



Regimental Colors of the
176th Pennsylvania Regiment

Joshua Fritz
Private Union Army
7 November 1862 – 17 August 1863

Joshua was born on 9 November 1832, in Pennsylvania, probably in Weilersville, Lower Macungie Township. Joshua married **Anna Caroline Merkel Fritz** (2 September 1828 – 1910) circa 1858. He joined the Union Army as a Private in Company A, 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 176th Regiment was composed of ten companies of militia, seven from Lehigh County and three from Monroe County. The majority of Company A came from Millerstown (now Macungie) Borough and surrounding Lower Macungie Township. On 27 November 1862, the 176th 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, and where it underwent training for a month. In December 1862, the 176th 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 176th 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 as part of the 10th Army Corps until it was ordered home on 4 August 1863, 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. Joshua returned north to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he mustered out with the Regiment on 18 August 1863. After returning home, Joshua worked as a laborer in a stone quarry, probably on the Schmoyer Farm (later the Walbert Farm) just east of Route 100n south of the Little Lehigh Creek. Joshua and Caroline had five children: **Franklin; Oliver J.; Albert R.; Erasmus;** and **Lilly Hannah**. Joshua died on 11 September 1898. He is buried in Zion Lehigh Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery on Spring Creek Road next to his wife, Caroline, and his daughter, Lilly, who died at the age of five.

19 September 2015