

One major reason was the fact the unit was armed with the Spencer repeating rifle, which gave the unit devastating firepower at a time when most used black powder single shot muskets.

When John M. Ausbrook was discharged from the Union forces on 6 July 1865, he was given a discharge certificate which contains insightful information about his service, his physical stature and occupation. It reads:

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Know ye, That John M. Ausbrook, a Sergeant of Captain A.W. Stanford's Company (A) 98th Regiment of Illinois Infantry volunteers who was enrolled on the fifth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two to serve Three years or during the war, is hereby DISCHARGED from the service of the United States, this sixth day of July, 1865 at Springfield, Illinois by reason of the U.S. Gov't. not requiring further service. (No objection to his being reenlisted is known to exist.)

Said John M. Ausbrook was born in Clay County in the State of Illinois, is twenty-two years of age, Five feet Five inches high, Dark complexion, Black eyes, Black hair, and by occupation, when enrolled, a Farmer.

Given at Nashville, Tenn this twenty-seventh day of June 1865.

signed  
A.W. Stanford  
Capt.  
Commanding the Co.

After his discharge John M. Ausbrook continued to stay active with members of the 98th Infantry as he was involved for the remainder of his life in Wilder Brigade reunions as well as being a sustaining member of the Clay City (Illinois) Chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.). He was active in community affairs as he served multiple terms as a Trustee for the Clay City town government as well as serving as the Town Clerk. On 11 September 1866 he married Matilda Jane (Tildie) Ricketts in Clay City. This

union produced three sons, Edward K., William G., and Clyde E. and a daughter Cora Belle. In their later years John and Matilda adopted Margaret Marie (Maggie) and raised her as their own child.

John died 15 November 1913 at Clay City while Matilda passed away on 26 March 1918 also in Clay City. Both are buried at the former I.O.O.F. Cemetery, now known as the Clay City Cemetery, Clay City, Illinois.

Submitted by **John E. Bartos**



**John M. Ausbrook**

Company A, 98th Illinois Volunteer Infantry

