

History Of (Including The Original Boundaries.) Its Past and Present, Containing A Condensed Comprehensive History of Ohio, Including an Outline History of the Northwest; A Complete History of Richland County; Its Townships, Cities, Towns and Villages, Schools, Churches, Societies, Industries, Statistics, &c.; A History of its Soldiers in the Late War; Portraits of its Early Settlers and Prominent Men; Miscellaneous Matter; Map of the County; Biographies and Histories of our Patrons and the Most Prominent Families, &c., &c., Compiled by A. A. Graham., Mansfield, Ohio: A, A, Graham & County, Publishers. 1807-1880.

**WENTZ, HENRY, Jr.**; fourth son of **Henry Wentz, Sr.**, who moved from Perry County, Penn., in April, 1834, and settled in Cass Township, was born Dec. 9, 1839; lived with and aided his father on his farm until the age of 18 years, when he went to Crestline, Ohio, as an apprentice to the carpenter trade; served an apprenticeship of three years; when attaining his freedom he went to Fort Wayne, Ind., and obtained employment in the car-shops of the P., Ft. W. & C. R. W. Company at that place, and remained until the breaking-out of the late war, when he, on July 11, 1861, enlisted as a private in Co. E, 11th Ind. V. I. (Lew Wallace's Zouave Regiment), and immediately entered upon his duties as a soldier; the arrival, by express, of his trunk, tool-chest, etc., at Shelby, Ohio, was the first intimation his parents and friends had of his enlistment; from Fort Wayne, his company was sent to Indianapolis for drill, where it remained at Camps Morton and Robinson until Aug. 6, 1861, when the regiment was sent to Benton Barracks near St. Louis; in September of the same year the regiment was sent to Paducah, Ky., where it was made a part of the force under Gen. Grant, styled the Army of West Tennessee; on Feb. 5, 1862, **Mr. Wentz** accompanied his regiment, and took part in the capture of Fort Henry; also participated in the siege and capture of Fort Donelson, Feb. 14, 15 and 16, 1862, and in the battle of Shiloh in April 6 and 7, same year; in the siege of Corinth, capture of Memphis, and in the campaigns through Arkansas under Gen. Fred Steele; in the flank movement on Vicksburg, viz.. Atchafalaya, in the movement on Vicksburg, viz., Milliken's Bend; was present at the running of the blockade by Commodore Porter's fleet; participated in the battles incident to the approaches to Vicksburg, viz., Grand Gulf, Port Gibson, Beaver Station, Raymond, Jackson and Champion Hills; the latter one of the severest, for the number engaged, of the war; **Mr. Wentz** at this time held the rank of First Lieutenant; his company entered the fight with forty-five men and came out with twenty three, but had the satisfaction to capture, aided by the regiment, four guns in this engagement; the boys used the bayonet and butt of the gun at close quarters; **Lieut. Wentz** coming out without harm except that caused by a minie ball that carried away the heel of his boot and another passing through his cap, received while aiding the Colonel in changing the position of the regiment; participated in the siege of Vicksburg, and was present at its surrender, and was with Gen. Sherman on his Jackson (Miss.) campaign; in August, 1863, his regiment was transferred to the Gulf Department, where **Mr. Wentz** took part in the campaigns under Gens. W. B. Franklin and Nathaniel Banks; re-enlisted as a veteran in 1864, after which his regiment was transferred to the Shenandoah Valley, reaching Washington Aug. 4, 1864, and Harper's Ferry, Va., on the 10th; took part in the skirmish at Halltown, battle of Winchester, Sept. 18, Fisher's Hill, Sept. 22, and Cedar Creek, Oct. 19, 1864, where Gen. Phil. Sheridan so greatly distinguished himself by taking command of a defeated army and winning one of the most brilliant victories of the war, after making his famous ride from Winchester, twenty miles away; although **Mr. Wentz** was a perfect stranger to all in his regiment, he, by his faithfulness to duty, won the confidence of his superiors, and thereby promotion, he having held all the subordinate positions from the command of his company down to private; was also at different times detailed on staff duty and acted as Adjutant of his regiment. After the war, **Mr. Wentz** returned to his home, afterward engaged in the lumber business at Crestline, but after one year, finding that his health would not permit him to continue, he sold out his interests and engaged in the hardware business, which business he followed until September 1874, when he sold out and entered the fire insurance field; since then he has been engaged at Dayton, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Shelby, Ohio; in the spring of 1880 a new fire association was

formed at Shelby, and **Mr. Wentz** was offered the secretaryship, which he accepted and now holds.

**Mr. Wentz** married **Miss Sarah A. Bushey**, June 8, 1865; the fruits of this union were two sons and one daughter—one daughter and one son now living. Although a strong Republican, **Mr. Wentz** was three times elected a member of the City Council at Crestline, Ohio, the usual Democratic majority being about two to one.

[www.theperryhistorians.org](http://www.theperryhistorians.org)