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Captain David H. Todd: "A Brother of Mr. Lincoln's Wife"

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Shapiro: Captain David H. Todd: "A Brother of Mr. Lincoln's Wife"
CAPTAIN DAVID H. TODD
"A BROTHER OF MR. LINCOLN'S WIFE"

NORMAN M. SHAPIRO

The following notice appeared in the Madison County, Alabama, newspaper, *The Weekly Huntsville Advocate*, of August 4, 1871:

DIED,

At his residence in this place, on Sunday night 30th July, 1871, of consumption, Capt. DAVID H. TODD, formerly of Kentucky, but for the last six years a resident of Huntsville, in his 40th year. He served in the Mexican war, was engaged in a revolution in Chile, and visited Japan, &c., and was a Captain in the Confederate army.



David Todd, Mary Todd Lincoln's Half Brother

Source: Katherine Helm, *The True Story of Mary, Wife of Lincoln*

(NY: Harper and Brothes, 1928)

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The notice omitted an interesting fact that impacted much of his short life: David Todd was Mary Todd Lincoln's half-brother and Abraham Lincoln's brother-in-law. The omission was not surprising; Alabama was still under post-war military occupation and much wartime bitterness remained. Although it has been said that David Todd tried to hide the Lincoln "connection", the documented information that we have seems to indicate otherwise.

I "discovered" David Todd in the preparation of an earlier paper on the history of the Confederate battle flag that is in the collection of Huntsville's Burritt Museum.¹ The flag, and a number of other relics, were donated to the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society in the Civil War Centennial Year 1961 by a step-granddaughter of David Todd. The items were subsequently placed in the holdings of the Burritt Museum. The few words of the death notice that described his life were certainly intriguing and I have attempted to learn more. I found, however, only a few personal writings and have had to rely primarily on information provided in his Combined Military Service Records (CSRs) and in references to Mary Todd Lincoln.

David Humphreys Todd was born March 30, 1832 in Lexington, Kentucky, the ninth of Robert Smith Todd's fourteen living children of two marriages. Two children died in infancy. His half-sister, Mary Ann, was fourteen when he was born and she married Abraham Lincoln when he was ten. The Todd family was comfortably situated and the children of both families had the "usual advantages" of the time. During the war years, six siblings supported the Union; eight supported the Confederacy and their actions plagued Mary for most of her married life. Southerners scorned her as a traitor to her birth, and citizens loyal to the Union suspected her of treason. David and the other brothers are only slightly and often incorrectly mentioned in the several Mary Todd Lincoln biographies. Jean Baker's *Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography*, for example, states, "Mary Lincoln did not know David well. The second of Betsey's sons, he had run away from home as a boy and was notorious in family annals for the Chilean flag tattooed on his arm. Posted to the West, David was mortally wounded at Vicksburg in 1863."² Another account states, "David would die later from wounds received at Vicksburg."³ And still another "David, a Confederate soldier, was shot through the lungs at the Siege of Vicksburg and died after the surrender."⁴ Katherine Helm, daughter of David's sister, Emilie Todd Helm,⁵ published in 1928 her mother's recollections of Mary Lincoln.⁶ On page 15 she writes, "David, died from the effect of wounds received at Vicksburg" and in a note on page 193, "David Todd, never recovered from wound received at Vicksburg. Though reported 'dying,' he survived, an invalid, for a few years after the war was over." One would think that Emilie (1836-1930) and Katherine (1857-1937) would have been well acquainted

Shapiro: Captain David H. Todd: "A Brother of Mr. Lincoln's Wife" with the circumstances of David Todd's death; however, I have found no evidence that David was even wounded at Vicksburg although it is certainly possible that he may have received a superficial wound. We will see later that he was indeed under fire at Vicksburg, but in one of his CSRs is an application to be examined for disability retirement, dated January 6, 1865, from Hospital, Marion, Alabama, in which he states the cause of disability is "Phthisis Pulmonulis [sic], i.e. 'wasting away of lungs', caused by exposure & from which I have suffered for the past two years with frequent attacks of Hoemaptysis [sic] i.e. 'expectoration of blood or bloody mucus'. I have been absent from my command unable to perform duty for the past few months". And as noted above, some eight years after Vicksburg it was stated in his death notice that he died of consumption.

"Running away from home as a boy" may well describe David Todd's Mexican War service. He enlisted on September 15, 1847, in Captain Robinson's Company (later Company C), Third Regiment (Thomson's) Kentucky Volunteers at Lexington, Kentucky, at age the age of 15. His service dates are documented in the company muster rolls obtained from the National Archives and Records Administration. Two new Kentucky regiments, the Third and Fourth, were mustered into service on October 4, 1847, at Louisville. John C. Breckinridge who was James Buchanan's vice president (1857-1861) was a major in the Third Regiment and the unit's war record is described in his biography.⁷ The regiment trained until the end of October and then boarded transport at New Orleans for Vera Cruz, where it arrived on November 18. After more training they made their way to Mexico City, arriving on December 18, 1847. They did no fighting, Mexico City having been taken by Winfield Scott on September 18. They remained in Mexico City until May, when the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo was ratified by Congress (the treaty had been signed on February 2). The regiment then marched back to Vera Cruz and set out for New Orleans on June 29 and finally reached Louisville on July 16, 1848. Private David H. Todd was mustered out July 21, 1848. His age was listed on the muster-out roll as 19. His widow, Susan S. Todd, later received a Mexican War Widow's Service Pension of \$8.00 per month, commencing in 1887 until her death in 1894.⁸

Documentation for David Todd's "Chilean episode" and foreign travels has not been found. The Department of State has issued transports to U.S. citizens traveling abroad since 1789. With two exceptions, which do not apply here, there was no statutory requirement that American citizens have a passport for travel abroad until 1941. A search of the Indexes to Passport Applications at the National Archives and Records Administration revealed no applications for David Humphreys Todd. The information in his death notice must certainly have been provided by his widow and the
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incidents occurred between his Mexican War service and his Civil War service. Jean Baker writes that after their father's death in 1849, the boys (i.e., the three half-brothers, Sam, David and Aleck) moved to New Orleans, where a maternal uncle owned a prosperous sugar plantation.⁹ They are all listed, however, in the 1850 United States Census of Franklin County, Kentucky, in the household of their mother. The listing, which was enumerated September 3, 1850, is as follows:

- Elizabeth L. Todd 50 [years of age]
- Samuel B. Todd 20
- David H. Todd 18
- Martha Todd 17
- Emmily T. Todd 13
- Alexander H. Todd 11
- Jane B. Todd 10
- Catherine B. Todd 8

The oldest surviving child of this “second ” family of Robert Smith Todd, Margaret Todd, had married in 1846.



