



The above objects, shaving mirror, toothbrush and lice comb, were owned by **James A. King** of the 118<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry. He enlisted as a private soldier in Company G, at Stony Creek, NY on August 6, 1862. On November 15, 1863, he was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps. These and other National Park Service treasures can be viewed on the National Park Service Site -

[http://www.nps.gov/museum/treasures/t1\\_treas.htm](http://www.nps.gov/museum/treasures/t1_treas.htm)

Many Civil War soldiers were disabled by weapons, disease, and accidents. At first, the permanently disabled received medical discharges from the army, but later they remained in the service and performed non-combat duties, relieving other soldiers to fight. In 1862 the Union army allowed chief medical officers to employ "convalescent wounded and feeble men" as nurses, cooks, and hospital attendants. In 1863 the War Department created a formal Invalid Corps of disabled officers and men who were or had been in the Army. The corps formed 2 "battalions," the first for those who could bear arms and perform garrison duty and the second for the severely handicapped fit only for hospital service. It was renamed the "Veteran Reserve Corps" in 1864 and abolished during summer 1866. Between 1863 and 1866 more than 60,000 disabled soldiers served in the organization and performed valuable services, including garrisoning fortifications and quelling an 1863 "Draft Riot" in New York City.