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## Rally Round the Flag!

### INTRODUCTION

The American Civil War was a pivotal point in the history of the United States. It is estimated that almost 3.5 million soldiers served both North and South. More than 600,000 Americans died as a result of the conflict.

The Civil War was one of the first heavily documented and photographed wars in American history. Conducting warfare was not just a military process, but a bureaucratic process which produced millions of records. Soldiers wrote letters to family, friends, and even newspapers, in numbers never before seen. War correspondents covered that action from close to the front lines.

Photographers such as Matthew Brady and Andrew Gardner documented the horrors of the battlefield.

After the war, veterans joined together to form fraternal organizations to make sure that the sacrifices of their comrades were not forgotten.



### Rally Round The Flag!

This recruiting poster of the 23rd MI Infantry was typical of the kind once the draft was implemented. In addition to avoiding the stigma of being drafted, the US Government, and often local communities, offered cash bounties to encourage men to enlist. *EA.5b, Out box, Civil War Recruiting Posters, Vertical File Collection*

This online exhibit was created in the Winter of 2011, by Matthew Adair, a graduate student at the University of Michigan School of Information.

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## Rally Round the Flag!

### ABOLITION AND ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENT

Michigan had a long history of anti-slavery feelings, even before it became a state. Arthur St. Clair, the first governor of the Northwest Territory, frequently spoke out against the extension of slavery. By the 1820's, Detroit had become a crossing point into Canada for escaped slaves. The opening of the Erie Canal allowed increased settlement in the region, particularly from the New England States. Many of these new settlers brought with them strong abolitionist sentiments.

### LAURA SMITH HAVILAND (1808-1898)

Laura Smith was born to Quaker parents in Ontario, Canada. In 1825, she married Charles Haviland Jr., himself a devout Quaker. A few years after they were married, they moved to Lenawee County, Michigan.

Haviland and other members of the community helped Elizabeth Margaret Chandler organize the Logan Female Anti-Slavery Society in 1832. It was the first anti-slavery organization in Michigan. The Haviland farm purportedly was the first station of the Underground Railroad established in Michigan.



Laura Smith Haviland with Slave Irons  
*"Photographs", Box 1, Laura S. Haviland papers*

### THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY<sup>1</sup>

On November 10, 1836, delegates from southeast Michigan gathered at the [First Presbyterian Church](#) in Ann Arbor for an 'Anti-Slavery State Convention.' After two days, delegates established the [Michigan State Anti-Slavery Society](#), adopted resolutions denouncing slavery, and decided to publish an antislavery newspaper. Purchasing a printing press and selling subscriptions in the Michigan Territory was challenging – and risky.

In the fall of 1837, newspaper publisher Elijah Lovejoy was attacked by a pro-slavery mob in Alton, Illinois. Lovejoy was shot and killed when he refused to give up his printing press. Antislavery lecturers in Michigan faced angry crowds throughout the 1830s. In



First edition of the *Signal of Liberty*

spite of the difficulties, brothers William and Nicholas Sullivan published the first antislavery newspaper, *American Freeman*, in 1838 in Jackson, Michigan. The following year, Seymour Treadwell agreed to act as the editor and publisher of the *Michigan Freeman*. Both newspapers were issued only sporadically.



Josiah Beckley's mercantile shop on Broadway Avenue in Ann Arbor. "UCCs. Ann Arbor, Mich., views, by area, Lower Town and Mills. no. 63", Ann Arbor, Michigan photograph collection

Theodore Foster and Rev. Guy Beckley launched the *Signal of Liberty* in [April 1841](#) and managed to go to press nearly every week. The printing office was located on the second floor of Josiah Beckley's mercantile shop on Broadway Avenue in Ann Arbor. Guy Beckley helped in his brother's store and worked tirelessly to promote the newspaper. Theodore Foster was co-editor and publisher of the *Signal of Liberty* until 1848.

Foster and Beckley were strong abolitionists who wrote in the *Signal of Liberty* of helping people escaping from slavery. The editors interviewed self-emancipated men and women, hoping to arouse sympathy for abolitionism. They published [the story of Robert Coxe](#), helpless to stop the beatings of his sister and mother, grief-stricken as his family was sold and separated. The newspaper covered the "[kidnapping outrages](#)" of African Americans in Detroit, [Marshall](#) and Cass County, Michigan.

The *Signal of Liberty* achieved its goal of bringing the issue of slavery into the hearts and minds of the people. Nearly every issue included [an antislavery poem](#), [national news](#), and [local notices](#). [Minutes from antislavery meetings](#) reveal a proliferation of organizations across the state and a growing desire to see slavery end in America. The events and movements described in the *Signal of Liberty* help us understand the issues that led people to resist slavery, change their churches and political parties, and fight for freedom.

1. Information on the *Signal of Liberty* from: Carol Mull, "Signal of Liberty," <http://signalofliberty.aadl.org/>.

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## War!

At 4:30 am, April 12, 1861, war officially broke out between the North and South when Confederate forces under the command of P. G. T. Beauregard opened fire on [Fort Sumpter](#) in Charleston harbor, South Carolina.

On April 15, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln [issued his call for 75,000 troops](#) to suppress the what many in the North considered an illegal insurrection. In the days following the outbreak, rumors swirled and uncertainty abounded. Communities across the nation rallied together in support of the cause.