Mary Todd's sister Elodie (Jane B.), Who Married Colonel N. H. R. Dawson of Selma, Alabama

Source: William C. Davis, *Breckenridge: Statesman, Soldier, Symbol* (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 1974)

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At the beginning of the Civil War, Katherine Helm writes that Sam and David Todd were in business in New Orleans, Louisiana,¹⁰ and sisters Martha and Elodie Todd were living in Selma, Alabama.¹¹ Martha had married Clement B. White in 1852 and Elodie was engaged to Nathaniel Henry Rhodes Dawson of Selma, whom she married in 1865. Dawson was a Captain in the Fourth Alabama Infantry Regiment and he and Elodie carried on an extensive correspondence during the war.¹² While many of Elodie's letters were "cross-hatched" or otherwise illegible, three of them were found that mentioned brother David and were quite illuminating. They will be shown later.

David Todd's military record is for the most part delineated in three CSR's: First Lieutenant in Lieutenant W. B. Ochiltree's Detachment of Recruits (Detachment of Regulars); First Lieutenant in the First Kentucky Infantry; and Captain, Company A, 21st Louisiana Infantry. Ochiltree's Detachment was one of the many organizations that were considered to have been raised directly or otherwise formed by the Confederate government and therefore not identified with any one state. They comprised organizations of all sizes and designations including companies, battalions, regiments etc. Ochiltree's Detachment was apparently an administrative convenience created to handle a singular appointment. The jacket envelope of the unit also indicates, "Formerly Lieut. Todd's Detachment of Recruits" and contains his initial appointment as a First Lieutenant of Infantry in the Confederate States Army, dated April 27, 1861, accepted April 30, 1861, and delivered at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.¹³

The Adjutant & Inspector General's Office of the Confederate States Army issued Special Order Number 40/3, dated May 1, 1861 detailing First Lieutenant David H. Todd. The particulars of the detail were not given; however, it was evidently to Richmond, Virginia, as there is a pay voucher in the detachment envelope for the period 27 April 1861 to 31 May 1861 issued by Major Larkin Smith, Quartermaster, at Richmond for \$101.99 (\$90.00 per month) and accepted 14 June 1861. Also, in one of the letters "E.T. to N.H.R.D." (from the *Dawson Papers*) dated Summerfield (Alabama), June 27th 1861, Elodie writes, "My Bro David wrote from Richmond that he expected to leave in a day or two for Staunton & has been appointed one of Genl Holmes' aides."¹⁴ This appointment was obviously not effected inasmuch as Special Orders No. 85, dated July 1, 1861 at Richmond orders First Lieutenant David H. Todd, Infantry, and two other officers to "report for duty to General [John H.] Winder, in this city."¹⁵ Brigadier General Winder had been appointed Inspector General of the Richmond area prison camps on June 22, 1861.¹⁶ This led to the following hand-written posting which was found in the Detachment envelope:

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Lt. Todd will proceed to the prison corner of Main & 26th Streets & relieve Lt. Archer. Should Lt. Archer be absent, he will take possession of the premises & receive from Lt. Archer all orders etc. when he shall have seen him.

Jn H Winder, Brig Gen

While the rationale for this appointment is unknown, it would be difficult to believe that David Todd would have desired or sought such an assignment. In the Introduction to *Civil War Prisons* William B. Hesseltine writes, “The Civil War left behind it a long list of controversies – yet no controversy ever evoked such emotions as the mutual recrimination between Northern and Southern partisans over the treatment of prisoners of war. Hardly had the war begun when the first prisoners alleged that their captors mistreated them.”¹⁷ The recriminations continued throughout the war and, “To the end of their lives ex-prisoners wrote books or letters-to-the-editor, told their stories to country-store gatherings, appeared before congressional committees, or addressed conventions of veterans to recount their adversaries and to point accusing fingers at their cruel and conspiratorial enemy.” As Ernest B. Ferguson commented, “Todd may have drawn special criticism because of who he was, but in the long run his name barely made the list of Civil War villains, far below that of his orderly sergeant that summer, a Swiss-born Louisiana physician named Henry Wirz. [later the notorious commandant of Andersonville prison.]”¹⁸ Further investigation has indicated that Todd did indeed receive special attention as his “special relationship” is mentioned in almost every one of the accusations that will be described later.

The prison at the corner of Main and 26th Streets to which Lieutenant Todd was assigned was formerly the tobacco factory of George D. Harwood. It was also called Harwood’s Hospital and/or General Hospital No. 24, and later called Moore’s Hospital and North Carolina Hospital.¹⁹ It was one of many Civil War prisons in Richmond; Blakey lists fourteen, twelve of them former tobacco factories.²⁰ Michael D. Gorman lists even more buildings that were used variously as prisons and/or hospitals.²¹ This led to much confusion in the reporting of prison history as well as prison incidents. For example, there was a General Hospital No. 22 (also called Howard’s Hospital) located on Main Street between 25th and 26th Streets which is identified by Wait as both the former tobacco factory of George D. Howard and the former tobacco factory of J. W. Atkinson. The 1860 Federal Census for Richmond lists a George D. Harwood as a tobacco factory

Shapiro: Captain David H. Todd: "A Brother of Mr. Lincoln's Wife" proprietor, but no George D. Howard. In the Ochiltree Detachment envelope, however, there is a requisition and receipt for twenty cords of wood for Howard's Jail, dated 2 August 1861, and signed by "D.H. Todd, 1Lt., CSA, in chge Prison."

