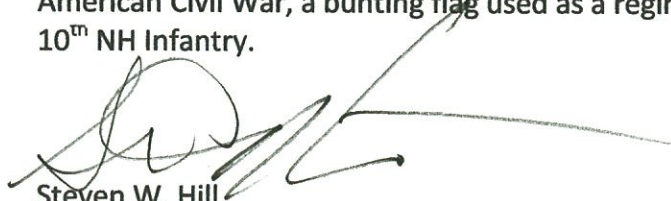


To whom it may concern:

While there is no concrete evidence to link this flag to the 10<sup>th</sup> NH besides the inked ID on one of the white stripes at the heading end of the flag, there is no reason to doubt its authenticity as a flag of the period, nor that it was designed and made to be used as a battle-flag. In size and shape it is very close to Army regulations and has a number of pole ties along the leading edge-- it was clearly made to be attached to a staff and carried on parade or in battle, not flown from a halyard on a flagpole. The flag is hand-sewn throughout. The material appears to be wool bunting, similar to many, many authenticated flags of the period. The top and bottom edges of the flag are the selvedge of the original bolts of red and blue cloth from which the pieces were cut, not rolled over and hemmed. This was the common practice during the Civil War and earlier. The cotton or fine linen stars are appliquéd on the front only and the blue cloth cut away on the reverse, also the common practice of the period—stars appliquéd on both sides are very unusual for the Civil War period and generally only appear on those flags that are machine-sewn. The blue wool of the union is much faded, but judging from areas that have never been much affected by light, it appears that it was not a very dark blue to begin with. There are thirty-five white stars, indicating that the flag dates from sometime after early 1863 when West Virginia's admittance to the Union as the 35<sup>th</sup> state was announced. A claim that such a flag could be a veteran's flag would not be borne out by comparison to known veteran flags, which invariably have the number of stars appropriate to when the veterans had the flag made. While veterans sometimes maintained possession of 34 and 35-star flags they had carried during the War, I know of no case where veterans had a thirty-five star flag made after the War.

A chemical analysis of the dyes and the reddish-brown stain on the flag has not been made, but I see nothing to suggest that the dyes used are of some type not available in 1863, and the fading of the blue suggests a very long time-frame, not something that could be readily faked.

I have no doubt that this flag is exactly what it purports to be, an authentic relic of the American Civil War, a bunting flag used as a regimental or company color, most likely by the 10<sup>th</sup> NH Infantry.



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