

CW/VFM 102: *William Lambert Whitney Jr.*

Letter from William Lambert Whitney, Jr. to his mother

Whitney was mustered into company E of the 44th Massachusetts Infantry on 9/12/1862. He was a private until he was mustered out in June of 1863. The 44th was not engaged in any major battles, only a bit of skirmishing. However, he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in early December of 1864 and commissioned into the 54th Massachusetts Infantry at the end of January 1865. The 54th Massachusetts was involved in such major engagements as the assault on Fort Wagner (7/18/1863) and the siege of Fort Sumter and Charleston (9/1863-1/1864). Whitney was only present for the last few days of the Siege on Charleston. After that, the regiment was involved in a few lesser known battles such as Oolustee (2/20/1864) and Honey Hill (11/30/1864). After Lee's surrender in April of 1865, Whitney was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. They were mustered out on August 20, 1865.

Whitney is writing this letter from Camp Stevenson, located in New Bern, NC in mid January of 1863. He simply dictates that everything is well, the "Cambridge boys" are healthier than the rest of the men, and that the men are hoping to move to a new location soon. He also thanks his relatives for gifts that have been sent, but asks that no more meat be sent because it spoils quickly. He also draws them a diagram of the barracks and lets them know that the January 10th issue of Harper's Weekly will feature pictures of the battles of Kinston, Whitewall, and Goldsboro.

Original document: 3pp and the envelope

Typed copy: 1pp

Soldier History for William Lambert Whitney, Jr.

Original document: 1pp

Soldier History for John J. Wyeth (who is mentioned in the letter briefly)

Original document: 1pp

Regiment History for the 44th Massachusetts (including an assignment sheet)

Original document: 2pp (assign sheet: 1pp)

Assignment Sheet for the 54th Massachusetts

Original document: 1pp

Keywords: Union – East – Massachusetts – 44th & 554th; Regimental Histories; Papers – Military; Army – Infantry & USCT; Soldiers –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](#)