The accusations of mistreatment had their origin here a few days after the first Union prisoners arrived in Richmond after "First Manassas." ²² This first big battle of the war was fought on July 21, 1861, and Richmond was not prepared to receive shortly thereafter the approximately 1,000 Union prisoners and 1,500 Confederate wounded. There was no official agreement on parole of prisoners at this stage of the war. Abraham Lincoln's position was that that the South was in rebellion and secession was illegal. He refused to recognize the southern captives as prisoners of war and this influenced the treatment of captives on both sides. Some of the first prisoners were confined in Ligon's (or Liggon's) prison, also known as General Hospital No. 23, and in Harwood's prison. The opening paragraphs of an early and colorful report of prison life in Richmond, which may have influenced later accounts, appear below. It was published in the New York *Sunday Mercury* on June 1, 1862, by William H. Kellogg, of Company K, 38th Infantry, New York State Militia. Mr. Kellogg was a journalist.

Now that our forces are so near Richmond, a few incidents in the prison life in the tobacco manufactories might be interesting to the reader in search of truth. After the Battle of Bull Run, on the 21st of July, 1861, among those captured I was marched to Manassas Junction, where we remained in the drizzling rain, which fell all night. Owing to the extreme fatigue of the body attending on the heat of the day, forced marching, and the battlefield, I slept peaceably and sound, and for a moment on awakening the next morning, it was almost impossible for me to decide where I was, but gradually a vivid sense of my position forced itself upon me, and I realized I was a prisoner. All day on the 22nd, following the battle, we remained standing in the slowly-falling rain, wetting us to the skin. Around us stood guards, close together, and beyond them a gaping multitude of idle gazers, looking at the 'Yankees' – evidently, from the way they eyed us, supposing us to be some curious animal, and remarking: 'Why, they look just like our folks!' 'Lord, they're white folks just like we are.' And asking us: 'What made you come down here for?' All day long we were kept in this position, nothing given us to eat, and—must I say it? – water could not be attained, unless, thanks to God for the falling rain of that day, when caught in an India-rubber blanket, poured into a tin-cup. And bitter, brackish, sickish to the taste as was this water, 'twas like nectar to the half-famished men who, many of them, had not tasted a drop of water since the

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previous bloody day. About 5 o'clock P.M., however, some hard biscuit and rancid bacon were divided among us, and we were marched to the railroad depot, and placed in baggage and freight cars, *en route* for Richmond. Here Fortune was propitious, for the rain dripping from the tops of the cars presented a rich harvest of pure water to the thirsty men. It was a perfect godsend. It was hard in the extreme to see the avidity with which the poor fellows sought to catch the falling drops, as their thirst was doubly increased by the salt meat just served out. About six o'clock the next afternoon, we arrived in Richmond, and, well guarded, were marched through the streets, hooted, hissed and blackguarded in a manner I could hardly have believed would have occurred in a city belonging to a civilized nation. But seeing what I have of them has changed my mind considerably. About dark, we reached one of the vile tobacco factories destined to receive us, and from whose doors many of the brave boys who entered them were never more to pass, until in a pine coffin, conveyed in a rickety cart, they should fill a grave in some distant portion of the [N]egro burying-ground of the capital city of Virginia. Is it too much to ask one passing thought to those who thus died and still fill the humble tenement? In the building with myself were five hundred and thirty-eight souls—two hundred on one floor, and three hundred and thirty-eight on the floor above, these floors being some one hundred by thirty feet. Here, for some three or four weeks – if I may be allowed the expression – we were left to rot; and ere that time, vermin had made their appearance, and, notwithstanding all endeavors to the contrary, 'reigned supreme.' It was a fine specimen of close packing, at night, when we turned in, and it would have been difficult to one not accustomed to moving among a crowd to have made their way through the room without stepping on some part of the human mass that strewed the floor. Even in the day it was difficult navigation.

Lieutenant [David] Todd, of Kentucky, C. S. A., notorious for his cruelty, was in charge of us. Much has already been said of his treatment of our suffering prisoners of his war. An incident, however, which I do not think has been in print, occurring at this time, and in which he was chief actor, will better prove his cruel treatment than any other I could mention.

One morning, in passing through one of the crowded rooms, stopped by the crowd who obstructed his passage, he bade them give way; they not obeying his order as quickly as he wished, he drew his sword, and making a step toward one of the nearest of the crowd, who belonged to the First Minnesota Regiment, passed it through the lower portion of the leg, and in withdrawing it he literally cut the piece of flesh to the

Shapiro: Captain David H. Todd: "A Brother of Mr. Lincoln's Wife" bone. Remarking coolly, as he passed on: 'Take care of the man and clear the road.' This act was on par with his other cruelties while in charge. By his orders our prisoners were fired on in the windows, and no less than five wounded and three killed. Another day we were refused water for more than six hours in the day for the mere crime of spilling some on the floor; and frequently our meals were not served until late in the day. Some four weeks after our arrival, the wounded from Bull Run arrived in Richmond, and some placed in the general hospital, and the remainder-by far the largest portion-conveyed in our prison, Hanwood's [Harwood's] Tobacco Factory, on Main, corner of Twenty-sixth street, it being the most convenient of access and best adapted to hospital purposes.

