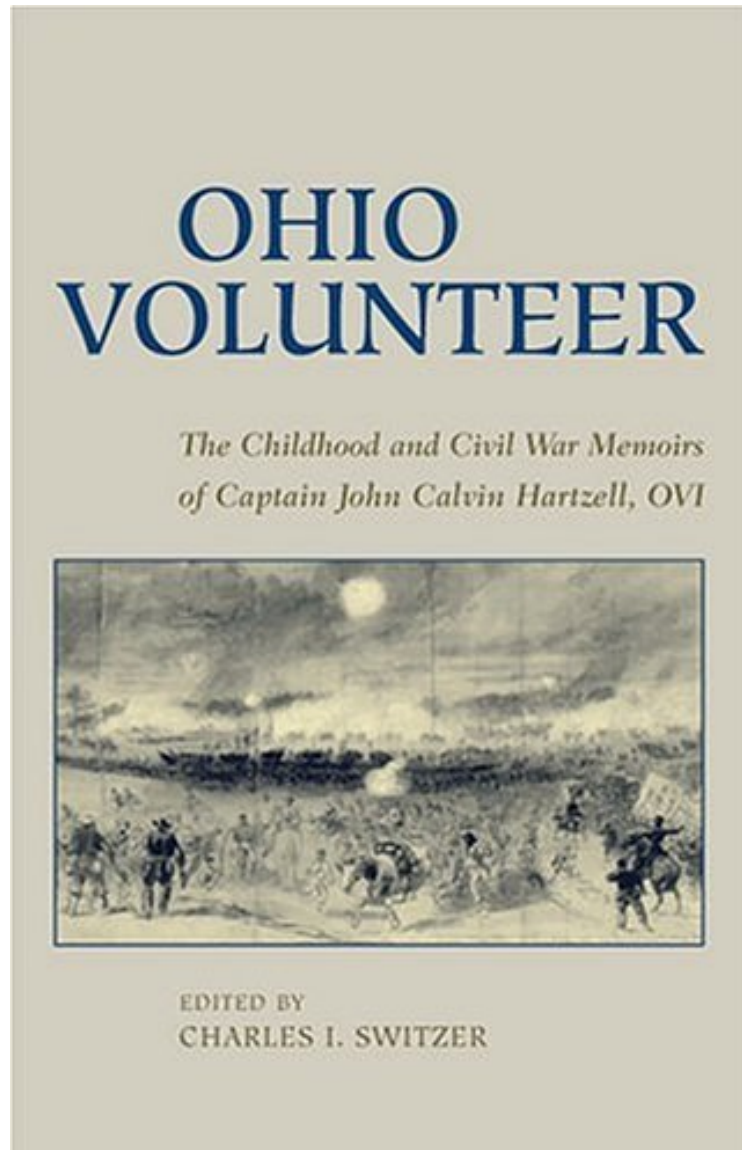


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Ohio Volunteer: The Childhood Civil War Memoirs Of Capt. John Calvin Hartzell, OVI

John Calvin Hartzell

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. used bookBy corditeVery good book! Enjoyable read. I love Ohio

history and the Civil War is a favorite. The first half of the book is about the authors life growing up in rural Ohio less than 50 miles from me. The author has a humor and wit similar to Mark Twain. His war experience is well described from his personal day to day activities and thoughts. You get a good feel for what it must have been like from the soldiers perspective.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a treasureBy C. M. ClarkeWhat a wonderful recounting of what life was like growing up in Ohio in the 1830s-40s-50s and what experiences the author had during the Civil War. The author is an enchanting writer. A delightful book and addition to the literature of both Ohio history and Civil War studies.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy VKExcellent account of a Civil War soldier's boyhood in northeastern Ohio and his experiences in the War.

When his captain was killed during the Battle of Perryville, John Calvin Hartzell was made commander of Company H, 105th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He led his men during the Battle of Chickamauga, the siege of Chattanooga, and the Battle of Missionary Ridge. Edited and introduced by Charles Switzer, *Ohio Volunteer: The Childhood and Civil War Memoirs of Captain John Calvin Hartzell*, OVI documents military strategy, the life of the common soldier, the intense excitement and terror of battle, and the wretchedness of the wounded. Hartzell's family implored him to set down his life story, including his experiences in the Civil War from 1862 to 1866. Hartzell did so diligently, taking more than two years to complete his manuscript. The memoir reveals a remarkable memory for vivid details, the ability to see larger and more philosophical perspectives, and a humorous outlook that helped him bear the unbearable. He also depicted the changing rural economy, the assimilation of the Pennsylvania Dutch, and the transformations wrought by coal mining and the iron industry. Hartzell felt individualism was threatened by the Industrial Revolution and the cruelties of the war. He found his faith in humanity affirmed--and the dramatic tension in his memoir resolved--when 136,000 Union soldiers reenlisted and assured victory for the North. The common soldier, he wrote, was "loyal to the core."

"[A] feeling of ecstasy, born of the roar of battle and the smell of burnt powder, takes hold of you, and each man feels invincible, and in such a state of mind danger and death have no terrors."