

## A medal worn by one of the 118<sup>th</sup>

In 1881, the Plattsburgh Sentinel reported that one the Troy papers lately stated that Congress never issued any medals to soldiers for meritorious conduct. A brave soldier of Glens Falls worthily wears a bronze medal on which is engraved, "The Congress of the United States to Private **Franklin Johndro**, Co. A 118th N. Y. Vols." On September 30, 1864, at Chapin Farm, VA, Private Johndro was out alone beyond the Union picket lines when he discovered a company of rebels lounging around a spring with their arms stacked at a little distance. Johndro crept in between the rebels and their guns, drew his revolver, and



called upon the commander to surrender and order his men to fall into line. They obeyed and marched into the Union camp - forty-nine prisoners ahead of Private Johndro's revolver - and for this, one of the bravest acts of the war. Congress issued the medal, on April 6, 1865. Another version of the story claims that Johndro's captain forced him to go out alone with fixed bayonet in the heat of battle to capture the rebels. The second version seems to justify his colonel's remarks.

A few months later, when his colonel pinned the medal on him, he remarked, "Johndro, if I owned this Medal of Honor, and won it the way you did, I should think more of it than the eagles I carry on my shoulders."