Many of the charges concerning David Todd's cruelty toward Union prisoners first appeared in a small volume published in 1893 by William H. Jeffrey comprising "Journals Kept by Union Prisoners of War with the Name, Rank, Company, Regiment and State of the Four Thousand Who Were Confined There" and are extracted here: ²³

During the afternoon of August 5th, Lieutenant Todd, who, by the way was a half-brother of President Lincoln's wife, and at that time in the immediate charge of the prisoners, ordered all servants belonging to the different messes out of the quarters. It was supposed to be for the reason that through them some of the officers had obtained ardent spirits and because of a disturbance created that morning by one Lyman H. Stone, a surgeon of the United States Army, who was arrested at Manassas and taken to Richmond on the 29th of July. Dr. Stone was a highly educated gentleman, unaccustomed to excessive indulgence in liquor, but it was supposed that the excitement of the battle and the circumstances of his arrest caused him to drink to freely. He started out soon after dinner, overturning the tables, dishes and all, and finally laid hold of one of the officers so roughly that it was evident that he was in a high state of frenzy. At last the turmoil became so great that Lieutenant Todd, rushing into the room with great fury, and seeing Dr. Stone clinched with one of the officers, drew his pistol and demanded that the disturbance should cease. It was stopped and Dr. Stone was taken out of the prison to a brick building in the rear and put in irons. There was, of course, nothing wrong in what Lieutenant Todd did in this instance, but the outrages subsequently committed by him upon the prisoners under his charge were spoken of by all in the severest of terms. ²⁴

The testimony of a Corporal Merrill on this point is as follows:

Lieutenant Todd was singularly vicious and brutal in his treatment of
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the prisoners, and seldom entered the prison without grossly insulting some of them. He invariably entered with a drawn sword in his hand. His voice and manner, as he addressed the prisoners, always indicated a desire to commit some cruel wrong. Upon one occasion he struck an invalid soldier in the face with the flat side of his sword, simply because he did not obey the order to fall in for roll-call with sufficient alacrity. At another time one of the guards, in the presence and with the sanction of Lieutenant Todd, struck a prisoner upon the head with the butt-end of his musket.²⁵

Isaac N. Jennings of the First Connecticut Volunteers reported:

I can mention no bright spot in Richmond Prison life as I know of none, except the enjoyment derived from social communion with ourselves....A curious case of family unpleasantness was that the brother-in-law of President Lincoln was in charge of us. I never saw any one more bitter in his hatred of 'Yanks.' He seemed bound to make his reputation, which, as he said, '*might be injured by his relationship to Old Abe,*' by abusing the prisoners.²⁶

According to J. Lane Fitts of Company B, Second New Hampshire Volunteers:

In the evening of the fourth day after the battle of Manassas, or the first Bull Run, we arrived in Richmond. We were marched from the railroad station to one of the tobacco houses in the lower part of the city, near the James River and the Canal. — There were over fifty of us members of the 2nd New Hampshire Volunteers, including the wounded, who were put in another building near by. We were in charge of the notorious Wirz, known in prison at that time as the 'Dutch Sergeant.' The officer next him was Lieutenant Todd, a brother of Abraham Lincoln's wife. Lieutenant Todd, when upon the street near our windows one day, overheard some conversation that did not suit him. He drew his sword and rushing upstairs, stabbed the first man he came across, wounding him so that he had to be removed to the hospital. 'Every d——d Yankee,' he said, 'ought to be served the same way.' A favorite expression of his was, 'I would like to cut 'Old Abe's heart out.'²⁷

And from another member of Company B, Second New Hampshire Volunteers, we learn:

The officer who had chief charge of us was Lieut. Todd, a brother to Abraham Lincoln's wife. Once when a Yankee prisoner had died and the guards took the body down to headquarters, they thoughtlessly laid it on the doorstep while they rang the bell for the Lieutenant. This so exasperated him that he kicked the body out into the street, where it laid over night. With this man in command, and the notorious Wirz,

Shapiro: Captain David H. Todd: "A Brother of Mr. Lincoln's Wife" who was afterwards hanged, to execute his orders, the reader can judge something of the treatment we received. We afterwards heard he was killed in battle, and were not sorry to hear it, although he deserved hanging as richly as did Wirz."²⁸

Additional, similar descriptions of Lieutenant Todd's "cruelty" can be found on the Internet and are said to have taken place at Richmond's Libby Prison, formerly the warehouse of L. Libby & Sons, Ship Chandlers. Richmond's most famous prison, "Libby" was probably second only to Andersonville in the lexicon of notorious Confederate prisons. It was not, however, used as a prison until the summer of 1862 when David Todd was engaged in the fighting at Vicksburg.²⁹

The other two legible letter excerpts from his sister, Elodie to her fiancée, Nathaniel Dawson exemplify the additional perils associated with David Todd 's odious assignment.

E.T. to N. H. R. D.

23 July 1861, Selma, Alabama

I see from today's paper Mrs. Lincoln is indignant at my Bro David's being in the Confederate Service and declares 'that by no words or act of hers should he escape punishment for his treason against her husband's government should he fall into their hands.' I do not believe she ever said it & if she did & meant it, she is no longer a sister of mine, nor deserved to be called a woman of nobleness or truth & God grant my noble and brave hearted brother will never fall into their hands and have to suffer death twice over. and he could do nothing which would make one prouder of him than he is doing now fighting for his country. What would she do to me, do you suppose? I have so much to answer for."

E.T. to N. H. R. D.

15 September 1861, Selma, Alabama

I supposed you had seen an account of my Brother's arrest in the Richmond papers. He was arrested for having some of the dead Yankee prisoners who had been dead a day or two in prison confined and sent to the Q'Master's department as his commander told him 'to be commented & gazed upon as a spectacle for the public' by standing there before his, the Q'Masters's door. I believe upon investigating the matter it was found he (the Quartermaster) had been in neglect of his duty & not my brother. At any rate, I hope he will not be called upon to play jailer any more.

His sister's hopes were realized when First Lieutenant David H. Todd was assigned to duty with the First Regiment of Kentucky Infantry on Sep-

tember 19, 1861 by Special Order No. 336, Headquarters, Army of the Potomac. He reported to the regimental commander, Colonel Thomas H. Taylor, when the regiment returned to camp near Centreville, Virginia, on September 27, 1861. The First Kentucky was formed about July or August 1861, by consolidation of several smaller units. Camping around Manassas during the late summer of 1861, the regiment saw little action for the next three months beyond guard duty and skirmishes with the enemy. On 20 December, however, the regiment joined with the 6th South Carolina, 11th Virginia, 10th Alabama, Cutt's battery of artillery, and 150 cavalry under Brigadier General J.E.B. Stuart on a foraging expedition in the northern Virginia countryside. This substantial force encountered an even larger Union force near the small community of Dranesville about 20 miles from Centerville. After a stirring fight of several hours, the Confederates withdrew to Centreville, the First Kentucky having lost one killed, twenty-three wounded and two missing. The regiment went into winter camp near Centreville on Christmas Day, 1861 and performed sentry duty for the next three months. For most of this period (September 1861 – February 1862), David Todd was assigned to "Field and Staff" of the regiment, but the muster roll shows that he was on leave in New Orleans for 30 days during December-January and it is unknown if he participated in the fight described above. A copy of the following letter was in the 21st Louisiana CSR:

Head Qtrs 1st Ky. Regt.