## THE CRISIS! GREAT UNION MEETINGS IN ANN ARBOR.

On the 15th inst. our citizens were called together at the Court House at an early hour of the morning, by the ringing of the Court House bell, and the telegraphic dispatches of the night before read to them. The detailed and war-like character of the news inspired and roused up the latent patriotism of every heart present, and they went forth resolved upon immediate action.

At 2 o'clock P.M., an impromptu meeting of our citizens, old and young, was held in the Court House, to take proper and effectual steps to do their part in subduing the present rebellion in the country and our flag from impending destruction, devastation and ruin which seemingly awaits it at the hand of the confederates of the seceded States of the Union. – Dr. Tappan was called to the chair, and E.B. Pond, editor of the Michigan Argus, was appointed Secretary.

Speeches were made by Senator Bingham, Rev. Mr. Blades, R. G. DePuy, Esq., and by Chancellor Tappan, all of which were of a most patriotic, enthusiastic and Union character. The meeting was full, and the greatest enthusiasm was apparent.

Friday evening last, upon the call of our worthy, active and efficient Mayor, John F. Miller, a meeting was held at the Court House for the purpose of inviting our citizens to take a portion of the State loan. E.B. Pond, Esq., was called to the Chair, and Hon. J.F. Miller appointed Secretary. Hon D. McIntyre stated the object and read the list of the names of those who had subscribed to take a portion of the loan, which subscription amounted to about \$4,500.

The meeting was addressed by Dr. Tappan and others, in a very spirited and patriotic manner, and was much enlivened by martial music and the patriotic songs of the Misses of the Union School, under the director of Prof. Jackson, who were seated in the gallery, which adjourned to meet Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock. At 2 P.M. the meeting assembled pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by the Major. The Rev. F.A. Blades was appointed Chairman, and Prof. Jackson appointed Secretary, and was addressed by several prominent citizens, and an opportunity given to citizens and others from the country, to subscribe to the loan. The meeting adjourned with three



Sunday April 21, 1861. Dr. Tappan leading a rally on the courthouse square in Ann Arbor following a flurry of rumors out of Washington, DC. *Emergencies and Wars, U of M & the Civil War. no. 358, University of Michigan photographs vertical file*

hearty cheers for the Union.

On Sunday morning, the 21st inst., our citizens were thrown into the most intense excitement by a rumor that Washington had been taken by the rebels, and that President Lincoln and Gen. Scott were prisoners in their hands, but which we are happy to say was not the fact.

The telegraph was in operation during most of Saturday night, and the dispatches received up to 10 A.M., of Sunday were issued in Extra, in union, by the Michigan Argus and the Journal, and laid before the public at 12 M. At the request of a large number of citizens, Mayor Miller caused a notice to be given in the different churches, that a meeting of the friends of the Union would be held in the Court House Square at 2 o'clock P.M., to be addressed by Dr. Tappan. In response to the notice, an immense concourse of citizens, including a large number of ladies, together with the military, assembled. Rev. F.A. Blades opened the meeting by prayer, after which Dr. Tappan delivered a stirring, enthusiastic and patriotic address, and was followed by the Rev. J.M. Gregory in a most thrilling and devout Union speech. Prof. White then stated that Ex-Mayor Barry had offered to command a second company, which has been filled. All the clergy of the city were upon the stand, and participated in the services of the day.

The Steuben Guards were present in full uniform, with flag and music. – Sixteen hundred dollars were promptly pledged by citizens for the support of the families of those who volunteered.

The Steuben Guard added much to the patriotic and cheerful bearings of the day, by their enlivening strains, and the meeting adjourned amidst anthems, cheers and martial music, and the impressions of the doubts and fears of the safety of this great Union upon the minds of the assembled thousand during that day of excitement of civil war, will probably never be erased.



**Argus & Journal Extra.**  
EA.5b, Out box, Civil War Contemporary, Vertical File Collection

Ann Arbor Journal, Wednesday Morning, April 24, 1861 page 2

## MICHIGAN ARGUS

### The Crisis in Ann Arbor.

April 26, 1861, page 3

Since our last issue the excitement in our City has gone on increasing; and the notes of preparation are heard on every hand. On Friday evening last, a meeting was convened on call of the Major, to respond to the call of the State for financial aid, and the Court House was filled to overflowing. E.B. Pond, was called to the chair, and J.F. Miller, Esq, was elected Secretary. The object of the meeting was stated at length by Mr. McIntyre, who reported that a subscription paper had been circulated, and over \$4000 subscribed to the loan. The meeting was addressed by Dr. Tappan, Gov. Felch, Rev. Mr. Cochran, Rev. Mr. Chapin, R.G. DePuy, Prof. Wood, Dr. Palmer, C.H. Dennison, and others; and patriotic songs were sung by about forty girls from the Union School [...]



**Oath of allegiance, Detroit, April 16, 1861.**

At an early hour on Sunday morning, a report gained general circulation that Washington had been taken by the revolutionists, and President Lincoln and Gen. Scott were prisoners in their hands. This started the blood to boiling in every vein, and excitement was up to the war pitch. Sermons were preached in several of the churches appropriate to the times, and a meeting was announced to be held in the Court House Square at 2 o'clock P.M. The meeting was an immense one, and was addressed by Dr. Tappan and Hon. J.M. Gregory. It was opened

This public meeting was typical of Detroit's wartime rallies. Jex Bardwell photographed the crowd gathered in front of the US Post Office on Griswold Street to watch Detroit's civil and Military officials take a new oath of allegiance.

*Photos (32) slides, Box 2,  
Michigan and the Civil War*

were paraded in front of the stand during the meeting.

