

*Note: This is a copy of a letter written by Levi Lewis Pierce, while serving in the military, Iowa 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry, during the Civil War. The letter was written to three brothers who were friends of Levi in Maquoketa, Iowa: Henry, George and Otto Wendel. The original letter is owned by Charles H. Wendel. Charles is the son of George Wendel who also settled in Woodbury County, Iowa, briefly. Information about the Wendel family follows the letter. Otto Wendel would live near the Pearce's near Peiro. Henry Wendel would also die in the Civil War. In one source I found said that when Henry's father (Johann) went to get his son's body, that he died of a heart attack on the way there.*

Lebanon, Mo.  
February 6, 1861

To: Henry, George and Otto,

We received your letter while we was in Rolla. You must excuse us for not writing before. We started from there this next morning after receiving your letter.

We was 9 days on the road and we had no time to write. You know that we I don't often delay so long in writing. Well, I must tell you what sort of a march we had.

For my part there was some nights when we camped that I was very tired, and my feet got very sore. We carried our knapsacks every day except the last 8 miles. Yesterday, we sent them on the wagon. It is (*calle??*) About 75 miles from Rolla here and about 45 or 50 from here to Springfield. Price as been there, we hear this morning that he is retreating from there. I don't know which way. Our pickets are within 12 miles of Springfield, they hear the guns from his army.

General "Fergles"(?) division is coming in here now. There is a great many troops here but I don't know how many. We are camped about a mile from the town but I guess there is not much of a town there. We expect to march on 17 miles towards Springfield in a few days.

George (**Levi's older brother**) stood the march better than I did. Our rations been short on the road and sometimes we was tolerable hungry. Our Captain said he never seen men stand or march better in his life. He said he had no idea what a campaign it was. The first night we was on it, it rained and snowed. We had to pitch our tent in the mud and water and snow, then go and get leaves from the oak trees to sleep on; the next night we slept on corn stalks and some hay; the next on weeds that we pulled in a field about a half a mile off, and some nights on grass and snow.

Well boys, I have heard bad news from home since I have been out here. I hear that Father is in Hempen, Illinois. Well, if they can't agree I had rather that they would be apart than together if they could not agree. Boys, you are where you can go where you are a mind to but I can't.

We don't have any meetings now. Our Chaplain is back. He was taken sick at Rolla. I would be glad to have him along with us. I can not think of much to write. We have got new tents. There was 6 in the other tents and 18 in these that we have now and the boys are talking so much that I can't write very well. We have the best of boys in our tent of any in the company, I think.

Well, Henry, I think you give George a pretty good one about Luke's girl. When he read it, I looked at him and he looked at me and grinned and said "I'll give it to him." I'll stop for awhile.

I will commence again. We have been out on inspection since I was writing. The colonel came around to see if we all had good clothes and shoes, then we went out to dress parade. The colonel told the captains that we had performed our march very well. He said that we had always been ready at every time of service. He said that had we been in actual service he said he believed that we would perform our duty at his command. I think that we will see some of our enemies before long. By his talk we hear that our pickets had a skirmish with Price's pickets last night. There is a great many troops come in today. Gen. Abbott is coming in today with his division, the movements are not for nothing, I am sure.

Boys, if we fall in battle remember us as your friends. Miles Bates wrote to me and I have not answered his letter but you must tell him that I have not had time to write to him yet. And I am where I can't get writing paper now. I am most out. I have 5 or 6 letters to answer. I love to get letters but I can't answer them as good as they are wrote to me. I had a good letter from Jarred yesterday and I must answer it soon.

Otto, you must be a good boy. Give my respects to all my friends. No more at present but remain yours truly.

L.L. Pearce and George C. Pearce

**Pearce, George C.** Age 22. Residence Maquoketa, nativity Iowa. Enlisted Aug. 10 1861. Mustered Sept. 24, 1861. Wounded severely in lungs March 7, 1862, Pea Ridge, Ark. Died of wounds March 13, 1862, Cassville, Mo. Buried in National Cemetery, Springfield, Mo. Section 10, grave 7.

