

**CW/VFM-128: Benjamin C. Dawney, 127<sup>th</sup> PA, Company H**

Prior to his service in the 127<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania (an all-black regiment), Dawney served in the 126<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania under the name Benjamin S. Downey. He was mustered in on August 9, 1862 and mustered out with the company on May 20, 1863. This regiment was engaged in the battle of Fredericksburg (12/12-15/1862) and as well as the battle of Chancellorsville (5/1-5/1863).

The 127<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania itself was mustered in on August 23, 1864. Dawney enlisted on July 15, 1865 and was mustered out with the company on October 20, 1865. While Dawney wasn't involved until later, this regiment was present both at the battle of Petersburg (4/2/1865) and Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse (4/9/1865). This regiment continued to occupy the South after Lee's surrender until it was mustered out in October. They were stationed in the immediate area of the surrender until June, then they were moved to Brazos Santiago, Texas; they were stationed at different points on the Rio Grande during this time.

Diary dated 9 December 1862 to 5 May 1863

This document makes reference to the battle of Fredericksburg, as well as Burnside's "Mud March." It has good information regarding troop movement and progress of battle. Also portrays camp life in a good amount of detail.

Original document: 20pp.

Regimental Rosters and Histories for the 126<sup>th</sup> PA and 127<sup>th</sup> PA (Black)

photocopy from a reference book: 6pp.

**Keywords:** Union – East – Pennsylvania – 126<sup>th</sup> – 127<sup>th</sup>; Diaries; Army – Infantry - USCT; Soldier – Commissioned Officers

**Location:** Civil War Vertical File Manuscripts, Special Collections & College Archives, Musselman Library at Gettysburg College.

**See also:** [Civil War Sources in Special Collections](#)

