

“OH, COULD THEY BUT SPEAK...”

The history and importance of Michigan’s Civil War Battle Flags

QUOTATIONS OF THE DAY:

Taken from Civil War Quotations, by Darryl Lyman

- Day 1 *“Lay me down and save the flag!”*
James Mulligan, Colonel of the Irish Brigade July 23, 1864
Last command to his men before he was captured by the Confederates
- Day 2 *“A house divided against itself cannot stand.”*
Abraham Lincoln, Lincoln/Douglass debates 1858
- Day 3 *“The destiny of the colored American...is the destiny of America.”*
Frederick Douglass, reformer February 12, 1862
- Day 4 *“I tried with all my power to avert this war. We are not fighting for slavery. We are fighting for our right to govern ourselves and that, or extermination, we will have.”*
Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy July 17, 1864
- Day 5 *“A rich man’s war and a poor man’s fight.”*
Anonymous
- Day 6 *“Grief and pride rule the hour.”*
Ralph Waldo Emerson, philosopher April 20, 1861
- Day 7 *“The Civil War grumbles and growls and gathers; but the storm clouds do not yet break...It is indeed a heavy atmosphere to breathe – the impending doom of a nation.”*
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, author May 2, 1861
- Day 8 *“The soil of our beloved South will drink deep the precious blood of our sons.”*
Samuel Houston, well-known Texan who sided with the North March 31, 1861
- Day 9 *“The regrettable thing is that I am too old to shoulder a musket myself, and the joyful thing is that Julian (his son) is too young.”*
Nathaniel Hawthorne, author May 1861 letter
- Day 10 *“Tell my mother I die for my country.”* After being shot.
“Useless, useless.” Dying words.
John Wilkes Booth, assassin of President Lincoln April 26, 1865