

**SCARCE 6<sup>TH</sup> WEST VIRGINIA INFANTRY CIVIL WAR MEDAL 'FOR LIBERTY TYPE,  
DIED OF DISEASE 1862**

**WEST VIRGINIA CIVIL WAR MEDAL 'FOR LIBERTY TYPE, 'WM J SIDWELL CO F  
6<sup>TH</sup> REG INF VOLS'**



William J Sidwell enlisted as a Private 5th September 1861 age 19, died Sept 18th 1862 typhoid

The 6th infantry was organized by authority of the war department and was mustered into the U. S. service from Aug. to Dec., 1861, for the purpose of guarding the Baltimore & Ohio railroad in the state. During the years 1862 the companies were moved about from place to place as their services were needed. Co's. A and G were attacked at Weston in August by Gen. Jenkins and compelled to retire with a loss of 6 men wounded. A part of the regiment under command of Capt. Mattingly of Co. G 124 officers and men -- was attacked by Col. Jackson with 700 infantry, 75 cavalry and a piece of artillery at Bulltown in October, but the enemy was repulsed after a fight which lasted for several hours. In McCausland's attack on the Union forces at New Creek in August, Cos. A, G and L were engaged, and the report says they "*behaved with conspicuous gallantry, losing 2 men killed and 4 wounded.*"

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 but scarce, only 3320 'For Liberty' medals struck