**Pierce, Levi L.** Age 21. Residence Maquoketa, nativity Iowa. Enlisted Aug. 10, 1861. Mustered Sept. 24, 1861. Wounded slightly in breast May 19, 1863, Vicksburg, Miss. Promoted Seventh Corporal June 7, 1863; Sixth Corporal; Fifth Corporal Dec. 17, 1863. Discharged Sept. 24, 1864, East Point, Ga.

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### **Wendel Family Information** (from Ancestry.com)\_

- *ID:* I0022
- *Name:* Johann Conrad WENDEL
- *Sex:* M
- *Birth:* 12 MAY 1801 in Leonberg, Germany
- *Death:* 16 MAY 1865 in Mississippi River
- *Fact 1:* ABT. 1820 came to America, was a tailor

- *Fact 4:* 1842 Traveled by "private conveyance" to Iowa-took 7 weeks
- *Fact 2:* 1865 died enroute to get body of son killed at Vicksburg MS during civil war
- *Fact 3:* 1865 buried in Maquoketa IA

#### Children

1. **Charles Christian WENDEL** b: 1 DEC 1829 in Wyoming Co., PA
2. **Daniel Sterling WENDEL** b: 28 MAR 1833 in Steelville, PA
3. **Henry David WENDEL** b: 2 MAY 1835 in Steelville, PA
4. **John Frederick WENDEL** b: 25 JUL 1836 in Luzerne Co. PA
- 5.
6. **Henry David WENDEL** b: 23 SEP 1838 in Steelville, PA • *Fact 1:* 1863 Died in Civil War-buried Chalmette National Cem. "WENDLE"
- 7.
8. **George Washington WENDEL** b: 7 MAY 1842 in Maquoketa IA
- 9.
10. **Benjamin Franklin WENDEL** b: 8 NOV 1844 in Maquoketa IA
- 11.
12. **Otto Von Schrader WENDEL** b: 5 JUL 1848 in Maquoketa IA
13. **Mary Rosalita WENDEL** b: 23 MAR 1850 in Maquoketa IA
14. **Richard Columbus WENDEL** b: 20 MAR 1853 in Maquoketa IA

Otto would later marry and settle in Peiro, Iowa, living near Levi Pearce and family. Otto would name one of his children after Levi.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH MARY HAUNREITER FOR SHARING THIS CIVIL WAR LETTER AND INFORMATION ON THE WENDEL FAMILY AS WELL AS MORE INFORMATION ON THE PEARCE FAMILY THAT WE HAVE COME TO KNOW IN THE "DIARY OF YOUR GRANDMOTHER" YOU SHARED WITH OUR WEB PAGE FAMILY BEFORE WRITING A BOOK OF IT; WHICH CAN BE READ / CHECKED OUT AT THE LOCAL HAMANN MEMORIAL LIBRARY HERE AT ANTHON.**

**SO MANY FAMILIES SETTLED IN 'THESE PARTS' FOR A WHILE, AND THEN MOVED ON. SOME FAMILIES STAYED FOR YEARS PUTTING DOWN ROOTS FOR THEIR CHILDREN, AND THEN MOVED ON, AND YET OTHERS STAYED AND CALLED THIS BEAUTIFUL VALLEY HOME UNTIL THEY DIED.**

**IT IS IN THIS LETTER, AS WELL AS IN THE SHARING OF PICTURES AND FAMILY HISTORIES, AND DIARIES THAT WE FIND THOSE WHO AT ONE TIME CALLED THIS AREA HOME – AND WITHOUT THE GENEROSITY OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS, WE TODAY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO KNOW ABOUT THESE FOLKS, AND THE SMALL PART THEIR LIVES PLAYED ON OUR COUNTRY, AND AS CITIZENS OF THIS AREA. THOSE FAMILIES THAT MOVED ON SOMETIMES DIDN'T LEAVE ANY FOOTPRINTS, AND EVEN IF THEY DID; MOST OF THE TIME WE AREN'T AWARE OF ANY PART OF THEIR LIVES AT ALL.**

**THANK YOU AGAIN MARY FOR SHARING.**

**AND THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE SHARED SOME PART OF THE AREA HISTORY, WITH YOUR MEMORIES, GENEALOGY, PICTURES, AND INFORMATION WITH OUR WEB PAGE FAMILY.**

Vickie Buettner

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