

Guide to the John Van Fleet Archival Collection (Private, Company F, 77th Ohio Volunteer Infantry)

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Repository

Civil War Museum, Resource Center, Kenosha, Wisconsin

Language of Material

Material in English

Abstract

His collection contains a copy of the Civil War Service Record and Pension Record of John Van Fleet; copies of originals held in the National Archives.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Use Restrictions

No photocopying please

Preferred Citation

(Identification of item), John Van Fleet Archival Collection (Private, Company F, 77th Ohio Volunteer Infantry), The Civil War Museum, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Provenance

The John Van Fleet Archival Collection was copied, as written, from the originals.

Processing Information

Processed by Richard J. Zimmermann, 2023.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John Van Fleet, originally born in Morgan, Ohio, enlisted on December 13, 1861 for three years of service with the Union Army. He was a farmer from Wisconsin, stood 5' 9" tall with a dark complexion, black eyes and brown hair. After his re-enlistment on December 20, 1863 he fought at the action of Marks Mills in Texas as part of the Red River expedition, was missing in action and presumed killed on April 25, 1864. After the war, his mother, Margaret Van Fleet, applied for a government pension.

Doc. #1. Cover Sheet Summary, Enlistment and Muster Roll. Summary of Van Fleet's service record, including attendance, activities, bounty paid, reenlistment record. 9 pages.

Doc. #2. Memorandum from Prisoner of War Records. 1 page.

Doc. #3. Inventory of the Effects of John Van Fleet. 2 pages.

- Doc. #4. Declaration of Recruit John Van Fleet. Reenlistment papers from Little Rock, Ark, December 20, 1863. 2 copies of 2 pages. Volunteer Enlistment. 4 pages.
- Doc. #5. Final Statement and Discharge Papers. John Van Fleet discharged by reason of “missing in action.” Includes financial accounting for clothing and travel. 2 similar but not identical copies of 2 pages. 4 pages.
- Doc. #6. John Van Fleet summary of final papers. 1 page.
- Doc. #7. Pension Record of John Van Fleet, copies of originals from National Archives. Cover sheet and attached records. Treasury Department pension approval in favor of Mrs. Margaret Van Fleet, mother of John Van Fleet. May 12, 1870. 2 pages.
- Doc. #8. Department of the Interior, Pension Office request for evidence of John’s death. April 15, 1870. Letter of Margaret Van Fleet to Commissioner of Pensions asking to be informed if she needs more information for her pension claim. July 9, 1868. Letter to Margaret Van Fleet from Commissioner of Pensions detailing the proof required to obtain a pension. April 15, 1870. 3 pages.
- Doc. #9. Letters to his mother from John Van Fleet. Copies, dating back to 1862, included to support pension request of Margaret Van Fleet. 11 pages.
- Doc #10. Circular to Margaret Van Fleet from Pension Office requesting official evidence of enrollment, service and death of John Van Fleet. April 4, 1867. 1 page.
- Doc. #11. Letter from Adjutant General’s Office acknowledging the receipt of the application for John Van Fleet’s pension to be paid to Margaret Van Fleet. This confirms his enlistment and can be used as support for her pension application. April 6, 1867. 1 page.
- Doc. #12. State of Iowa, Clerk of Court and similar witness depositions from Ohio include papers supporting Margaret Van Fleet’s pension application. Witness depositions of people acquainted with her family and John. 19 pages.

Addendum to John Van Fleet Archival Collection

77th Ohio Volunteer Infantry

During his membership in the 77th Ohio, John Van Fleet would have participated in the work of the regiment. A portion of that regiment's history is attached here for reference purposes.

Short Unit History Compiled: Courtesy of Larry Stevens

Organized in the fall of 1861, under Colonel Jesse Hildebrand, it reported to General Sherman at Paducah in February 1862. In April it participated both days in the battle of Shiloh; and took part in the siege of Corinth until the evacuation when it moved westward, operating in Northern Mississippi and arriving at Memphis in July. It was ordered to Alton, Illinois in August, where it remained until July 1863, then moved to Helena, Arkansas. In January, 1864, the Regiment reenlisted and went to Ohio on veteran furlough. In March it joined the Red River expedition and met with disaster. It took part in the capture of Mobile and then went to the Rio Grande where it served until mustered out March 8, 1866, the veterans having performed over four years of service. <http://ohiocivilwar.com/cw77.html>

John Van Fleet's regimental service was covered by the following regimental history, taken from Dyer's *Compendium. Ohio In The War-Volume II*. Whitelaw Reid. Moore, Wilstach & Baldwin. Cincinnati 1868.

77th Regiment Infantry. Organized at Marietta, Ohio, September 28, 1861, to January 5, 1862. Left State for Paducah, Ky., February 17, 1862. Attached to District of Paducah, Ky., to March, 1862. 3rd Brigade, 5th Division, Army of the Tennessee, to May, 1862. 2nd Brigade, 5th Division, Army Tennessee, to July, 1862. 2nd Brigade, 5th Division, District of Memphis, Tenn., to August, 1862. Alton, Ill., to August, 1863. 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, Arkansas Expedition, to January, 1864. 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, 7th Army Corps, Dept. of Arkansas, to April, 1864. 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, 7th Army Corps, to May, 1864.

After John Van Fleet reenlisted as a veteran volunteer, the regiment was involved in the Red River expedition. Van Fleet was part of the Steele expedition, designed to assist General Banks in his efforts.

Regiment reenlisted December 20, 1863, and mustered in as Veterans January 22, 1864, and moved to Columbus, Ohio. Returned to Little Rock March 1-17. Steele's Expedition to Camden March 23-May 3. Okalona April 2-3. Prairie D'Ann April 9-12. Camden April 15-18. Mark's Mills April 25, most of Regiment captured. Evacuation of Camden April 27.

Other Electronic Sources of Information Concerning John Van Fleet and his family.

<https://www.wikitree.com/genealogy/VANFLEET>

The Van Fleet Family Ancestry. The Van Fleet family has been traced from the 18th to the 20th centuries on this website. General James Van Fleet, who served in World Wars I, II and the Korean War is descended from this family tree. John Van Fleet is also the brother of Garrett Van Fleet, and they served together in the same regiment at the same time.