




## John M. Ausbrook

Company A, 98th Illinois Volunteer Infantry

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John M. Ausbrook was born and died in Clay County, Illinois. The son of Thomas and Alcy Ann (Apperson) Ausbrook, he was born to these early settlers in this county. He was born on 17 September 1840 and died on 15 November 1913. Except for his three years of military service, he was a life long resident of Clay County.

His father served as a Corporal in Captain L.D. Ewing's Company (later Captain Samuel Houston's) during The Black Hawk War. Known as the Spy Battalion of the 3rd Brigade of Illinois Mounted Volunteers, the Company was called into the service of the United States at the request of General Henry Atkison and by the Governor of Illinois' proclamation of 15 May 1832. Subsequent to his military service, Thomas relocated from his home in Fayette County, Illinois to Clay County where he settled on land which he was to farm for

many years. In February, 1834 he and Alcy Ann Apperson were married in Clay County. Alcy Ann came to Clay County from Virginia with her parents Richard and Margaret Apperson and several siblings.

When the civil unrest between the states arose, John M. Ausbrook responded as a volunteer in supporting the State of Illinois and the U.S. Federal Government. On 3 September 1862, at Camp Centralia, Illinois, he was 'mustered in' to Company 'A', 98th Illinois Infantry (Volunteers) by Captain Washington. He became a Sergeant in this Company, a position he held throughout his Civil War service. He was 'mustered out' of service on 27 June 1865 at Nashville, Tennessee by Captain Hosea.

The 98th Illinois Infantry along with the 123rd Illinois, the 17th and 72nd Indiana and the 18th Indiana Battery of Light Artillery comprised the Brigade commanded by Colonel John T. Wilder. This Brigade later became known as "Wilder's Lightning Brigade". It was heavily involved in major actions in Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama from late in 1862 through the war's end in 1865. Their heroic performance at the Battle of Chickamauga was the only bright spot among an otherwise disasterous campaign by other Union forces.

According to the Daily Clay County Advocate Press edition of Friday, February 7, 1997: Wilder's Brigade was one of the most colorful units in the Civil War. Commanded by Colonel John T. Wilder, an iron foundry owner and entrepreneur from Indiana, the unit participated in 214 battles in the war. Not once did it leave the field in defeat.