This Sabbath meeting, a thing so unusual and almost unheard of in this country, shows the intense excitement that pervades society., an excitement that has thoroughly aroused all classes, and especially the men of capital and character. It was a gathering not for pleasure but of earnest men to consider their duty to the country.

In the evening various Churches joined in exercises at the M.E. Church, which were participated in by the Revs. Blades, Chapin, Cornelius, Cochran and Clark. We were not present, but understand that he [sic] deepest interest was manifested.

and closed with religious exercises and gave evidence of the deep feeling of the Christian portion of the community. While the meeting was in progress a subscription was in circulation to aid the Steuben Guards in filling up their ranks. [...] The Steuben Guards

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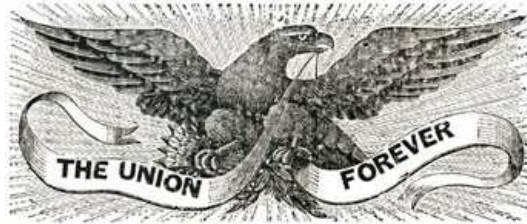
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## Rally Round the Flag!



### RECRUITING

Michigan's initial quota to President Lincoln's call for volunteers was one regiment of infantry. In compliance with the President's request, for military aid to uphold the Constitution and maintain the Union of the States, Governor Austin Blair issued a proclamation, dated April 16, 1861, for one regiment of Infantry to be mustered into the U. S. service.

At this date there were a number of independent military companies in the state possessing military knowledge from long practice and study, and ten of these companies were accepted to form the first regiment. These companies were designated at their home stations as the "Detroit Light Guard," "Jackson Greys," "Coldwater Cadets," "Manchester Union Guard," "Steuben Guard," "Michigan Hussars," "Burr Oak Guard," "Ypsilanti Light Guard," "Marshall Light Guard" and "Hardee Cadets." Orlando B. Wilcox was appointed Colonel of the regiment, and the companies reported to him at Detroit with the least possible delay. The organization of the regiment was completed April 29, and was mustered into the service on May 1, 1861, with an enrollment of 708.



Captains of the three student companies in 1861.  
*Emergencies and Wars, U of M & the Civil War. no. 358, University of Michigan photographs vertical file*

The President's call upon Michigan for troops was promptly met by the muster in of the First Regiment and its early movement to the seat of war, in Virginia.

In the meantime, authority had been received from the War Department to raise three other regiments, but at the same time stating that it was "important to reduce rather than increase that number." This authority only covered the 2d, 3d, and 4th Infantry, already in process of recruitment, while many companies throughout the State, not included in the organizations referred to, had been recruited without authority in the hope of obtaining place in those or other regiments, but were disappointed, and most of them sought and found service in the troops of other States.

This limited policy of the government was extremely at variance with the views of Governor Blair regarding the necessities of the country at the time, and deeming immediate preparation to meet emergencies necessary, he established the "Camp of Instruction" referred to in the second part of this work.

The great pressure for the acceptance of companies continued unabated, while the applications for appointments as commissioned officers had reached the maximum, and the Governor was continuously importuned by influential citizens of both political parties to a most unbearable degree, while men were being forced by them upon his attention for favorable consideration, regardless of natural or acquired

qualifications for the place. In fact, this continued during the entire earlier part of the war, and although much care was uniformly exercised in making selections, both as to original appointment and promotion in the field, it is but reasonable to expect that some mistakes were made.

In his perplexing and responsible position, Governor Blair always recognized qualifications for the office, and loyalty to the cause, as the tests, more than personal friendship or political status.

Under a law of Congress of August 3d, the President was authorized to receive into service 500,000 volunteers, and while the proportion of Michigan was understood to be 19,500, the State was charged with 21,337 on an adjustment of credits.

Michigan, in response to this requisition, continued a vigorous recruitment, sending regiment after regiment to the field, and up to December, 1861, had sent to the front 13 regiments of infantry, 3 of cavalry, and 5 batteries of light artillery, with a total strength of 16,475 officers and men. Ten of these regiments, one battery, and one company had been subsisted, clothed, and partly armed by the State. In addition to this, 13 companies had gone into service in regiments of other States, failing, as before stated, to find service in those of their own.

By the conclusion of the war, Michigan had raised 31 regiments of infantry, 11 Regiments of Cavalry, 14 Batteries of Artillery, 1 Regiment of Sharpshooters and 1 Regiment of Engineers & Mechanics. Nearly 90,000 men from Michigan went to war, at least 14,434 would never return.



#### **Rally Round The Flag!**

This recruiting poster of the 23rd MI Infantry was typical of the kind once the draft was implemented. In addition to avoiding the stigma of being drafted, the US Government, and often local communities, offered cash bounties to encourage men to enlist. EA.5b, Out box, Civil War Recruiting Posters, Vertical File Collection

*Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, 1861-1865, Vol. 1, (Kalamazoo, Mich: Ihling bros. & Everard, printers, 1905).*

*Michigan in the War, Rev. ed. (Lansing: W. S. George & co., state printers, 1882).*

