



Regimental Colors of the
176th Pennsylvania Regiment

William Henry Harrison Acker
Private Union Army
7 November 1862 – 18 August 1863

William was born on 1 June 1841 in Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania, probably in Wescosville. He joined the Union Army as a Private in Company B, 176th Infantry Regiment on 7 November 1862 at Camp Philadelphia, located near Haddington, Pennsylvania. The camp was a rendezvous point for conscripts of eastern Pennsylvania. The Regiment was composed of ten companies of militia, seven from Lehigh County and three from Monroe County. On 27 November 1862, the Regiment left Camp Philadelphia for Washington, D.C., and then continued on to Suffolk, Virginia, where it was assigned to Colonel Robert S. Foster's Virginia Brigade, 7th Corps. In December 1862 the Regiment left Suffolk for the area around Charleston, South Carolina, via New Berne and Morehead City, North Carolina, to reinforce the 3rd Division, 18th Army Corps, in the defense of Charleston. On 29 January 1863, the Regiment sailed to Port Royal Island, South Carolina, for a week and was then transferred several times between Port Royal Island, Saint Helena Island, Beaufort, and Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, where it served until July 1863 as part of the 10th Army Corps. On 4 August 1863, the 176th Infantry Regiment was ordered home to Pennsylvania to be mustered out of service. During its nine months of service, the 176th Regiment was principally employed in building fortifications and providing garrison protection and picket duty as part of the blockade and defense of Charleston Harbor. William returned north to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where he mustered out with the Regiment on 18 August 1863. After he mustered out, William returned to Lower Macungie. He married **Elizabeth Romig** (10 May 1848 – 19 November 1876). After Elizabeth's death, William married **Matilda Schwander** (3 Nov 1845 – 20 February 1925) on 19 July 1885. He and Matilda made their home in East Texas where they owned a farm. William had a son and a daughter, believed to be born of his first wife Elizabeth. William died on 13 January 1916 and is buried alongside Matilda in East Texas in the cemetery behind the Union Church (later converted to a community center) on East Texas Road. William's parents were **Edwin Acker** (29 August 1821 – c. 1900), who also served in the Army during the Civil War, and **Eliza Dorner** (? – ?).