# ocal man was 1st state Civil War recruit

By Ross Jacobs special writer

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At 4:30 a.m. on April 12, 1861, the flag of the United States of America was under siege. Fort Sumter, off the coast of Charleston, S.C., was being attacked by the Confederate St. tes of America.

The president of the United States, Abraham Lineoln, requested that the governor of each state gather volunters to put down the rebellion. Michigan's governor, Austin Blair, issued a proclamation on April 16, 1861, to organize the raising of four regiments for this service.

Patriotic young men all over the state flocked to enlist in the First Michigan Infantry Regiment. Doe of these brave, young men was 20 year-nington Town of Parmington Town of Parmington Constitution as states for the State Park of Parmington Constitution as states for the States of Parmington Constitution as states for the Constitution of Parmington Constitution as satisfact fleacher at Constitution as satisfact fleacher at Constitution as assistant teacher at Constitution and Constitution as assistant teacher at Constitution and Constitution as assistant teacher at Constitution as assistant teacher at Constitution as assistant teacher at Constitution and Constitution as assistant teacher at Constitution and Constitution as assistant teacher at Constitution and Con

old Andrew J. Crosby Jr. of Farmington Township.
Crosby was an assistant teacher at the Bryant and Stratton's Business College in Detroit, his alma mater. He and his friends heard of the governor's proclamation and rushed to the enlistment office of the Detroit Light Guard. This young man from Farmington became the first Michigan soldier to enlist in the Civil War.

MICHIGAN'S ADJUTANT general MICHIGAN'S ADJUTANT general selected 10 companies to serve in the First Michigan Infantry Regiment. Membership in these first companies was a highly valued position. Andrew J. Crosby was always very proud that he was the first private, in the first company, of the first regiment from Michigan.

in the first company, of the first regiment from Michigan.

Andrew J. Crosby Jr. was born in DeBuyter Township, Madison County, New York, on Sept. 9, 1840. He was the first of two sons born to Andrew J. Crosby Sr. and Lurania W. Mites, both natives of New York.

The family lived in New York with Andrew was 4, at which time they moved to "an unbroken tract of land in the heavily timbered region" (today's Livonia). While in Livonia, Crosby attended the district school in Wayne County.

When he was 15, the family sold its land and moved to an improved darm in Farmington Township, where he attended Farmington Township's district school. Ills education also included a course from the State Nermal School in Yepslanti and classes at Bryant and Stratton's Business College in Detroit. Upon graduation, he took the position of assistant teacher.

Each of the 10 companies of the First Michigan Indante Regiment.

Each of the 10 companies of the First Michigan Infantry Regiment

Golf card is offered



Andrew Crosby first recruit

had its own uniform. These were discarded for a regimental uniform. This uniform consisted of "gray petershams for overcoats, navy blue for coats, and navy flannel for pants. The headgear was the familiar kep of forage cap." Andrew Crosby and the Detroit Light Guard were armed with the Model 1855 Springfield Riffe Muskets.

THE REGIMENT'S organization was completed on April 29. Col. Orthogological Col. Orthog

months.

Before they were mustered into service, they were given a chance to resign. Few exercised this privilega, although it would have been most profitable. There were many applicants willing to pay for a place in this regiment. One man, John Stephen, went to the fort with his son Billy and offered to pay \$300 in gold to the man from Company A who would resign and give Billy his place.

place.
The regiment arrived in Washington, D.C., at 10 p.m. on May 16. Their arrival was at a crucial time. Rebel flags were sighted from time to time across the Potomac on Arlington Heights. The loyal citizens of Washington were worried that there were not enough loyal Union troops to hold against a Confederate attack.

With the arrival off the First Michigan Infantry Regiment, these people breathed a sigh of relief. President Lincoln remarked, "Thank God for Michigan."

#### footprints in history

COL. WILCOX led the advance of the Grand Army into Virginia. Andrew J. Crosby Jr. and the First Michigan Infantry Regiment were at the front as the army passed over the Long Bridge into Virginia. This force subdued the rebel pickets and took possession of Alexandria. This orce subdued the rebel pickets and took possession of Alexandria. This force subdued the rebel pickets and took possession of Alexandria. This orce subdued the rebel pickets and took possession of Alexandria. This force subdued the rebel pickets and took possession of Alexandria. This force subdued the rebel pickets and took possession of Alexandria. This force subdued the rebel pickets and took possession of Alexandria. This force subdued the rebel pickets and took possession of Alexandria. On JULY 21, 1861, the First Michandria. This of the Michandria of the Alexandria by steamer. During the capturing of Alexandria, tool. Ellaworth was shot and killed. Andrew Crosby had the opportunity to view the body of the famed Ellaworth after his death.

Shortly after the capture of Alexandria, toward the end of May, Andrew Crosby became sick. He suffered greatly from the effects of disease, did not arrhea, dysentery and pleurisy. Many times, he wrote home requesting blackberry cordial to help can the effects of the dysentery. According to Nelson M. Farrar, a fellow member of the Detroit Light Guard, "Andrew J. Crosby Jr. returned to no Dec. 31, 1862, Crosby married Marry B. Smith of Novi. For one Contracted during thew are the contracted during the was the officers of the diseases he had contracted during thew are the contracted during the war.



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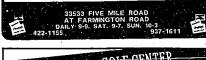


















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