



Civil War Correspondence

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

Introduction

Ohio contributed over 320,000 soldiers to the Union forces during the American Civil War which lasted from April 12, 1861 until April 9, 1865. Within 24 hours of President Abraham Lincoln's call for troops on April 15, 1861, the Ohio Senate passed a bill appropriating one million dollars toward the assistance of the national government, and by April 18, the First and Second Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiments had already been established. Throughout the war, Ohio newspapers were filled with news from the warfront, and many printed correspondence from Ohio-born soldiers so that family, friends and neighbors left at home could learn about what they were experiencing on the battlefields.

Important Dates

- April 12, 1861: Hostilities began when Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter.
- April 19, 1861: First troops from Ohio leave for Washington.
- April 6-7, 1862: Battle of Shiloh (also known as Pittsburg Landing).
- August 28-30, 1862: Second Battle of Bull Run (also known as Second Manassas).
- December 31, 1862 – January 2, 1863: Battle of Stones River (also known as Murfreesboro).
- May 18-July 4, 1863: Siege and Battle of Vicksburg.
- June 11-July 26, 1863: Morgan's Raid.
- July 1-3, 1863: Battle of Gettysburg.
- September 19-20, 1863: Battle of Chickamauga.
- May-September 1864: Atlanta Campaign.
- November 30, 1864: Battle of Franklin.
- December 15-16, 1864: Battle of Nashville.
- April 9, 1865: Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrenders at Appomattox Courthouse.

Suggested Search Strategies

- Try the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search), proximity or as phrases: army correspondence, regiment, letter, letters, battle/location/camp names, soldier names
- Use specific date ranges if looking for articles about a particular event in order to narrow your results.
- Select specific papers if looking for correspondence from a military unit originating from that area of the state.

Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- ["Army Correspondence"](#) *Fremont Daily Journal* (Fremont, OH), June 6, 1861, Image 2, col. 1.
- ["From the 50th Ohio Reg't—Battle of Chaplin Hill"](#) *Highland Weekly News* (Hillsboro, OH), November 20, 1862, Image 2, col. 4.
- ["Our prisoners in Richmond!"](#) *Highland Weekly News* (Hillsboro, OH), December 24, 1863, Image 1, cols. 1-4.
- ["Letter from the 10th Ohio Battery"](#) *The Xenia Sentinel* (Xenia, OH), March 22, 1864, Image 2, col. 2.