

Name: _____ Date: _____

WORKSHEET

Chapter 12: The Civil War and West Virginia's Statehood Movement Section 1: Early Events Set the Stage for Big Changes

Letter from the Battlefield

Directions: Read the following letter, which was written by a soldier after a battle at Winchester, Virginia. On a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow. Finally, assume that you are the father to whom the soldier wrote. Respond to your son.

Camp of the 36th Ohio Vet. Vol.
Infry., near Harpers Ferry,
Aug. 7th, '64

Dear Father:

As I have a little time to spare, I will write you a few lines this morning. Should have written before but did not know where to direct so requested the letters I wrote home to be forwarded to you. No doubt you have heard before this all about our battle at Winchester and the different skirmishes we have been in. Have no time to give you a detailed account, as we expect to move every moment.

Our loss at Winchester now foots up 123 killed & wounded, 11 killed, 112 wounded, 17 missing. Capt. Ford of Co. E., was killed, Lt. Montgomery, Hadow & Maj. Palmer wounded, 11 wounded & 2 missing. In my Co. none killed. Lt. George Putnam was wounded & fell into the hands of the enemy.

Our Regt. has lost some 200 men since we came into Va. When our old men go out will have but a small squad left. I have made up my mind to leave the service if I can be mustered out. If not I will resign this fall. I am feeling pretty well, with the exception of being very tired and wore out from hard marching and loss of sleep. Have marched almost every day since we left Parkersburg, fighting a good part of the time. I believe I have suffered more than I did on our Lynchburg raid. This is the fourth time we have passed through Harpers Ferry.

Have not heard a word from home since I left. Would like to hear from Luther. It is reported that Gen. Grant came in on the train last evening. Gen. Crook is Brevet Maj. Gen. & commands the forces in the field. The 4th and part of the 19th Corps are here in Kanawha troops. The rebels are reported in a dozen different places some at Hagerstown, some at Cumberland, some crossing at Hancock, some reported in trenching on old Antietam battleground. I think but few (rebel) infantry have crossed into Pa. only Cavalry. They are raiding through the country while Gen. Early's forces gather the crops in Shenandoah Valley.

Orderly is calling for the letters. Direct 1st Brig 2nd Infry Div Crooks Comd.

Your aff son

J. G. Barker

Excuse poor writing am sitting on ground under shelter ten.

1. How many soldiers had been killed from J. G. Barker's regiment since coming into Virginia?
2. Why do you think Barker is considering leaving the service?
3. How many times has his regiment passed through Harpers Ferry?