

**1ST LIGHT ARTILLERY WEST VIRGINIA CIVIL WAR MEDAL CAPTURED AT
NEW CREEK NOVEMBER 1864 BUT ESCAPED AND BACK TO DUTY
DECEMBER 1864**

WEST VIRGINIA CIVIL WAR MEDAL 'HONORABLY DISCHARGED' TYPE, 'WILM
H COX BATTY H 1ST REG LT ARTLY VOLS'



William H Cox, an 18 year old nailor from Capleine, Ohio, enlisted into 'H' Battery, 1st West Virginia Light Artillery on 13th August 1864. He was captured and made prisoner of War at New Creek on 28th November 1864. However he escaped captivity, reporting back for duty in December 1864. He was mustered out of service on 11th July 1865.

Battery H, 1st West Virginia Light Artillery was organized September, 1863. The battery is assigned to Maj. G. F. Merriam's artillery brigade, Genl B. F. Kelley's department. May 6, 1864, the battery is ordered from Wheeling to New Creek, where it was assigned to man the guns of the fort at that place, which position it occupied until December 31, 1864. On August 4, 1864, took part in the engagement of the attack upon New Creek, and November 28, 1864, were victims of the capture of that place by the Confederate Generals Rosser and Payne. The battery remained in General Kelley's department during its term of service, and was mustered out July 11, 1865.

West Virginian was one of the few States that authorised such a medal to Union Army veterans, the medal being based on the British Crimea and Ohio veterans medal. Three different disc/suspension designs were issued, a) Honorably Discharged, b) For Liberty (died of wounds/sickness), c) Killed in Battle. Issued in 1866, in all 26,000 of these medals were minted, although a large amount were never claimed. They were all officially impressed with the soldiers details on the rim, in a similar style to British WW1 medals. These medals are often found minus their suspension.

Condition VF, disc only, scarce unit