

## Account of J.T. Wilder

National Tribune Article

### WILDERS BRIGADE

(From National Tribune)

Joseph Boles, 123rd Ill., Brownstown, Ill., saw three years of war. He was in Wilder's famous brigade, and that was some service. He sends us a letter that was written to him by his old commander, J.T. Wilder, some years ago, and the following is and [sic] excerpt:

"My men were the gamest and grandest that ever wore uniform or battled for a just cause. We were in 219 battles, large and small, in which we had men killed or wounded; and the dear old boys would never be driven in defeat. We captured over 12,000 prisoners, 17 rebel flags, 164 pieces of cannon – never lost a battle wagon, colors, or a cannon, and never failed to take a position or lost one. They were simply invulnerable, and are [illegible] the proudest and most patriotic men I know of. I never called on any of them and found them wanting. Your old regiment, the 23rd Ill., was as good a command as I ever saw; none could be better or more reliable. I am now an old man, but my heart beats high when I think of my dear old comrades of the Wilder Brigade. No man loved his boys more than I did and do still. They were the most reliable soldiers I ever knew. Good bye; God bless you one and all. Faithfully, your old Commander, comrade and friend. – J. T. Wilder." By S.W. Birch, Flora Ill. of Co. A. 98th. Ill.

Gen. Wilder's Brigade was composed of the 98th Regt. Ill. Vols.; the 123rd Ill.; the 72nd Ind. The 98th Ill., was enlisted in southern Illinois. Co. A of that Regt. was enlisted in Flora August 2nd and went into camp August 6th, 1862, with 100 men in company, returned July 7th, 1865 with 35 men.

[written on the side: amazing record but as Grandfather often said "The poor devils didn't have a chance against our repeating rifles, [illegible signature]]