

CW/VFM-103: *Theodore Wilder*

Theodore Wilder, son of William Smith Wilder and Sarah Clinton Adams was born on December 31, 1838 in Chester, OH. Prior to his enlistment in the 7th Ohio, he was a freshman at Oberlin. He enlisted almost as soon as the war began, and was through his service by the middle of August 1862. During his regiment's engagement in the Battle of Cedar Mountain (8/9/1862), he sustained a wound to the abdomen. He resumed his college education in 1863 and graduated with his bachelor's degree in 1865. He also wrote the official history of company C of the 7th Ohio Regiment O.V.I, which was published at Oberlin in 1866. He later became a professor of Greek and mathematics at Ripen College in Wisconsin. He married Frances Durand in 1868, and they had one son; George Durand Wilder, who was born on June 29, 1869. Wilder died on March 8, 1871 as a result of his wound. The 7th Ohio itself was involved in most of the major engagements until it was mustered out in July of 1864, including Second Manassas (8/28-30, 1862), Antietam (9/16-17/1862), and Gettysburg (7/1-3/1863).

Diary, April 1861 through July 1863.

Typescript, the original of which is held by the Oberlin College Library. Wilder also wrote a hard to find monograph entitled "The History of Company C, Seventy Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry," published by John B.T. Marsh, in 1866

The diary and letters contain an extreme amount of detail not only of camp life and regimental movements, but also of the engagements he was involved in. He mentions who was killed and the manner in which they were killed. This is especially true of the Battle of Cedar Mountain. Wilder continues to write home during his recovery from his wound, and then continues even still after he returns to Oberlin. He writes still of the complications that his wound has caused him, and of the fortunes of his classmates.

Typed copy: 43pp

Carbon copy: 43pp

Letter regarding the carbon copy

Photocopy: 1pp

Keywords: Union – East – Ohio – 7th; Diaries; Army – Infantry; Soldiers – Privates

Location: Civil War Vertical File Manuscripts, Special Collections & College Archives,
Musselman Library at Gettysburg College.

See also: [Civil War Sources in Special Collections](#)