

## John M. Furney Letters

Guide to John M. Furney Archival Collection (Corporal, Company I, 80th Ohio Volunteer Infantry)

### DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

#### Repository

Civil War Museum, Resource Center, Kenosha, Wisconsin

#### Language of Material

Material in English

#### Abstract

Five letters contain personal observations of Corporal John M. Furney from August of 1862 through June of 1863. While John served with the unit, the 80th Ohio participated in opposing Van Dorn's campaign against Corinth and fought during Grant's campaign against Vicksburg. He comments on both campaigns, including participation in the battle for Jackson, MS and the unit's arrival immediately following the Battle of Champion Hill. He comments on his brother Abe, who also served in Company I. A second John M. Furney, age 18, was a member of this company.

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

#### Use Restrictions

No photocopying please.

#### Preferred Citation

(Identification of item), The John M. Furney Archival Collection (Corporal, Company I, 80th Ohio Volunteer Infantry) Memoir and Military Papers Collection, The Civil War Museum, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

#### Provenance

The John M. Furney Collection was copied, as written, from the originals.

#### Processing Information

Processed by Richard J. Zimmermann, 2024

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John Furney and his brother Abraham joined the 80th Ohio Volunteer infantry as it was formed and then mustered in. A second John M. Furney also joined the company a few days later but was discharged on July 29 of 1863 with a surgeon's certificate of disability. Both Abraham and John Furney (the author of these letters) were mustered in, beginning in December of 1861 for 3 years. Both men mustered out as corporals in January of 1865.

Doc. #1. Letter from John and Solomon Furney to parents. From Camp Clear Creek, August 9, 1862. The unit is planning to march out to the south. The weather is very hot and there is a discussion about sending money home.

Doc. #2. Letter from John Furney to parents and wife. From Camp Forest Hill, near Memphis, TN, February 3, 1863. The snow is 8-10 inches deep. John and his brother Abraham expect to be paid soon and plan to send \$150 home.

Doc. #3. Letter from John Furney to Sol. From Paducah, KY on May 20, 1863. John has not heard from the family recently and sent winter clothing home.

Doc. #4. Letter from John Furney to Respected Parents and wife. From the rear of Vicksburg, June 6, 1863. John describes the travels of the unit since crossing the Mississippi River with Grant's army. His unit crossed on the gunboat *Carondolet*. They skirmished with rebels for 11 days and approached the town of Raymond. He describes the engagement which took place there and the pursuit to Jackson, MS. The Battle of Jackson is described in detail, and Furney describes the looting of Jackson which followed.

Doc. #5. Letter from John Furney (continued from June 6) to Respected Parents and wife, June 7, 1863. Furney describes the march to Clinton where the regiment was detailed to be in the rear guard. Champion Hill is described from his perspective, and after the battle his unit is detailed to take 6,000 prisoners to Memphis. He also describes the siege operation ongoing against Vicksburg, artillery and sharpshooting.

#### **Notes for the 80th Ohio Volunteer Infantry.**

The unit was mustered in at Camp Meigs, Ohio. The camp was located at the Tuscarawas County Fairgrounds near Dover, Ohio. In 1862, the unit participated in the Battle of Farmington near Corinth, the Battles of Iuka and Corinth and the pursuit of Van Dorn to the Hatchie River in October of 1862. In 1863, the unit joined Grant's army in the campaign for Vicksburg and was involved with battles at Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hill, and later in the year, Missionary Ridge. In 1864, the unit fought off Hood's attack at Resaca, GA and marched to Savannah with Sherman. In 1865, it was active during the campaign in the Carolinas. The Furneys mustered out on January 5, 1865