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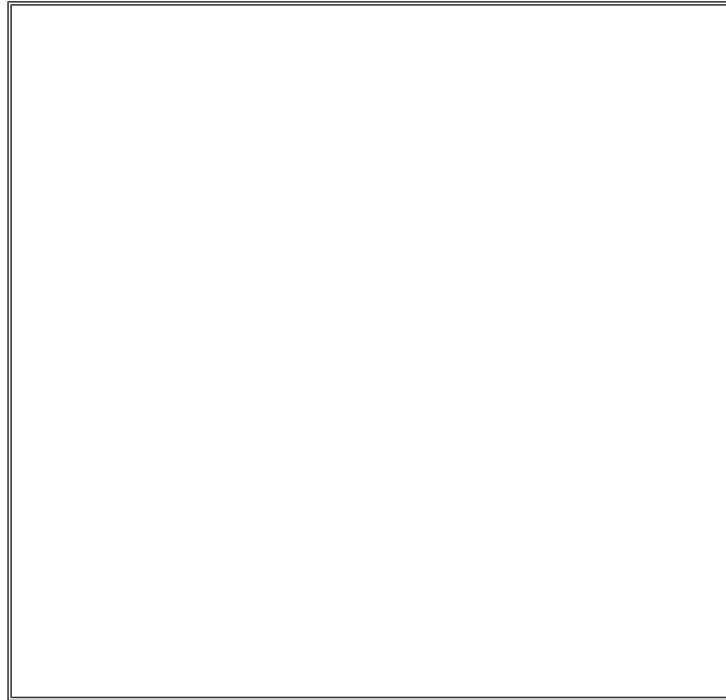
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## Training



To view the caption and citation, place your cursor on the larger image.

A raw recruit's first stop was of a rendezvous camp or camp of instruction. A number of these camps were established throughout the state of Michigan and gave the recruit's their first introduction to military life. Compared to today's modern military, the training of the average soldier in the Civil War was often very rudimentary. However, to someone who had never experienced the life of a soldier, the regimented structure of military life could be shocking indeed.

"Private Oliver Norton of the 83rd Pennsylvania aptly captured the essence of the military's preoccupation with evolutions. 'The first thing in the morning is drill, then drill, then drill again. Then drill, drill, a little more drill. Then drill, and lastly drill. Between drills, we drill and sometimes stop to eat a little and have roll-call'" <sup>1</sup>

The officers were little better instructed than the private soldier, often learning the evolutions only days before the recruits. Especially early in the war, regimental officers were typically elected by popular vote. The American citizen soldier was an in dependant minded lot and often resented having authority imposed upon him. This method of choosing officers often led to a variety of problems that were typically only solved by battlefield attrition or resignations.

A monumental and often remembered experience in the life of the



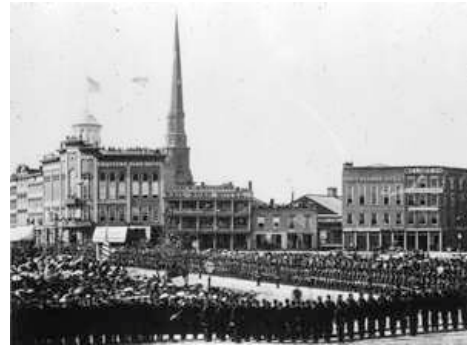
Orders #1 – Eighth Michigan Infantry  
Wm. M. Fenton Coll., Papers  
concerning 8th MI infantry, Box 1,  
McCreery Family papers

recruit was the presentation of the regimental colors. These flags were typically made or purchased by the local community where the regiment was organized and presented by the ladies of the town during impressive and patriotic ceremonies.

The experience of the 10th Michigan Infantry was probably fairly typical:

"The ladies and citizens of Flint, who had all along shown their kindness and generosity by acts which will not soon be forgotten, gave us another token of interest in the cause in which we were engaged, by presenting Col. Lum, April 11th, 1862, with a splendid "stars and stripes," on which was inscribed the motto of

our State and the number and name of our regiment. It would be interesting to relate in minute the details of the presentation, but we can only say that the appearance of the soldiers in their new clothes on parade and drill that day was better than ever before, and every soldier and citizen appeared intent upon doing what they could to make all agreeable. "When the regiment was formed in hollow square, and the ladies, with a few gentlemen, admitted and the eager crowd surrounding the square gathered closer and yet closer, we could plainly read in their faces that they felt an interest for us, and again we were assured that we should be remembered. The presentation was made with appropriate speeches and ceremonies, heartily responded to by one and all in rounds of applause. Several songs-were sung (national and patriotic) with good effect, and here it may not be improper to insert a song composed and sung by Mrs. Capt. Deming, assisted by one Mr. Bullock.



Presentation of colors. The First Michigan Infantry received its colors at Campus Martius, Detroit, on May 11, 1861. The presentation of a regiment's national flag, often paid for by local citizens, was a memorable occasion in a regiment's history.  
*Photos (32) slides, Box 2, Michigan and the Civil War*

#### THE FAREWELL SONG.

We are going far from home,  
As our fathers did before,  
To fight upon the battlefield,  
Amid the cannon's roar.  
To drive the traitors from our land,  
With the sword of liberty,  
And guard with brave and dauntless love  
The banner of the free.

#### Chorus

So good bye! Good bye till then,  
When we hope to meet again,  
We never can forget you,  
Oh no! we never can.  
Shall we return again  
When the war is over?  
With happy hearts we hope to meet  
With one and all once more;  
But if we fall in battle,  
For this, our native land,  
We ask our parting blessing,  
On this patriotic band.

#### Chorus

So farewell! farewell till then, etc.  
Kind friends, we now must speak the word;  
To one and all, farewell;  
May heaven's blessing on you rest,  
Say, will you sometimes think of us  
When 'round your loved hearthstone,  
And breathe a prayer to heaven,  
For the soldiers far from home!

#### Chorus

Home! Home! Sweet home!  
There 's no place like home,  
There's no place like home.

