATE MILITARY OFFICERS.



Governor CHARLES M. CROSWELL, Commander-in-Chief.
 Brigadier General JOHN ROBERTSON, Adjutant General
 March 15, 1861.

Brigadier General LEMUEL SAVIERS, Quartermaster General,
 May 21st, 1877.

Brigadier General LEWIS W. HEATH, Inspector General,
 March 8th, 1877.

Major GEORGE C. SMITH, Military Secretary, July 1st, 1877.

Major WILLIAM C. FITZSIMMONS, Judge Advocate, October
 1st, 1877.

AIDS TO COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

Colonel GROVER S. WORMER, October 1st, 1877; Colonel
 JAMES O'DONNELL, October 1st, 1877; Colonel EDWIN S.
 PIERCE, October 1st, 1877; Colonel WILLIAM JENNY, JR.,
 October 1st, 1877.

STATE MILITARY BOARD.

CHARLES E. GRISSON, September 23d, 1873; HENRY M.
 DUFFIELD, February 28th, 1874; LEWIS W. HEATH, March
 8th, 1877.

"Stand by the flag, on land, and ocean billow,
By it your fathers stood, unmoved and true,
Living, defended, dying, from their pillow,
With their last blessing, passed it on to you."

FLAGS OF MICHIGAN.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT, MICHIGAN, }
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, }
Detroit, February 12, 1877. }

GOVERNOR:—Anticipating the early deposit of the "War Flags" of Michigan in the capitol at Lansing, and recognizing the necessity for placing their record with them, I beg respectfully to submit the accompanying brief history on the subject, trusting that you will give it such direction as will bring about its publication, in such manner as may be deemed best.

Very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

JNO. ROBERTSON,

Adjutant General.

GOVERNOR CHARLES M. CROSWELL,
Lansing, Mich.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, }
Lansing, May 17, 1877. }

To the Legislature:

I herewith submit a communication from the Adjutant General of the State, accompanied by a brief but valuable sketch or record of the "War Flags of Michigan." It is anticipated that these Flags will be deposited in the new capitol on its completion, and it seems fitting and proper that every important circumstance connected with their history should be recorded and preserved.

Many of them are mere shreds, tattered, torn, and bullet-pierced, which illustrate the valor of the men of Michigan, as well as the important part the State has borne in some of the great wars of the United States, especially in the war with Mexico, and in the more recent struggle for the maintenance and preservation of the National Union.

Beneath their folds more than ninety thousand of the bravest sons of the State pressed forward through privations and amid dangers, to share largely and gloriously in nearly all the battles of the great rebellion. With unyielding devotion many gave up their lives that the nation might live, while the bleeding wounds and the trials and sufferings of others attested their fidelity to the Union and their valor in its behalf. And when their work was accomplished, in the day of their triumph, treasuring no spirit of resentment, with moderation unsurpassed, these heroes freely forgave their enemies, and restoring peace on unparalleled terms of generosity to the vanquished, betook themselves again to the quiet pursuits of life, by energy, industry, and thrift, to renew prosperity, and make good the waste of war.

These Battle-Flags are mementoes of patriotism and heroism worthy of remembrance, and their history should be carefully and gratefully cherished and preserved. I therefore respectfully recommend that the Legislature take such action, by concurrent resolution, as shall provide for the publication of the history, as a legislative document, in proper and suitable form.

CHARLES M. CROSWELL.

In response to this message, the committees on military and on printing of the Senate, through their chairmen, Messrs. L. J. Taylor and F. H. Rankin, reported the following preamble and concurrent resolution, which were unanimously adopted, by both houses of the Legislature :

Whereas, His Excellency the Governor has transmitted to the Legislature a communication from the Adjutant General of the State, accompanied by a record of the War Flags of Michigan, and recommends that the Legislature take such action by concurrent resolution as shall provide for the publication of the history of these mementoes of the patriotism and heroism of our citizen soldiers in proper and suitable form for preservation and distribution ; therefore,

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That there be and the same is hereby ordered printed in a style similar to the printed proceedings of the Laying of the Corner Stone of the Michigan State Capitol, two thousand copies of the History of the Battle Flags of Michigan, at a cost not to exceed four hundred and fifty dollars,—one thousand copies