Major Copeland

Comnd. 1st Ky. Regt.

Having no duties to perform in this Regt. and nothing to which I can be assigned and having an opportunity of obtaining a position in our Army at New Orleans where I can render needed services I request a transfer from this Regiment to Maj Genl Lovell's Command in New Orleans.

Yours Respect.

D.H. Todd 1st Lt. Inf. C.S.A.

This was followed in a few days by "Special Order Number 36/13, dated Feb. 13, 1862 Subject: Relieved & Assigned -Todd, D. H. 1st Lt. 1st Regt. Ky. Vols."

The next document in his CSR was dated May 9, 1862, Company D, where he, "Signs Certificate as Inspector and Mustering Officer," Muster Role of Miles Legion, Louisiana Volunteers (also known as 32nd Regiment Infantry). This was followed by similar documents for: "Co. F, Miles Le-

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gion, La. Vols.," dated May 17, 1862; "Co. E, 30th Regt., La. Inf.," dated
May 18, 1862; and "Co. B, Stockdale's [Battalion], Miss. Cav.," dated
May 14, 1862 to May 27, 1862. There are also two pay vouchers: the first,
for the month of April, dated 30 April and received at Richmond, Virginia,
and the second, for the month of May, dated 31 May and received at
Tangipahoa, Louisiana. His activities during the undocumented periods are
unknown, however, three letters from the Emile Todd Helm Papers de-
scribe the death of his brother, Samuel B. Todd, at Shiloh, (6 – 7 April
1862), and suggest that David went to Tennessee to recover Sam's body in
late April. (Two of the letters from his brother's fellow soldiers were previ-
ously unpublished and are shown in the appendix to this article.) David's
letter to his sister Emile, which follows, is one of only two writings in his
own hand (other than material requisitions and signatures) that were found
in his documentation.

New Orleans, 15 April'62

Dear Sister,

It is my sad task to transmit the unwelcome news that our poor Brother
Sam is no more. The report has been here for several days but I could not
believe it as no one had seen him either dead or even wounded. I thought he
might be a prisoner. Today his wounded Captain informs me with certainty
of his decease. He was shot through the body in the first charge of the
Crescent Regiment from this City on Monday, 7th April & lingered until
Tuesday morning 8th inst. & was surrounded by kind friends & attentive
surgeons who bore him off & attended his wants. I will procure his body as
soon as Genl Beauregard will allow, Dr. Stille having kindly marked the
spot he was buried on. I cannot describe the grief of his widow & with
sorrow write these few lines.

I remain aff

Your Bro.

D. H. Todd

Special Order No.87, dated June 17, 1862 and signed, by Brigadier Gen-
eral. M. L. Smith, Dept. of Mississippi and East Louisiana assigned First Lieu-
tenant. D. H. Todd to the 22nd Regiment of Louisiana Volunteers. ³⁰ Six days
later, on June 23, 1862, he signed a requisition as "Captain, Co. A, 22nd Regt."
for 20 pair shoes, 10 pair pants, 10 pair drawers, 10 shirts and 10 pair shoes,
"my men having worn out their clothing in 12 months service". The official or
effective date of his promotion is unknown. His service with this regiment
continued until the end of the war. The regiment, which had actually trained as
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heavy artillery, had other designations and so did the company which was sometimes consolidated with other units to form an artillery battery detachment.

The military situation in the Department of Mississippi and East Louisiana in the spring of 1862 was dominated by strategies concerning control of the Mississippi River. The Union wanted such control in order to split the Confederacy and restore free commerce to the politically important Northwest. The river cities New Orleans, Vicksburg and Memphis were critical to this control and in April 1862 a Union fleet under Flag Officer David G. Farragut began operations against New Orleans. The city was captured on May 1, 1862, Baton Rouge fell on May 8 and Farragut arrived at Vicksburg on May 18 to demand its surrender. The demand to surrender was emphatically refused and after a few days of ineffectual shelling, Farragut sailed back to New Orleans. He returned to Vicksburg on June 25^h and passed the city's defensive batteries on June 28 with tremendous shelling on both sides. It was at this critical stage in the defense of Vicksburg that Captain David Todd joined the action which is described in Bergeron's history of the 22nd Louisiana Infantry: ³¹

At Vicksburg, Company A, now under Captain David H. Todd, a brother-in-law to President Abraham Lincoln, was placed in Battery No. 8, which consisted of two 42-pounder smoothbores and two 32-pounder rifles on navy carriages. This battery was located near the Marine Hospital, about a half mile below the city and about fifty or sixty feet above the river, and was also known as the Marine Hospital Battery. Just where Company C was stationed is unknown, but it may have helped Company A at the Marine Hospital Battery.

Todd's battery was fired on occasionally by Federal gunboats from May 27 until June 21, but his men did not return the fire because General Smith had ordered his batteries not to do so unless the enemy came into close range (note: Todd did not join the unit until about June 25). The situation changed on June 28 when Farragut's fleet ran the Vicksburg batteries in attempt to knock them out. The Marine Hospital Battery was fired upon by each vessel as it passed and received special attention from the U.S.S. *Hartford*. Farragut's flagship forced Todd's men to abandon their guns and seek protection in their bombproofs. Once the *Hartford* got under weigh again, the men returned to their stations and 'renewed their fire with precision.'

