

ENOCH F. & JOHN F. BASNETT
Company "K"
6th West Virginia Cavalry

Presented by Linda Cunningham Fluharty.



The Civil War Medal of John F. Basnett
Presented by the State of West Virginia

Died 30 Oct 1864

P. O. W., Camp Sumter, Andersonville, Georgia

Medal owned by Gene & Linda Fluharty.

ENOCH F. & JOHN F. BASNETT

ENOCH F. and JOHN F. BASNETT were the sons of Solomon Basnett and his wife, Sarah (Leggett) Bayne, widow of Thomas Bayne. They were the grandsons of Samuel and Catherine (Shively) Basnett, early settlers of Marion County, West Virginia. Samuel once owned the land that is now Fairview. In 1823, he donated a parcel of his land for the St. John's Methodist Church and Cemetery where he and his wife are buried. The town of Basnettsville, Marion County, is named for Samuel.

Enoch, 23, and John, 21, enlisted on July 4, 1861 at Ritchie County Court House, West Virginia, to serve three years in Company "K" 3rd Regiment West Virginia Infantry. They mustered in at Clarksburg, Harrison County, West Virginia on July 10.

This regiment subsequently became mounted and on January 26, 1864, the designation was changed to the 6th Regiment West Virginia Cavalry.

On November 6, 1863, ENOCH F. BASNETT was Killed in Action at Droop Mountain, the result of a gunshot wound to his head.

The Battle of Droop Mountain was a raid into southwestern Virginia to disrupt the Virginia & Tennessee Railroad. In the end, Brigadier General William W. Averell defeated a Confederate brigade under Brigadier General John Echols. This battle, in Pocahontas County, West Virginia, essentially destroyed the Confederate resistance in the new state of West Virginia.

Enoch F. Basnett left his young widow, the former Acenath M. Kearns, daughter of Aaron Kearns, whom he had married on August 7, 1862 in Ritchie County. She moved with her parents to Illinois and married Alexander Weaver in 1868.

JOHN F. BASNETT, unmarried, was captured on June 26, 1864 during a skirmish at Springfield, Hampshire County, West Virginia. He died of Scorbutus October 30, 1864, while a prisoner at Andersonville, Georgia.

Washington, D. C., 26 May 1864

I certify, on honor, that JOHN F. BASNETT, a Private of Captain G. Law's Company "K" of the 6th Regiment of WV Cav (3rd Inf) Volunteers, of the State of West Virginia born in Marion County, State of West Va., (age not given), 5 feet 4 inches high; dark complexion, dark eyes, dark hair, and by occupation a farmer, who joined for service on the 4th day of July, 1861, at Ritchie Co. by M. S. Hall, for the period of Three years, mustered into the service of the United States - - - and having served honestly and faithfully DIED OF DISEASE AT ANDERSONVILLE GA OCT 30th 1864 WHILE A PRISONER OF WAR

John Summerville,
Capt,
Commanding Company "A"; Late Co "K"

Civil War medals were issued by the State of West Virginia for all soldiers in the West Virginia regiments, as well as the soldiers of the 45th U. S. Colored Infantry who were assigned to that state. The medals were issued about two years after the war but some, including the medal of John F. Basnett, were never claimed. In 2001, Gene Fluharty, 1st cousin (3 generations removed), filed a successful claim at the West Virginia State Archives and received the medal. A more detailed description of the Civil War medals of West Virginia is found in Appendix A of this book.





Grave #11669, Andersonville National Cemetery