

## Notes and Selected Resources: Portage County and the Civil War

### General

*Portage County had a population of 24,208 in the 1860 census, with approximately 5000 of them being military age males. Approximately 2000 men went to war from the county, and over 300 died. (The 1885 History of Portage County gives the number that served as over 2000 and lists township totals adding up to 2070, while an 1874 atlas gives it as 1839.) According to the 1885 history, the numbers of soldiers supplied by the various townships were as follows: Atwater, 107; Aurora, 82; Brimfield, 88; Charlestown, 59; Deerfield, 113; Edinburg, 46; Franklin, 159; Freedom, 55; Hiram, 120; Mantua, 85; Nelson, 118; Palmyra, 38; Paris, 79; Randolph, 210; Ravenna, 235; Rootstown, 61; Shalersville, 72; Streetsboro, 96; Suffield, 132; Windham, 115.*

(Note: Scanned copies of many of the out of print publications are available for download at [archive.org](http://archive.org) or through Google Books.)

Brown, Curt. Leaving Home in Dark Blue: Chronicling Ohio's Civil War Experience Through Primary Sources and Literature. Akron: Buchtel Books, 2012.

Dyer, Frederick H. A compendium of the War of the Rebellion : compiled and arranged from official records of the federal and Confederate armies, reports of the adjutant generals of the several states, the army registers, and other reliable documents and sources. Des Moines, Ia. : Dyer Pub. Co., 1908.

Grismer, Karl H., The History of Kent: Historical and Biographical. Kent., The Courier-Tribune, 1932.

Harper, Robert S. Ohio Handbook of the Civil War. Columbus: Ohio Historical Society, 1961.

History of Portage County, Ohio. Chicago: Warner, Beers & Co., 1885.

Holm, James B., Editor, Portage Heritage: A history of Portage County, Ohio; its towns and townships and the men and women who have developed them; its life, institutions and biographies, facts and lore. Ravenna: Portage County Historical Society, 1957.

Official Roster of the Soldiers of the State of Ohio in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1866. 12 volumes, various dates and publishers, late 1800's.

Ohio in the Civil War Wiki accessed at [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)

Reid, Whitlaw, Ohio in the War: Her Statesmen, Her Generals, and Soldiers. two volumes, Cincinnati: Moore, Wiltach & Baldwin, 1868.

Stevens, Larry. Ohio in the Civil War accessed at [ohiocivilwar.com](http://ohiocivilwar.com)

The Union Army: A History of Military Affairs in the Loyal States 1861-65 --Records of the Regiments in the Union Army -- Cyclopedia of Battles -- Memoirs of Commanders and Soldiers. Volume II, Madison, Wis.: Federal Publishing Co., 1908.

United States. War Department. The War of the Rebellion: a compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate armies. Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1880-1901.

Weaver, Dudley S., Enders, Wayne R., eds. "Historical Recollections": American Civil War Writings From The News-Letter, 1962-1972. Ravenna: Portage County Historical Society, 2009.

Wilbur H. Siebert Underground Railroad Collection accessed at <https://www.ohiomemory.org/digital/collection/siebert>

Woodring, Jacqueline Weaver, ed. The 1861-1864 Civil War letters of General Erastus Barnard Tyler. Ravenna: Portage County Historical Society, 2009.

### **Units with companies from Portage County**

#### **7th Ohio Volunteer Infantry**

*Served April, 1861 - July, 1864. Companies F (Franklin Mills Rifles) and G (Tyler Guards) from Portage County. Fought in Western Virginia, Shenandoah Valley, Northern Virginia/Maryland/Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Georgia. Armed with Springfields.*

Brenner, James T., ed. Friend Alice: The Civil War Letters of Captain David D. Bard, 7th and 104th Regiments, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, 1862-1864. Kent: Scholar of Fortune, 1996.

Staats, Richard J. A Grassroots History of the American Civil War, Vol, I: The life and times of Pvt. Ephraim Cooper : one of Lincoln's first volunteers. Bowie, MD. Heritage Books, 2003.

Staats, Richard J. A Grassroots History of the American Civil War, Vol, II: The Bully Seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Westminster, MD. Heritage Books, 2009, copyright 2003.

Wilson, Lawrence, Itinerary of the Seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, 1861-1864, with roster, portraits and biographies. two volumes, New York: Neale, 1907.