As Edwin Bearss records,

Todd's gunners next engaged gunboats from the mortar fleet and the U.S.S. *Brooklyn*. The resulting momentary confusion among the enemy vessels gave Todd's men relatively stationary targets. Seizing their temporary advantage, they hit and disabled two of the gunboats with 32-pounder shells. The rest of the vessels withdrew rather than risk

Shapiro: Captain David H. Todd: "A Brother of Mr. Lincoln's Wife" running the gauntlet of Confederate fire. During the day the Confederate guns had been silenced intermittently but none had been disabled. Farragut had learned that only a land assault would reduce the Southern citadel.³²

The remainder of the operations were rather uneventful for Todd's men and the Union fleet withdrew on July 27. Highly praising his battery commanders and their men for their excellent defense of Vicksburg, General Smith noted that:

For more than seventy-five days and nights have these batteries been continuously manned and ready for action at a moment's notice; during much of this time the roar of cannon has been unceasing, and there have been portions of it during which the noise of falling shot and the explosion of shells have been such as might make the stoutest [sic] heart quail, yet none faltered; the blazing sun, the fatiguing night-watch, the storm of battle, all were alike cheerfully endured, and whenever called upon heavy and telling blows were dealt upon our foes in return. This last was from Brigadier General M. L. Smith's report on the operations at Vicksburg, May 18 — July 27, 1862.³³ General Smith also wrote:

It will thus be seen that the enemy were in front of Vicksburg sixty-seven days, during which the combined efforts of two powerful fleets have been foiled, and the accompanying land force, from 4,000 to 5,000 held at bay. The number of shot and shell thrown by the fleet is unknown; it had been estimated as high as 25,000 and put as low as 20,000. The number, however, is unimportant, and mentioned only to illustrate the fact that the loss to a land battery when attacked by one afloat is comparatively small. The casualties from the enemy's firing were 7 killed and 15 wounded; in the town 2 only are reported. The enemy fired at least ten shots to our one, and their number of killed and wounded can, from information, be safely put down at five times as great.

The companies of the regiment remained at Vicksburg through the summer and into the fall and then moved into the defensive perimeter of the city to counter General Grant's converging assault. Grant planned this operation early in November 1862 after his appointment as Commander, Department of Tennessee, on October 16. To this end, Sherman led an expedition down the river from Memphis to attack the city from the north, while Grant himself advanced overland from the east. Confederate cavalry under Van Dorn and Forrest cut Grant's line of communications, forcing him to retreat, and Sherman was repulsed in the battle of Chickasaw Bluffs. In January 1863, Grant concentrated his army across the river from Vicksburg. After several unsuccessful attempts to gain an approach to the seemingly impregnable city (February – March 1863), Grant in April began a brilliant move to capture the city from the south. He moved south and crossed the

river on Commodore Porter's fleet which had passed the Vicksburg batteries on the night of April 16-17. Joined by Sherman on May 7, he marched northeast and then turned west at Jackson. After defeating the Confederates at Champion's Hill and Big Black River Bridge, he eventually began the six-week siege of Vicksburg which culminated in the surrender on July 4, 1863.

In his history of the 22nd Louisiana Infantry, Bergeron writes (and in so doing compounds the inaccuracies of David Todd's demise), "the men of the 21st (the regimental designation had been changed in January, 1862) all became prisoners. During the siege the regiment's casualties had totaled 2 officers and 14 men killed, 7 officers and 43 men wounded, and one deserter. One of the wounded officers was Captain David H. Todd, who died in 1866 as a result of his injury."³⁴

At Vicksburg, on July 8, 1863, Todd gave his parole under oath as "Captain, Co. A, 21st Regt. Louisiana Vols., C. S. A." The regiment, now a part of Brigadier General. Louis Hébert's Brigade, moved to Demopolis, Alabama, during the last days of July or the first part of August to await exchange. On September 2, 1863, the 21st moved to a better – organized parole camp near Enterprise, Mississippi. David Todd spent much of this period on leave in Selma, Alabama, presumably with his sister, Elodie. As Bergeron concludes his history of the regiment:

On December 26 the regiment was partially exchanged, and within several days it was armed and equipped. Lieutenant General Leonidas Polk ordered on January 16, 1864, that the remnants of the 3rd, 17th, 21st, 22nd, 26th, 27th, 29th and 31st Louisiana regiments remaining east of the Mississippi be consolidated into one regiment. Consolidation accomplished by January 26, the new unit was designated the 22nd Louisiana Consolidated Infantry, or 22nd Heavy Artillery, with 780 men....During its Civil War career, the 22nd (21st) Louisiana Infantry had proven itself to be one of the finest heavy artillery units in the Confederate army despite the fact that that its men's disparate professional backgrounds had not prepared them for this aspect of military service.... Punishing blows were dealt to Federal gunboats and ironclads at Vicksburg and twice at Snyder's Bluff. So highly esteemed was the 22nd that it was assigned the task of defending the largest and most important fort on the Confederate line behind Vicksburg, a feat it performed exceptionally well. When the men were mustered into the new 22nd Consolidated Infantry, it could truly be said of them that they had borne themselves 'with distinguished gallantry.'³⁵

The records of David Todd's remaining Civil War service are incomplete, perhaps because he was on "detached" service for much of the time. The service began with another undesirable assignment outlined in a Spe-

Shapiro: Captain David H. Todd: "A Brother of Mr. Lincoln's Wife" cial Order issued at "Headquarters – Demopolis, Ala.," dated February 23, 1864:

Capt. D. Todd P.A.C.S. will proceed at once, with a detail of Two Officers and Ten Men to Selma Ala. and report to Capt. J. C. Graham A.Q.M.[Assistant Quartermaster] to assist in impressing horses for the Artillery of this Army. Quartermaster will furnish the necessary transportation.

