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Michigan in the Civil War

Unlike the War of 1812 where the state of Michigan fought against the British and the Red Indians for the survival of the Union, the Civil War was an internal conflict between the north and the south. Michigan was famous for smuggling the slaves from the south through the notorious Underground Railroad, a secret organization, running a set of hideouts and transporters (Blackett). After the Civil War broke out, Michigan sided with the side against slavery, as expected. Washington asked Michigan to supply troops and resources to help the center against the pro-slavery south. Needless to say, Michigan was more vulnerable in the Civil War as compared to the War of 1812, as it was one of the frontier states in the former. But we can observe a certain overlap in both wars. For one, we see Michigan's industrial superiority put to good use for war purposes. For another, Michigan took alongside Washington against both the British and the Southern Pro-Slavery states and their native allies, while finding the native allies of their own. After the war, Michigan gained prosperity by leap-and-bounds. The industries of lumber, iron, copper and dairy farming sky-rocketed and diversified to new heights (Staff). The Railroad industry played its part in the prosperity of the state. The state was also honored by the center by constructing a museum specifically for appreciating the sacrifices by the forces provided by the Michigan government. A Roll of Honor was made under a resolution passed by the state assembly in 1869 (Kim Crawford). It was completed in 1872 and contains the names of all the citizens of Michigan who had given their precious lives in battle, or died afterward as a result of their injuries received during the war, and also those who had died in southern state prisons and hospitals.

# Works Cited

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