



No. 92 Regimental color, 33rd Infantry, lost in battle in 1864 and recovered in 1865.



No. 136 Confederate battle flag captured by the 7th Infantry at the battle of Chancellorsville in 1863.



No. 501 Regimental Color, 4th Infantry, lost in battle in 1862. Its present whereabouts is not known. (New Jersey State Archives, Department of State.)

## FLAG CAPTURES

During the Civil War, New Jersey's troops captured at least seventeen Confederate flags. These included no less than eight flags taken by the Second New Jersey Brigade at the battle of Chancellorsville. Other flag captures were made at Gettysburg, the Third Battle of Winchester, and Petersburg, and during the last week of the war in Virginia.

Eleven of these captured flags were presented to the State of New Jersey. In the spirit of reconciliation, four were returned to their original states in 1905-1915. Another flag was sent to Chancellorsville for display in the small museum opened there in 1963. Six captured Confederate flags remain in the state's collection today (Nos. 134-138, 140). None of these can be positively identified as to which unit or state they came from.

New Jersey's troops lost at least five flags in the heat of battle during the war. The first was lost by the 1st Cavalry at Harrisonburg, Va., on June 8, 1862, when its bearer was wounded and unhorsed. On the 27th of June, the 4th Infantry lost its regimental flag at the battle of Gaines' Mill, Va., when the regiment was overrun and most of its men taken prisoner. On June 22, 1864, the 7th Infantry lost its national flag at the battle of Jerusalem Plank Road, near Petersburg, Va., when its color guard accidentally retreated in the wrong direction and ran into the Confederate line.

The state lost its fourth flag at the battle of Peach Tree Creek near Atlanta on July 20, 1864, when the 33rd Infantry was overwhelmed in an exposed position and lost its state color along with numerous prisoners. This flag was sent to a museum in Richmond. When Richmond fell in April 1865, the 33rd's flag was packed up and sent south with the Confederate archives and other war trophies. It was recaptured near Charlotte, N.C., by troops of the 9th New Jersey and was then returned to Trenton. This flag is probably No. 92 in the state's collection.

New Jersey's fifth captured flag was lost at the battle of Cedar Creek, Va., on October 19, 1864, when a Confederate surprise attack overwhelmed the 15th New Jersey. The 15th's state flag was lost when its bearer was killed and fell on his colors. Fortunately, the flag was recaptured later in the battle by the 4th New York Cavalry, and was returned to the 15th two days later.



No. 138 Early-war Confederate "first national" flag. Date and place of capture not certain.