By Command of Lieut. Genl. Polk

Sd. Actg. Chf. Of Artillery

This was followed by a receipt for \$180.00 for his personal expenses from the February 24 – 9 March 1864; a receipt for \$87.60, dated February 22, 1864 from Selma Arsenal for "1 Officers Saddle, 1 Breast Strap and 1 Gripper, for his own use;" and two "Requisitions for Forage," also at Selma, dated May 17 and June 1, 864. These requisitions were signed, "D. H. Todd, Capt. 21st La Rgt., Act (or Asst) Chf. Artillery, Lorings Div." All but two of the remaining papers pertain to another degrading situation he encountered in his assignment as Impressing Officer:

The incident, described in the following letters, occurred while he was performing his duties as Impressing Officer in the town of Claiborne, Monroe County, Alabama, in April 1864:

Meadow Bank, near Claiborne, Alabama

April 21, 1864

To the Honorable James A. Seddon
Secretary of War of the Confederate States

We have had & yet have at Claiborne, a captain D. H. Todd calling himself impressing officer acting under authority of Maj. A. M. Paxton, assistant Quarter Master, and against whom I prefer the annexed charges which I am prepared to establish. He has come here with the annunciation that he is the Brother in Law of Mr. Lincoln. I address this communication to you & hope to have early action in the matter. I am Respectfully

Your Obdt Servant

Robert G. Scott

1st I charge Cap. D. H. Todd with duplicity & deception in the discharge of his official duties as impressing officer of the Confederate States in the county of Monroe, acting as he represents under (authority) of Major A. M. Paxton, assistant Quarter Master.

2nd I charge him with insulting and striking in his office a citizen of the county of Monroe & otherwise maltreating him; that citizen being in the office attempting to transact business with the said Todd, & while the said officer was surrounded by his soldiers.

3rd I charge him with giving a false certificate in reference to impressed property.

4th I charge him with taking and holding property as condemned for the Confederate States & as regularly appraised for the Confederate Government that he never previous to such appraisement offered to purchase at any price.

5th I charge him with receiving a gift made to him individually of a horse from one with whom he had just transacted business in reference to the impressment of horses for the Confederate States.

Robert G. Scott

April 21, 1864

Mr. Scott wrote a second letter, dated April 27, 1864 to General Polk with the same five charges, but with a different introductory paragraph:

To Lt General L. Polk

Sir,

A Captain D. H. Todd calling himself impressing officer acting under authority of Major A. M. Paxton, has been here, & against whom I prefer the annexed charges & which I am prepared to establish. I am an entire stranger to you, but refer you the Honorable Mr. Lyon, member of Congress from the District in which Demopolis is, & to the Honorable Willis P. Bocock of the county of Marengo. I ask the arrest of D. H. Todd, if really a Confederate officer, & his trial. Be pleased to give me an early reply. I am

Your obdt Servt

Robert G. Scott

The letter did make its way to the Secretary of War, received his endorsement, and was sent by the Adjutant & Inspector General on May 28, 1864, to Major A. M. Paxton who was in charge of "Impressing Animals in Alabama" and directed him to investigate the charges.³⁶ It was noted on the correspondence that, "The writer is a responsible citizen of Alabama." Indeed he was; as noted by Thomas Owen in his *History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography*:

Scott, Robert Gormain, lawyer, was born December 22, 1791, at Savannah, Ga., and died 1870 at Claiborne, Monroe County....He graduated at the University of Georgia and at William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va. where he practiced law before settling in Richmond, Va. He was a member of the Virginia legislature and afterward was elected a member of the council of state. He was a noted criminal lawyer and had a large practice outside of Virginia. He was a captain of cavalry in the War of 1812, a Democrat in politics and consul to Rio de

Shapiro: Captain David H. Todd: "A Brother of Mr. Lincoln's Wife" Janeiro, Brazil, under President Polk. At the age of seventy- five, he went to Mobile and volunteered to defend the city during the war of secession.³⁷

Major Paxton apparently replied to Mr. Scott on June 8, 1864 and Scott wrote to him on June 17, 1864:

Meadow Bank Near Claiborne, Alabama
June 17, 1864

Major A. M. Paxton

Sir,

Your letter of the 8th inst was received by me on the 14th just as I was about to leave home & I now hasten on my return to answer it: It has now been nearly two months since I preferred charges against a certain D. H. Todd acting as impressing officer; & hearing nothing officially of them (although I could hear he had knowledge of them by some instrumentality) I had concluded that the charges were deemed of too little importance by those high in authority for any notice from them. By your communication however, I am notified that they have been referred to you for investigation, & you inform me that the charges are in some respect indefinite, & you ask of me to be more specific. Before proceeding to comply with this request I have to enquire of you, if I make these charges specific & distinct, in what manner is the "investigation" to be made by you? – Shall I be heard in that investigation, & be permitted by proof to establish the charges I have made? – Will the proof be an oath, & be subject to cross examination? – Will the investigation be open or secret? – I ask to be informed on these points, as I learn the man accused has been busy in procuring certificates & endeavoring to forestall the enquiry into his conduct. I have nothing to conceal in this matter & I have in advance frankly to say that if the "investigation" is to [be] conducted before you upon such materials & secretly I would scorn to have part in it & I would not value it as worth a pepper corn. Give me a prompt reply to this, & I will according to what you inform me shape my future action in this matter.

Very Respectfully

Robert G. Scott

The "certificates" that Mr. Scott mentioned are apparently the three letters supporting Captain Todd that were in the CSR. One of the letters is completely illegible and the other two were written by Samuel Forwood of Gosport, Clarke County, Alabama:
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To Capt. David H. Todd

Dear Sir,

You having informed me on yesterday that Col. R. G. Scott had preferred charges against you in regard to the performance of your duties as an "Impressing Officer" in impressing Horses whilst at Claiborne. One of the charges made by Col. Scott you informed me was that I had bribed you by giving you one of my Horses. I take occasion to say here it is an emphatically a foul and slanderous falsehood.