After the ceremonies were ended, and the flag was really ours, so bright and beautiful (although stained and tarnished now, we felt glad,

and a firm resolve to protect its sacred folds from insult, settled in our breasts, and is still rooted strongly there. After the speeches and songs, Col. Lum descended from the stand with the flag, and, placing it in the hands of the color Sergeant—William Lawrence, Co. H.—he charged the color company with its safe-keeping, giving it into their care in a kind and feeling manner.

Before the reducing of the square, Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Fenton, and Mrs. Thayer, assisted by other ladies, presented each soldier with a testament, and their memories are blessed by us to this day for that Christian deed; and this but added another proof that they were the "soldier's friends."

After the dismissal of the battalion, and as the day wore away, greetings, true and heartfelt, were exchanged, which bound us closer to those we were preparing to protect. This was another day long to be remembered by the 10th. <sup>2</sup>

1: William Davis, *The Civil War : a historical account of America's war of secession* (New York NY: SMITHMARK, 1996).

2: Fletcher W. Hewes, *History of the formation, movements, camps, scouts and battles of the Tenth Regiment Michigan Volunteer Infantry: containing a short historical sketch of every officer connected with the regiment* (Detroit: John Slater's Book and Job Print, 1864), <http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/004923981>.

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## Supplying the troops

The Civil War sent men to battle on a scale that the nation had never experienced. Just prior to the Civil War, the standing army of the United States stood at about 16,000. By the end of the war, over one million had been called into service. A single battle in the Civil War could involve more troops than an entire previous conflict. For example, the number of US forces involved in the Mexican War number approximately 78,000. At the Battle of Gettysburg, Mead's army consisted of almost 94,000 soldiers.

The troops in the field needed enormous amounts of supplies and equipment. Numerous men were required behind the lines to supply every soldier in the front line. The vast quantity of materials needed to supply the troops taxed the government's capabilities to and created a logistics problem on a scale not seen before.



### North-Western Sanitary Commission.

*Soldiers' Aid Society Reports, Broad-sides, Circulars, Box 3, James V. Campbell papers*

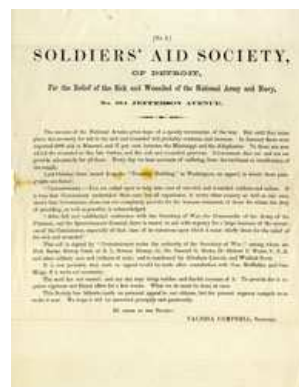
To further complicate the situation where, efforts to implement standard arms and equipment were not always successful. This could cause problems on the battlefields when a regiment running short of ammunition could receive supplies which did not fit their firearms. For example, the Abstract of Receipts for the 21st Michigan Infantry shows the regiment receiving at least four different styles of long arms of incompatible calibers.

### Abstract of Receipts from the 21st Michigan Infantry

Of particular note are the Colt Revolving Rifles, which the regiment won the right to use during target competitions with regiments from Illinois and Wisconsin.

*Wm. B. McCreery Coll. Misc. 1863-1864 concerning operations of 21st MI infantry, Box 1, McCreery Family papers*

As with so many of America's conflicts, men and women on the home front pitched in to supply the troops. The United States Sanitary Commission and various Soldiers Aid Societies were created to the provide relief and support. The organizations tended not only to the Soldier's material needs, but also their spiritual needs as well. They conducted fairs, gathered supplies, fashioned blankets and clothing which were sent to the regiments in the field. In addition, many traveled to the seat of war to serve as caregivers and nurses in numerous hospitals formed to take care of the wounded.



### Soldiers' Aid Society . *Soldiers' Aid Society Reports*

*Soldiers Aid Society reports,  
Broad­sides, Circulars, Box 3,  
James V. Campbell papers*

According to army regulations for camp rations, a Union soldier was entitled to receive daily

12 oz of pork or bacon or 1 lb. 4 oz of fresh or salt beef; 1 lb. 6 oz of soft bread or flour, 1 lb. of hard bread, or 1 lb. 4 oz of cornmeal. Per every 100 rations there was issued 1 peck of beans or peas; 10 lb. of rice or hominy; 10 lb. of

green coffee, 8 lb. of roasted and ground coffee, or 1 lb. 8 oz of tea; 15 lb. of sugar; 1 lb. 4 oz of candles, 4 lb. of soap; 1 qt of molasses. In addition to or as substitutes for other items, desiccated vegetables, dried fruit, pickles, or pickled cabbage might be issued. The marching ration consisted of 1 lb. of hard bread, 3/4 lb. of salt pork or 1 1/4 lb. of fresh meat, plus the sugar, coffee, and salt.



**Commissary Dept. Headquarters, Army of the Potomac.**

*Box 1, Michigan and the Civil War*

**Hard Crackers Come Again No More  
Tune: Stephen Foster's "Hard Times Come Again No More"**

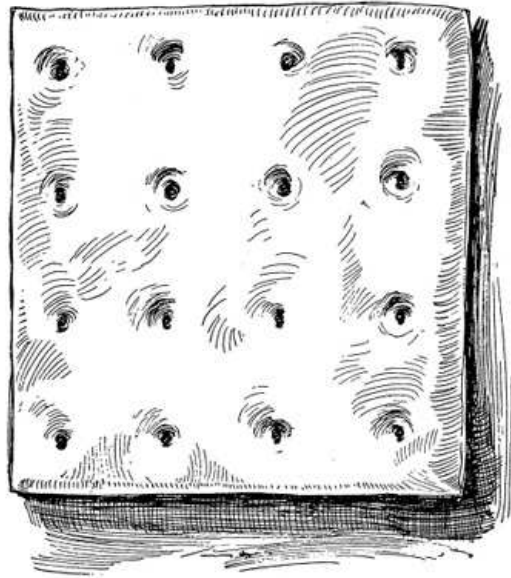
Let us close our game of poker, take our tin cups in hand  
While we gather 'round the cook tent's door  
Where dry mummies of hard crackers are given to each man,  
Oh, hard crackers, come again no more!

