



First Lieutenant Monroe H. Miller; Company A, 176th Pennsylvania Regiment. Photograph taken during 1863 at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. (From the Macungie Historical Society Collection).

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The 176th Regiment Pennsylvania Drafted Militia

The 176th Regiment, Pennsylvania Drafted Militia, was raised by the State Militia Draft of 1862. This draft had resulted from the failure to fill President Lincoln's call for 300,000 militia volunteers during the summer of 1862. Although a strong effort was made by local and county officials to form an all-Lehigh nine-month volunteer regiment under the command of General George Fry, the County could not raise enough money to pay the \$100 bonuses needed to entice new recruits. The men initially slated for the Lehigh County volunteer regiment were eventually drafted into the 176th on October 16, 1862, amid a growing local anti-war sentiment and strong opposition to the draft. Lehigh's assessment for the 1862 draft was "1,482 able-bodied men between the ages of 21 and 45 years", however, only seven companies (A, B, D, E, G, I, & K) of this nine-month militia regiment, numbering approximately 460 men, were raised in Lehigh County, with the majority of Company A comprised of men from the Borough of Millerstown (Macungie) and the surrounding Lower Macungie Township. The three remaining companies (C, F, & H) were raised in Monroe County. Several of the Millerstown men had previously served with the 54th PVI Regimental Band as part of the Millerstown Brass Band contingent that had enlisted during the fall of 1861 and had been discharged during August of 1862.

