

ENLISTED MAN'S COAT BUTTON  
SUPPOSEDLY WORN BY CAPT. JOSEPH B. FAY  
Co. E, 154th REGT., N.Y.S. VOL. INF.

JOSEPH B. FAY was born in Brockton, May 17, 1817. At age 45 he enrolled, September 3, 1862, at Jamestown, to serve three years; mustered in as captain, Co. E, September 26, 1862; captured in action, July 1, 1863, at Gettysburg, Pa.; arrived at Libby prison, Richmond, Va., July 18, 1863; was released, April 30, 1864, after Miss Amorette Jones of Fredonia persuaded her brother, S. H. Jones, wealthy Mobile, Ala., railroad superintendent, to go to Richmond to see after Fay. Fay was discharged for disability, July 14, 1864. Elected supervisor of Portland, 1865-66; member of state assembly, 1866-67. He was interested in the development of grapes and grape products. He moved to Topeka, Kansas, in 1872 and later was involved in mining in Colorado. Fay moved to Chicago in 1886 and died in January of that year. His funeral was held in the Baptist Church in Brockton.



CAPT. JOSEPH B. FAY



*This button was on the uniform of Capt. J. B. Fay brother of Minnie's grandfather! He was taken at the Battle of Gettysburg and placed in Libby Prison, and chained to the floor - was afterwards liberated or exchanged*



Above, front and back of a Army-issue eagle button worn at Gettysburg by Capt. J. B. Fay. His 154<sup>TH</sup> New York was routed in the battle of the brickyard and Capt. Fay was taken prisoner. Scott Hilts Collection.

Left, this 1/4 plate tintype shows Capt. J. B. Fay who fought with the 154<sup>TH</sup> New York in the battle of the brickyard as the 11<sup>TH</sup> Corps retreated through town on July 1<sup>ST</sup>. He was captured by the Louisiana Tigers. The 154<sup>TH</sup> was the same regiment whose rolls included Pvt. Humiston, the father of the three little orphans whose photograph became famous. Capt. Fay was held in Richmond's notorious Libby Prison where he reported being chained to the floor. Scott Hilts Collection.



Above, saved in a contemporary "confections" box are these "buttons & rings picked up after battle of Gettysburg" by someone named "Myers."

Right, early militia cap plate found on the battlefield. It was once part of the famous Stuart Collection of Baltimore, Maryland. Courtesy Duncan Campbell.

