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21st Ohio Volunteer Infantry Civil War Flag

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Hancock Historical Museum Association

This flag is one of two 21st Ohio Volunteer Infantry Civil War flags belonging to the Hancock Historical Museum in Findley, Ohio. The canton of this flag has only thirty–four stars, indicating that it was produced early in the Civil War. Both flags are extremely important to the community, since many descendants of the regiment still live in the Findley area. With significant community support, the museum was able to fund the two major conservation treatments.

As is often the case, the painted silk flag was in extremely fragile condition. The silk was shattered, distorted, and frayed, and the painted stars were coming apart like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. Extensive onsite work was required of the textile conservator just to prepare the flag for travel to the ICA for treatment. Once at the lab, the silk was humidified and carefully relaxed, flattened, and realigned. The painted gold stars were reassembled and underlayed with an adhesive coated silk. The entire flag was then underlayed with a silk gauze and sewn to a fabric covered mount. ICA technicians built the custom mount and oversized frame to allow for appropriate, safe display of the flag.