



# Upcoming Campaigns

## JUNE / JULY

July 6-7: **161<sup>st</sup> Gettysburg**, Daniel Lady farm, Gettysburg, PA  
(**Company event**) \*(FVB Event)

Visit: [www.GBPA.org](http://www.GBPA.org) to register online.

July 19-21: **Funkstown**, MD

<http://www.funkstown.com/special-events/day-in-the-park/>

(**7<sup>th</sup> MD Max Effort - Company event**)  
\*(FVB Event)

## AUGUST

August 9-11: **160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
Foulkes Mill, Cumberland, MD

(Individual)

August 10-11: **Securing the Home Front**, Stroudsburg, PA 142<sup>nd</sup> Co. G  
Event (Individual)



## ID Devices

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other officials in Washington to produce official identification tags for Union soldiers but nothing came of it and such tags were never issued to soldiers.

Sutlers, always on the lookout for prospects to increase their wealth, saw an opportunity in this. They sold readymade identification medals with holes already drilled for a neck string. These had a patriotic symbol or the bust of an American patriot and a motto on one side with the other side blank for the identification information. The image of an eagle was popular as was a Union shield. Some of the busts I have observed include Presidents Washington and Lincoln and Generals Grant, Hooker, McClellan, Sher-

man, and Sigel. Sutlers could use a hammer and a set of alphabetic stamps to stamp the identification information onto the discs. Small machines were also made for the purpose which produced a neater result. Similar products were also available through mail order and were advertised in *Harper's Weekly* and other popular periodicals of the day advertised as "soldier's pins". These could be made of copper, brass, silver, or other metals including at times gold. Some of the silver and gold pins were sold by jewelers and were professionally engraved and sometimes included enameling. These came in a variety of shapes and styles and were at times in the shape of the corps badge of the unit the individual belonged to. Similar pins were produced as souvenirs after the war, often with addition of the battles they had engaged in for veterans to wear at reunions and

other gatherings. These could be confused with pins made during the war.

The primary use of the metal tags was by Union soldiers who had the resources to afford them. Very few identification tags for Confederate soldiers have been found.

Northern jewelers nationwide were astonishingly quick to exploit the ready market of soldiers eager to possess such a badge and, indeed, to have a better one than their comrades. Newspaper ads for badges were plentiful, and soldiers were enlisted as "agents in the field" for various firms. Many badges were simple thin-sheet silver stampings or cut-outs, with an engraved inscription, or colored enamel-filled center, or both. Some, however, were ornate gold and silver wonders of craftsmanship produced by the most prestigious American firms, such as the farewell badge that famed Brig. Gen. Joshua L. Chamberlain pinned to the chest of Brig. Gen. Charles Griffin in May 1865. Made by Tiffany & Company, which was a premier supplier of military goods of every type imaginable, from uniform buttons to weaponry, the badge was made of enameled gold displaying the Maltese cross of V Corps on a white ground. Edged with diamonds, the badge was crowned with a larger center diamond that was reputed to have cost \$1,000—an



A sutler-made tag with the image of President Lincoln and a pre-drilled hole for a neck string.

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# OUR CAMP JOURNAL

## Know Your Enemies...

This is one of a number of *Familiar Hints to Indiana Soldiers Taking the Field* given to Indiana volunteers in 1862 to help them become good soldiers. The U.S. Christian Commission later published and distributed 100,000 copies to soldiers, maybe including members of the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland?

**YOUR ENEMIES:  
UNCLEANLINESS,  
PROFANITY,  
INTEMPERANCE,  
LEWDNESS.**

**Keep the body clean.** – After marching, if feet are sore, bathe in salt and water. Keep the hair close; air your blankets well. You never take cold, no matter how wet, if in motion. When retiring wet, rub the body until reaction comes on. If

possible, never retire in a state of perspiration, until the body is clean and dry. Be regular in calls of nature; constipation results in half the diseases of camp.

**Swearing** profanes the name of the God of battles. Revere Him, if you wish His blessing. Keep your own self-respect, and you cannot become a coward. The habit is unmanly, useless and degrading.

**Drinking** – unless under medical advice, is your greatest curse. A *well* man was made with *nerve* to sustain him under labor; he can depend upon them. Liquor excites, but brings reaction and ruin. Coffee is a stimulus, and is nutritious. Quit strong drink.

**Lewdness** makes beasts of men – never risk it. Be as pure as when at home. In a word, be as good citizens in the field as if at home, where mothers, wives, and maidens look to you for support and favor.



*Civil War Re-enactors;  
America's Living Historians.*

## ID Devices

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astounding sum at the time. After the war, Chamberlain commissioned Tiffany to make a gold and enameled charm bracelet for his wife, Fanny, which incorporated military and rank symbols as the primary ornaments.

Soldiers and jewelers often used U.S. quarter-dollar silver coins as an inexpensive substitute for commercially produced disks. One side

of the coin was shaved smooth to accommodate the engraved information. A hinged T-bar pin was sweat-soldered to the reverse, leaving the coin motif fully visible, possibly as proof of the silver content.

The cut-out cloth emblems took various shapes: a circle for I Corps, a three-leaf clover for II, a diamond for the III, and a Maltese cross for V. Each badge's shape was also a different color to differentiate the three divisions composing each corps: red for the 1st Division, white for the 2nd, and blue for the 3rd. The concept was immensely

popular with the soldiers, who quickly began to have their own customized badges fabricated and engraved by jewelers and pin makers.



Left, identification devices utilizing the reverse side of a quarter with a hole drilled for a string or a bar-pin.

Above, the ID tag of J. Pearson of the 14th NY Heavy Artillery.