Chorus:

'Tis the song and the sigh of the hungry  
Hard crackers, hard crackers, come again no more  
Many days have you lingered upon our stomachs sore  
Oh, hard crackers, come again no more!

Stories of the quality of rations, or lack thereof, abound. John Billings, in his classic memoir "[Hardtack and Coffee](#)" provides the following description:

What was hardtack? It was a plain flour-and-water biscuit. Two which I have in my possession as mementos measure three and one-eighth by two and seven-eighths inches, and are nearly half an inch thick. Although these biscuits were furnished by organizations by weight, they were dealt out to the men by number, nine constituting a ration in some regiments, and ten in others; but there were usually enough for those who wanted more, as some men would not draw them. While hardtack was nutritious, yet a hungry man- could eat his ten in a short time and still be hungry. When they were poor and fit objects for the soldiers' wrath, it was due to one of three conditions: First, they may have been so hard that they could not be bitten; it then required a very strong blow of the fist to break them. The cause of this hardness it would be difficult for one not an expert to determine.



The second condition was when they were mouldy or wet, as sometimes happened, and should not have been given to the soldiers. I think this condition was often due to their having been boxed up too soon after baking. It certainly was frequently due to exposure to the weather. It was no uncommon sight to see thousands of boxes of hard bread piled up at some railway station or other place used as a base of supplies, where they were only imperfectly sheltered from the weather, and too often not sheltered at all. The failure of inspectors to do their full duty was one reason that so many of this sort reached the rank and file of the service.

The third condition was when from storage they had become infested with maggots and weevils. These weevils were, in my experience, more abundant than the maggots. They were a little, slim, brown bug an eighth of an inch in length, and were great bores on a small scale, having the ability to completely riddle the hardtack. I believe they never interfered with the hardest variety.

When the bread was mouldy or moist, it was thrown away and made good at the next drawing, so that the men were not the losers; but in the case of its being infested with the weevils, they had to stand it as a rule; for the biscuits had to be pretty thoroughly alive, and well covered with the webs which these creatures left, to insure condemnation. An exception occurs to me. Two cargoes of hard bread came to City Point, and on being examined by an inspector were found to be infested with weevils. This fact was brought to Grant's attention, who would not allow it landed, greatly to the discomfiture of the contractor, who had been attempting to bulldoze the inspector to pass it.

The quartermasters did not always take as active an interest in righting such matters as they should have done; and when the men growled at them, of course they were virtuously indignant and prompt to shift the responsibility to the next higher power, and so it passed on until the real culprit could not be found.

But hardtack was not so bad an article of food, even when traversed by insects, as may be supposed. Eaten in the dark, no one could tell the difference between it and hardtack that was untenanted. It was no uncommon occurrence for a man to find the surface of his pot of coffee swimming with weevils, after breaking up hardtack in it, which had come out of the fragments only to drown; but they were easily skimmed off, and left no distinctive flavor behind. If a soldier cared to do

so, he could expel the weevils by heating the bread at the fire. The maggots did not budge in that way. The most of the hard bread was made in Baltimore, and put up in boxes of sixty pounds gross, fifty pounds net; and it is said that some of the storehouses in which it was kept would swarm with weevils in an incredibly short time after the first box was infested with them, so rapidly did these pests multiply.

Having gone so far, I know the reader will be interested to learn of the styles in which this particular article was served up by the soldiers. I say *styles* because I think there must have been at least a score of ways adopted to make this simple *flour tile* more edible. Of course, many of them were eaten just as they were received — hardtack

*plain*; then I have already spoken of their being crumbed in coffee, giving the "hardtack and coffee." Probably more were eaten in this way than in any other, for they thus frequently furnished the soldier his breakfast and supper. But there were other and more appetizing ways of preparing them. Many of the soldiers, partly through a slight taste for the business but more from force of circumstances, became in their way and opinion experts in the art of cooking the greatest variety of dishes with the smallest amount of capital.



FRYING HARDTACK.

Some of these crumbed them in soups for want of other thickening. For this purpose they served very well. Some crumbed them in cold water, then fried the crumbs in the juice and fat of meat. A dish akin to this one, which was said to "make the hair curl," and certainly was indigestible enough to satisfy the cravings of the most ambitious dyspeptic, was prepared by soaking hardtack in cold water, then frying them brown in pork fat, salting to taste. Another name for this dish was "skillygalee." Some liked them toasted, either to crumb in coffee, or, if a sutler was at hand whom they could patronize, to butter. The toasting generally took place from the end of a split stick, and if perchance they dropped out of it into the camp-fire, and were not recovered quickly enough to prevent them from getting pretty well charred, they were not thrown away on that account, being then thought good for weak bowels.

John Davis Billings, *Hardtack and coffee; or, The unwritten story of Army life, including chapters on enlisting, life in tents and log huts, Jonahs and beats, offences and punishments, raw recruits, foraging, corps and corps badges, the wagon trains, the army mule, the engineer corps, the signal corps, etc.* (Boston: G. M. Smith & co., etc., etc., 1888), <http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000464403>.

