CPL Chesterfield Dabney
Biography of a Civil War Veteran

Chesterfield Dabney Born in 1846 in Montgomery County, Tennessee Enlisted on December 26, 1863 in the 16 th USCT Infantry Company F. When he enlisted, his occupation was listed as Farmer. He enlisted in Clarksville, TN for a period of 3 years. His description on his muster-in was an 18 year old who was 5’5” with copper skin, black eyes and black hair. He was promoted to Corporal on June 26, 1864 at Chattanooga, TN. On the muster roll dated May and June 1865, he was listed as sick in the Regimental Hospital in Nashville, TN. He was mustered out on April 30, 1866 in Nashville, TN.

On August 28, 1874, he married Mary Buckner who had been previously married and had an 8 year old daughter, Willie May from the previous marriage. Willie took The Dabney name. Chesterfield and Mary had one child together John who was born July 28, 1878. They lived in Clarksville, TN from 1866 to 1908. On 1910 census, Chesterfield and Mary were living in Louisville, KY where he was employed as a tobacco packer by Luckett Wake Tobacco Company. Mary died in 1917.

The 1920 census finds Chesterfield and his son John living with stepdaughter Willie and her husband James H. Lewis in Louisville, KY. John died in 1921 of retention of urine. Willie May died of pneumonia in 1925. The 1930 census finds Chesterfield probably living in a boarding house or hotel since the census lists the number of people living in the building at 64.

Chesterfield died in Louisville, KY on November 26, 1931 of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle). He was 85 years old and had outlived his immediate family. His nearest relative was Stella Dabney Parker, a niece, who lived in Indiana.

For his service with the Union Army he was awarded a pension In 1901 of $6 per month for rheumatism. Under the Act of July 6, 1907 his pension was increased to $12 per month. In 1912 it was raised to $17 per month. In 1915 when he was 70 years old, he applied for another raise in his pension due to attaining the age of 70 years old. The application was rejected because they considered his birth day to be the day he enlisted. Chesterfield had to wait until December to apply again.

 