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As the "out-lets" of Judge Albin W. Sarge  
are receiving some of the learned editors  
of this state great distress of mind, a friend  
who has known him "from his youth up"  
makes the following plain truthful statement  
and ~~shall~~ expects these same "learned editors"  
to be as eager to copy this article as some  
others which have afforded them subject for  
editorials for some weeks.

He was born on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May 1838  
<sup>in</sup> at Williamsfield, one of the southern town-  
ships of Ashtabula Co. Ohio. His father Val-  
entine Sarge, had but a short time  
previous to his birth, removed from Lee,  
Dorsetshire Co. Mass. where he had been exten-  
sively engaged in paper manufacturing.  
His mother, Louisa King, was a daughter  
of Jacob King, one of the earliest settlers  
of Lee, and a man of sterling worth and  
integrity. She was a refined, Christian lady,  
and for a number of years, in delicate health and  
died of consumption, when Albin, her only  
child was three years old. His father after a  
few years married again, and soon after re-  
moved to Kingsville, a township in the northern  
part of the same county, where he now lives  
one of the most honored, respected men of the  
town, a prominent member of the Methodist  
Church and <sup>in every respect</sup> a Christian gentleman.

When Albion was about twelve years old he went to reside with an uncle, Jacob King Jr. in Lee Mass. He remained there a few years and returning to his father, became a pupil of Kingsville Academy, where he continued alternately teaching and attending school until he was ~~twenty~~ one years of age, when he went again to Mass. to receive his share of the property of his grandfather. In the fall of 1859 he entered the Rochester University as a member of the sophomore class. He continued at the University until Jan. '61 when he engaged as Assistant Principal, in a school at Wilson, Niagara Co. N.Y. He had just taken his place in his class again when the war began. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of April he enrolled himself among the defenders of the Union, and became one of Co 27<sup>th</sup> N.Y.V. The Reg. was in barracks at Elmira N.Y. until about the first of July, when they were ordered on to Washington. The 27<sup>th</sup> participated in the battle of Bull Run, and during the retreat, he was severely injured, and was prostrated with fever for a month. Finding that he was useless as a soldier, he reluctantly received his discharge and returned home. His spine was so seriously injured that he was unable to take a step without the aid of two crutches. In January

'62, he entered the law office of Saban Sherman Esq, one of the first lawyers on the Western Reserve. He was still in delicate health and quite dependant on his crutches. He remained in the office of Mr Sherman until July following, when having partially recovered from his lameness, he went to Columbus, and received the commission of 1<sup>st</sup> Lt, and received a company among his old schoolmates, which became Co. "G" of the 105<sup>th</sup> O. V. I. After the Reg. was organized, they remained in camp at Cleveland a few days, then were ordered forward, their first battle being that of Champion Hills or Perryville Ky. After this battle in Oct, he was sick in Hospital at Danville Ky, where he remained until the last of November, when he rejoined his company. In Jan'y '63, while out on a forage expedition in Tenn. the whole train was captured by a party of rebel cavlry, and until the first of May following he knew the delights of rebel prisons, having been in Atlanta, Salisbury and Libby. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, he with many other fellow officers, were exchanged and ordered to the capitals of their respective states to be paid. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of the same month, at Columbus, Ohio, he married Emma L. Kilbourne, of Conneaut Ashland Co. Ohio, an old schoolmate, to whom he had

been affianced for five years. After a week  
 spent at his father's, he rejoined his com-  
 pany after an eventful absence of five  
 months. In December following, having again  
 injured his spine, he resigned his commission  
 and returned home. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, he  
 was admitted to the practice of law, at  
 Painesville, Ohio, and immediately opened  
 a law office, in company with the firm, with  
 whom he had studied. In March '65 he be-  
 came principal of Erie Academy, Erie Pa.  
 Having always determined to make the South  
 his home, at the close of the school year in  
 July, he came south, and was for several weeks  
 engaged as counsel in a Coach Martial then  
 being held at Raleigh. Coming up to Greensboro  
 he rented, Mess Green <sup>P</sup> Nurseries, of C. P. Mendon-  
 hall and returned <sup>the last of Aug.</sup> north, intending to return  
 with his family the first of Oct. Owing to ill  
 health he did not reach here until the 14<sup>th</sup>.  
 He brought here about \$5,000 capital, but  
 owing to a succession of ill fortune, he was com-  
 pelled to leave the Nurseries in June '67, minus  
 capital and several thousand of dollars in debt.  
 Unlike many others we might name, he did  
 not take advantage of the beneficent ("Bankrupt  
 Law," thereby cheating many out of honest  
 debts, but he has since by unceasing labor  
 and strict economy, liquidated nearly

all of these debts and expects soon to see them paid to the "utmost farthing." He was nominated to represent Guilford County in the Constitutional Convention, and being elected, he labored unceasingly to inculcate principles which he deemed to be right, and no one will deny, but that he wielded an influence over which no "corrupt and unlearned" man could have done. After the Convention, he unsolicited, and very reluctantly became a candidate for Judge of the 5th Jud. Dist. Being elected, no one, whose mind is unbiased by prejudice, will say, he has filled the difficult position, to which he was called but with honor and dignity.

As to the charge of his being at one time a "penitentiary scurvier" it is as false as the mind of man, actuated by the devil could conceive. From ~~a boy~~ <sup>his youth</sup> he has been invariably upright and honorable, scorning anything mean and low. As a member of the Academy he was loved and respected and the leader of the Phoenix debating Club, where he acquired much of the skill, which gave him the power he wielded in the Convention. In college he was a favorite with classmates and professors, honored and appreciated for the talents and energy he displayed. As a soldier and officer he was brave and unswerving.

his duties and idolized by  
any. As a friend he is true and  
and always to be trusted. He  
Political adventures, he has a pleas-  
home in Greensboro, which he is adorn-  
and beautifying with the intention of making  
it a permanent residence. He has cash  
in his fortune with this state and what  
is for his interest and prosperity, he dem-  
onstrates for his sake. No one can visit his home  
when his absence is ever deplored and  
his return ever welcomed, and for a mo-  
ment believe him to be "the thing of evil"  
which he is represented, by his political op-  
ponents.

To make assurance doubly sure we append  
the following —

Office of the Judge of the Sixth  
Judicial District of Ohio.

Jefferson O. March 30th 1867

To whom this may concern.

I am well acquainted  
with A. W. Sargent and have been from  
his early childhood. He was born in this county  
of intelligent and respectable parents, and grew up  
to manhood under my acquaintance. I know him  
to be a man of the strictest integrity and every-  
way any honorable, respectable and loyal gentle-  
man. I cheerfully recommend him as worthy  
and  
—

the confidence of all good loyal people -

A. L. Chaffee

Judge 9<sup>th</sup> Jud. Dist. Ohio

First two Chap-  
ters of the Biogra-  
phy of a Carpet-  
bagger

Written by his  
wife

CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2015