Wood, George, The Seventh Regiment: A Record. New York: James Miller, 1865.

### **42nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry**

*Served August, 1861 - December, 1864. Companies A (students from Western Reserve Eclectic Institute, Hiram) and F from Portage County. Fought in Kentucky, Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana. Armed with Enfields.*

Garfield, James Abraham, The Wild Life of the Army, Civil War Letters of James A. Garfield. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 1964.

Jones, Robert H. with Pardee, Caroline J. My Dear Carrie: The Civil War Letters of George K. Pardee and Family. Akron: Summit County Historical Society Press, 1994.

Mason, Frank Holcomb, The Forty-second Ohio Infantry, a History of the Organization of that Regiment in the War of the Rebellion, with Biographical Sketches of its Field Officers and a Full Roster of the Regiment. Cleveland: Cobb, Andrews & Co., 1876.

Rudolph, Joseph, Early Life and Civil War Reminiscences of Captain Joseph Rudolph. Hiram: Hiram Historical Society, 1941.

### **104th Ohio Volunteer Infantry**

*Served from Summer, 1862 - June, 1865. Companies D and I from Portage County. Fought in Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Tennessee (again) and North Carolina. Armed with Enfields.*

Brenner, James T., ed. Friend Alice: The Civil War Letters of Captain David D. Bard, 7th and 104th Regiments, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, 1862-1864. Kent: Scholar of Fortune, 1996.

Gaskill, Joseph W., Footprints Through Dixie, Life of the Man Under a Musket, on the Firing Line and in the Trenches. 1862-1865, Alliance: Bradshaw Printing, 1919.

Pinney, Nelson A., History of the 104th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, 1862 to 1865. Akron: Werner & Lohmann, 1886.

### **125th Ohio Volunteer Infantry**

*Served from Fall, 1862 - September, 1865. Company D from Portage County. Fought in Tennessee, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas. Armed with Springfields.*

Rice, Ralsa, Yankee Tigers: Through the Civil War with the 125th Ohio. Huntington: Blue Acorn Press, 1992.

### **171st Ohio Volunteer Infantry**

*"100 days men". Served from May 7 - August 20, 1864. Parts of Companies F and I from 14th*

*Battalion, Ohio National Guard, Portage County. Performed guard duty at Johnson's Island, Ohio Prison Camp and fought against Morgan's cavalry at Keller's Bridge, Kentucky..*

**Cotter's Independent Battery and 1st Ohio Volunteer Light Artillery, Battery A**  
*(Ravenna Light Artillery)*

*Cotter's Independent Battery mustered in for three months on July 2, 1861, mustered out on September 3, 1861. Fought in Western Virginia. John Haven of Shalersville was the first man from Portage County to die from combat in the war, having been mortally wounded at Scary Creek, Virginia.*

*The men from the battery who re-enlisted plus additional recruits were mustered in to the 1st OVLA, battery A for three years on September 6, 1861 and fought in Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Louisiana. The unit was mustered out on July 31, 1865.*

Bloomfield, A. S. (Transcribed letters from a Stark County private in Battery A). Accessed at <http://www.ohiostatehouse.org/museum/battery-a/bloomfield-letters>

Davidson, Henry M. History of Battery A: First Regiment of Ohio Vol. Light Artillery. Milwaukee: Daily Wisconsin Steam Printing House, 1865.

Staats, Richard J. A Grassroots History of the American Civil War, Vol, III: Captain Cotter's Battery. Bowie, MD. Heritage Books, 2002.

**1st Ohio Volunteer Light Artillery, Battery D**

*Served from October 17, 1861 to July 15, 1865. Included many men from Portage County.*

**6th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry**

*Served from Summer, 1862 - August, 1865. Fought in the Shenandoah Valley, Northern Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Armed with Burnside carbines and Remington Army revolvers.*

Burnett, William G., Better a Patriot Soldier's Grave: Sixth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry. reprint, 1982.

Staats, Richard J. A Grassroots History of the American Civil War, Vol, IV: The life and times of Colonel William Stedman of the 6th Ohio Cavalry. Westminster, MD. Heritage Books, 2007.

Staats, Richard J. The History of the 6th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, 1861-1865: A Journal of Patriotism, Duty and Bravery. Westminster, MD. Heritage Books, 2006.