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## Life in Camp



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## Faces of Michigan



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## The War's Toll

The war remains the deadliest conflict in American history, resulting in the deaths of 620,000 soldiers. Based on 1860 census figures, 8% of all white males aged 13 to 43 died in the war, including 6% in the North and 18% in the South.



To view the caption and citation, place your cursor on the larger image.

1. Maris Vinovskis, *Toward a social history of the American Civil War: exploratory essays* (Cambridge University Press, 1990).

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## A Michigan family's loss of a son and brother.

The following are the letters describing the events surrounding the death of Franklin M. Buell, a soldier with [Battery D., 1st Michigan Light Artillery](#). He enlisted at Union City on 25 August 1862 as a Private and died near Winchester, Tennessee on 24 July 1863.

Despite his wishes, it is not known if Frank was ever brought home to Michigan for burial. There is a [monument to Frank](#) in the Buell family lot in Riverside Cemetery, Union City, Michigan. However, the *Roll of Honor*, which details interments made in National Cemeteries and published by the US Government after the war show entries for Frank in both [Stone's River National Cemetery](#) and [Nashville National Cemetery](#).

### DR. SAMUEL MILLS TO THE PARENTS OF FRANKLIN M. BUELL.

Head Quarters 4th Mich. Battery  
Camp Thomas, Winchester Tenn  
July 24th, 1863

Mr. and Mrs. Buell,  
It is my unpleasant duty to inform you that your son Frank M., died at the hospital in this camp, at 3 o'clock A. M. this day; he was in a very fair way of recover until last night at 11 o'clock when he commenced sinking with great rapidity, and finally died in spite of all endeavors, at the time mentioned. His fever was broken near noon, and he was sweating profusely; in fact it was my opinion, and also of Dr. Benedict of the 17th O.V.I. that he would recover immediately & but for the unaccountable sinking, which could not have been anticipated or prevented he would now be with us. His brother Sidney was with him and attended him faithfully and affectionately, doing all that he could do; several of Frank's cousins were with him when he died; the poor boy died very easily; he is one more of the victims of this wicked rebellion, but like a true soldier and patriot his body lies with his face to the foe.

Sympathizing with you in your bereavement most heartily I am  
Your most obed't serv't

Sam'l J. Mills

Surgeon in charge 4th Mich. Batt'y



Buell Family papers

### SIDNEY BUELL TO HIS PARENTS, 9 AUGUST 1863.

Camp Thomas Winchester Tenn.  
August 9th / 63

Dear Father & Mother

I received your letter last night & was glad to here from you. you wanted me to give you the particulars of Franklins Death & before he Died what he had to say. he did not say a great deal only before he was out of his head. before that he took his pocket knife out of from in under his pillow & gave it to me & told me his money purse was in his pants pocket & told me to take it out & take good care of it & remember him by them. I told I would do it. he then told me he never expected to get well for he was getting weaker all the time. then I asked him what he wanted done with what little he had to home & coming to him here, he told me



Buell Family papers

he wanted me

it all divided among us all, & his things here he told the Dr. he wanted me to have what things he had turned over to me & what things that was worth keeping to keep myself. he told me he had a little coming to him among the boys that he had not all down. he had some 12 or 13 Dollars coming to him, & to collect & pay all he was owing. he then took his ring & give it to mother to remember him by & then he said he had some things that another had taken care for him to tell mother to keep & remember him by. I asked him what that was & he told did not say any thing more. then he went to sleep & slept a short time & then waiked up. Then he praid to the Lord that he mind be saved, & he praid every day to the Lord. he told me he wanted his body after he was to be buried in the Buring ground beside of Burty Grove {or grave}. I thought the things that he wanted mother to keep was those glass sauce dishes



Buell Family papers

he said if he was to live his life over again he would lead a difference life & searve the Lord & wished we would put out trust in God. when I found he was dying I went & waiked up Ira William, William H. Buell & the 2 Lincoln boys & they came & was at his bed side & when he died he had nothing to say. he died at 3½ o'clock on the 24th July /63 & then had his body all washed off & his uniform was put on his body & laid out, & then the Captain after Breakfast sent a team & C. D. Leach after some lumber. they got some & I had Leach make a good tight coffin & then had him take the directions of the coffin & give it to me when he got it made. I went up to the buring ground with Dr. Mills & found a nice spot in a graveyard to bury him & his grave was dug & at night at 6 O'clock in the evening the funeral was. I sent & got a preacher from one of the regiments & he came & then the Ambulance drove up & the Corps



Buell Family papers

placed in & the cousins marched behind the Ambulance with us & then the whole Company marched in the rear of all. we marched to the Grave & when the Corpse was let down, the Preacher preached a short sermon & then finished with a prair & then we returned to our Qrs & I had a little talk with the Preacher about Frank & he inquired about you all & I told him & then he went to his regiment. I did not learn his name. Franklin was though a great deal of in this company. I would wash him all over every day & was with him most of the time & all the time through the day & half the night for 4 nights till he died. he said everything was done for him that could be here. I saved three small locks of hair from his head & will send one to mother & one to Geo & the ring. Dr. Mills sends his best respects to you all. I showed home the letter he gave you rote me & he told me he was going to go over to Head Qrs with me in a few days & would to & do the best he could for me. I am excused from all duties & it keeps me in my then the most of the time. I fell well all but that must close. write soon. Love to all, Sidney D. Buell. Direct as before.



