# WILLIAM E. WHITLOCK'S MEDAL

Chuck Rockett sent in an article (R450) that appeared recently in the Heritage Quest publication regarding unclaimed West Virginia Civil War medals.  These 5,000 medals are what remains of about 26,000 that were minted for the state of West Virginia in 1866.  They are currently stored in the Department of Culture and History's Archives in the original cardboard boxes they arrived in from A. Demarest of New York City.

These medals of honor for West Virginia Union soldiers were based on the Ohio veteran and Crimean War medal patterns.  They are made of bronzed copper and were struck in three categories intended not to exceed one dollar each.

The most were Class I - Honorably Discharged.  A figure of Liberty, scantily draped, with both arms extended.  In her right hand is a laurel wreath and in her left a scroll.  Behind Liberty is the American Eagle and the dates 1861 and 1865 with the name J. Sigel, one of the artists responsible for the medal's design.

Class II - Killed in Battle.  A battle scene with a mounted officer and sword drawn leading a charge of United States soldiers.

Class III - For Liberty.  For those soldiers who died other than in battle.  Shows Liberty holding a drum and a soldier with his arm in a sling.

The reverse of all three says "Presented by the State of West Virginia" and each is suspended from a bronzed pin.  In sunken letters in the milling edge of each medal is the soldier's name, rank, company and regiment.

Persons documenting the most direct line of descent from one of the Union soldiers will receive the medal at the end of a six-month period following submission of the claim to the Archives and History Library, Dept. of Culture and History, Charleston, West Virginia, 25305

There is one Whitlock on the list, William E. Whitlock and it would be interesting to see if we can track down who he was and who would be entitled to claim William's medal.  It would also be interesting to know if there have been any claims to the medal that have been rejected.  Any ideas?