



47th PA Infantry Regimental Colors



Union Infantry Insignia

Joseph Stephen
Private U.S. Army
2 October 1862 – 19 October 1864

Joseph was born circa 1844 in Lower Macungie Township. He worked as a farmer before he enlisted in the Union Army. He enlisted in Allentown, Pennsylvania, as a Private on 2 October 1862 and was assigned to Company I, 47th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The 47th Regiment had been formed and assembled at Camp Curtin, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, a year prior to Joseph's enlistment and had been deployed to Fort Ethan Allen near McLean, Virginia; Fort Taylor at Key West, Florida; and Hilton Head, South Carolina, where they performed picket duty until October 1862. Joseph apparently joined the Regiment at Hilton Head. During October, the Regiment boarded transport ships at Beaufort, South Carolina, bound for Mackey's Point, South Carolina, where they disembarked. From there they marched to the Village of Pocotaligo, which was less than ten miles distant, where they were to burn the railroad bridge and destroy as much railroad track as possible. They engaged the Confederates there on 21–23 October 1862. The Confederates rushed in reinforcements and, as night fell on October 23, the Union Commander ordered a retreat. They re-embarked at Mackay's Point on the transport ships and returned to Beaufort. They remained at Beaufort until 15 November 1862, when they returned to Key West, with Company I occupying Fort Taylor with five other companies in the Regiment. They remained in garrison at Fort Taylor until 25 February, 1864, when they moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, and were attached to 2nd Brigade, Provisional Division, under the Army of the Shenandoah. From there they participated in the Red River Campaign in Louisiana from the period 10 March to 22 May 1864 at the Battles of Sabine Cross Roads at Mansfield on 8 April 1864; Pleasant Hill on 9 April; Monett's Ferry, Cane River Crossing on 23 April; Morganza on 13 May; and Mansura on 16 May. They then returned to New Orleans where they remained until 5 July 1864. They then returned to Washington, D.C., and from there took part in General Sheridan's Shenandoah Valley Campaign in Virginia. In that campaign they saw action at the Battle of Opequan at Winchester, Virginia, and Fisher's Hill, Virginia, on the 19th and 22nd of September 1864, respectively. On 19 October 1864 they engaged the Confederates again at the Battle of Cedar Creek in Virginia. After the battle of Cedar Creek Joseph was missing in action and was never found. In July 1865 he was declared killed in action on 19 October 1864 during the battle. Joseph's parents were **Zebulon Stephen** (27 March 1818 – 23 June 1892) and **Anna Caroline Rethler** (4 April 1826 – 7 March 1850).



Painting of the Battle of Cedar Creek