Buell Family papers

#### SIDNEY BUELL TO HIS PARENTS, 16 AUGUST 1863.

Camp on march 2 miles of Cumberland Mountains Tenn 8 miles in the advance of Dechard Tenn Aug 16th 1863

Dear Parents,

As we have camped early I will write a few lines to let you know that I am well. our



whole army is in motion for some point to the front. I don't know what to write. Mr Richard Codington was here Saturday when was at Dechard. He came to see his son in the 11 Michigan. he arrived on Friday last. we had quite a visit with him. I expect to see him before he goes home. I have not sent those books yet that I wrote to you about. I will send them by Mr. Codington when he goes home if I have a chance to see him again. I showed him where Franklin was buried. I have made a nice head board for Franks grave, rounding on top & smaller to the bottom than [...?] then I cut his name in nicely inch letters on a Oak board plained smooth & oiled & in the letters blacked.

The head board is in this shape [small drawing of board] & marked Frank M. Buell on a bow then Died July 24th 1863. then thought that would answer then cut on 4th Mich Battery. it is quite a nice one. then after I sat it up & sodded the grave over so it will look like an old grave. I have sent George the Directions in his letters. Franks Coffins was made of oak boards. the size were bent but left rough & made tight & large. he had a good Coffin made better than had the soldiers, his grave was dug a little over 4 feet deep. I should had it deeper but thought George was coming down here this summer or winter & the ground was very stoney & red lomy soil. his head is at the west. when your write me let me know when his funeral was. did you get the letter with the lock of hair & his ring? I sent a lock to George & kept one. Mother I want you to keep me a large Photograph if you have any taken. I have one of each when ever I get where I can I will have mine taken & send your one. I have one of Edwards & am a going

to have one of George & his Wife & want Charleys. why don't you write Charley. if you don't write but a few lines in Fathers & Mothers. when I get in camp again I will write to you. we get mail everywhere ever we are so you must write & direct in this way & it will come where ever we go Sidney D. Buell Camp. J. W. Church 4th Michigan Battery 1st Brigade 3rd Division, 4th army corps army of the Cumberland. I must close. write oftener & I will write soon. give my love to all. yours in haste Sidney D. Buell

PS: John Corbin is little better. he has quite hard headaches while on the march. Send me a few half dollar worth of letter stamps. I am going to take the Detroit advertiser & Tribune to have state news. I got those 2 NY York papers you sent to Frank. the boys are quite well. Willie Moseley is well. I am feeling better now than I have in a long time. I will write more next time. Ira & William Buell is well. From Sid.



Buell Family papers



Buell Family papers



Buell Family papers

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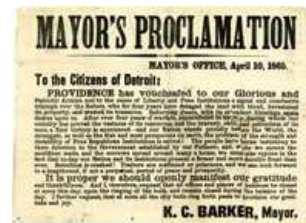
## Peace and Legacy.

### LEE'S SURRENDER

The surrender of Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia on April 9, 1865 effectively ended the War of the Rebellion. In an interesting twist of fate, Lee surrendered his forces at the home of Wilmer McLean in the village of Appomattox Court House. McLean had moved his family shortly after the First Battle of Bull Run, fought on July 21, 1861, which took place on his farm in northern Virginia.



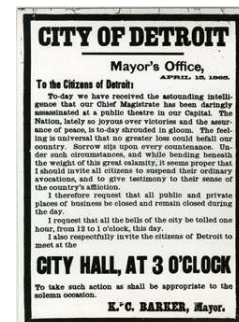
**Surrender of General Lee.**  
EA.5b, Out box, Civil War  
Contemporary, Vertical File Collection



**Mayor's proclamation at the end of the war.**  
EA.5b, Out box, Civil War  
Contemporary, Vertical File Collection

### LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATION

President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth on April 14, 1865 just five days after the surrender of Lee and almost 4 years to the day from his initial call for volunteers. Lincoln's assassination threw the country, already reeling from four years of conflict, into deep mourning. Northern anger over the assassination of Lincoln lead fueled an angry by the radical republicans that delayed the nation's quick healing hoped for by Lincoln.



**Proclamation by the mayor of Detroit on Lincoln's assassination**  
Box 1, Michigan and the Civil War

### GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC (GAR)

The veterans who served during the war formed bonds of friendship that lasted far beyond the battlefield. These veterans were determined to see that these bonds continue throughout their lives, and as a result, formed a number of organizations.

The GAR was a the largest fraternal organization composed entirely of veterans of the Union Army, Navy, and Marines who had served in the American Civil War. The structure included the National Organization, State level organizations known as Departments, and local units known as Posts. All members belonged to a Post and many communities across the United States had local posts of the GAR. As a national organization, the GAR existed from 1866 until 1956 with the death of its last member, Albert Woolson.

The GAR was instrumental in the establishment of Memorial Day as a national observance, they worked tirelessly for the expansion of widow's and veteran's pensions, and for many years, no US Presidential Candidate was



GAR Membership  
Badge

elected without the endorsement of the GAR.



**G.A.R. 25th National  
Encampment parade;  
Detroit 1891.**

*Photos, Box 2, Michigan and the  
Civil War*



**Orlando LeValley.**

LeValley was the last Civil War  
veteran from the state of Michigan  
and the last surviving member  
of the Michigan Department of  
the Grand Army of the Republic.  
He died in 1948 at the age of 99.  
*FE.2, Grand Army of the Republic,  
Vertical File*

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