In this statement I will mention the facts as they occurred in reference to my Presenting you a Horse. After you had examined my Horses and refused them saying they were not suitable for artillery service, I afterwards insisted on your taking one of them as I wished to do something for the Government and said to you as an evidence of the fact, that I would present you with one, the largest Horse of them. You asked me if I meant it as a present to yourself. My reply was you were not a Government Officer. You answered in the affirmative. I then said I will present him to you; you replied that you could not accept of him, unless I would make you a Deed of Gift to him. I told you to write one out for your own benefit & use which was done and I signed it. On these terms you accepted it and mentioned previously you could not on any other terms, saying you might be accused of Impressing Horses for the Government and then appropriating them to your own use. I think I have recited the substance of the Horse case. Mr. Seymour and two other men were present and I am satisfied they will endorse the same.

I will further take occasion to state that I never saw you in my life only short time the day before when I went to Claiborne to see you to get you to come over to my House to get my Horses. You informed me that I must bring them the next morning which I did and the result was what I have stated in the foregoing. Sir I had, and still have, a better opinion of you than to have offered you a Horse to bribe you even had there been the remotest occasion to have done it. And will say even though I am 65 years of age I would spit in any man's face that would ask one of me.

I will further add in justice to you, as I think, no man could have given more satisfaction by doing impartial Justice than yourself, so far as came under my own knowledge.

There are men who ranted and bellowed for the war before it commenced - thinking it would be over before breakfast. But now call upon them to fight, or assist by giving a part of their substance to carry it on, you will find them the most cold & complaining beings in the Confederacy. They are mad with every body who will call upon them to help, or to fight. They will do neither if not forced. I say force them.

Respectfully Yrs.

S. Forwood

Capt. D. H. Todd

Selma, Ala

Dear Sir,

I wrote out a statement of facts in the Horse Present case, or as is insinuated by old Col. R. G. Scott, the Horse Bribery case. I put the letter on board the Steamer Rindin? myself today. I met the Col. on board of her and took him to one side and told him I understood he had preferred charges against you and that one of them was that I had bribed you by presenting you with a Horse. He denounced it as false. He took out the paper preferring charges against you and read them. He has several charges, and the Horse amongst this list. He says that he does not mean in the charge that you were bribed but that it was improper conduct in you to have received the Horse being Government Impressing Officer. It matters not to me in what light he places on it. So that he denied to me of saying it was a Bribe given by me to you. I read him the most of my letter, all of it, as far as the Horse matter was concerned, and sealed it in his presence. He asked if I was going to send it to you with out explaining what he said. I then opened it again and got the slip of Paper enclosed from the Clk. of the Boat and wrote what you will find on it. The Boat was about leaving. I did not have time to say more, consequently write now to explain fully.

Now I will give you what he says. He said he was a going to persist in the preferring of the charges to the death. My own opinion of them is they are simple and silly and founded in malice, and if proposed ought not to be noticed by any sensible Board of men. I also think what he has said about the Horse, if he sends up any such charge, though he avers to me was not a charge of bribery against me (as in my presence he dared not to make such a charge against me) that by the insinuating manner in which he has written it out it was intended to bear that light against you and common sense would say if you were guilty I participated in it and must be equally so. You are at liberty to use my letter as you please. I have had no connivance and have no secrets to conceal.

Mr. Jas. R. Bettis, Frank Nichols & Mr. Seymour will all endorse what I said in reference to the statement in regard to presenting you the horse.

It is a ponderous document of nonsense. I wrote to Lorenzo James, stating the facts you wished him to give about the Fuss. Right here I will say to you what Col. Scott said to me shortly after it happened. He said he was raising his stick to strike you but you struck to quick for him and knocked him down and persons present separated you. Otherwise he would have hurt you before he would have been done with you.

S. Forwood

I have no stamps to pay Postage, being out, will send this on the morning Boat.

David Todd replied to the charges preferred against him by Robert G. Scott in a letter to Major A. M. Paxton dated September 27, 1864:

Selma, Ala, Sept 27, 1864

To Major A. M. Paxton
Chf Insp Field Transpn
Brandon, Miss

Sir

I am today in receipt of a Copy of the charges preferred against me by R. G. Scott a citizen of Monroe County Ala. To these charges I give a most distinct and positive denial and state they are malicious, false & unfounded, as well as absurd and ridiculous.

Previous to my entering Monroe County, and while on duty under your orders in the adjoining county of Wilcox, I notified the citizens of Monroe Co that I would attend at Claiborne, and Monroeville on certain days for the purpose of impressing artillery horses for the army then at Demopolis under Lt Genl Polk.

This R. G. Scott took great pains as I learned on my arrival in Monroe Co, to create a bad feeling amongst the Citizens of his County, not only against the duties I had to perform (already sufficiently disagreeable) but also against me personally, as being the Brother-in-Law of Mr. Lincoln, President of the U. S. This fact caused me some trouble and created a bad impression, which it required sometime to remove.

In the pursuance of my duties, I have always strictly adhered to the Law and the instructions furnished me: Giving notices of desire to purchase and in cases of impressment furnishing certificates on forms furnished for that purpose from the Quarter Master's Department.

It is true that a scuffle took place in my office at Claiborne, but caused in the endeavor to protect myself from assault made by this same R. G. Scott upon me (he being a very old man and feeble). When he entered my office, he commenced a furious tirade of abuse because I had impressed from his wife (he owning no property) a pair of carriage horses. He accused me of making a false certificate, of being a liar and used every term of abuse an angry man could. I told him I wished he had twenty years less upon his head; that his age protected him from my just resentment. Finally he raised

Shapiro: Captain David H. Todd: "A Brother of Mr. Lincoln's Wife"
his cane to strike me, when I attempted to take from him the cane and in the scuffle for it, he fell to the floor. I did not strike him, though he well deserved a good beating from me. I append statement made by an intimate friend of Col Scott & a statement made by other citizens of Monroe County who were present at the time of the difficulty, which shows distinctly the forbearance I exercised.

As to the 5th charge – I accepted a horse from Col S. Forwood – a stranger to me. This gift from, so far from being a stain, I consider a great complement to me. Few officers on such duty can expect to make friends amongst the citizens however courteous and impartial.

I have good reason to believe I left behind me many friends and but one enemy in Monroe County that I know of, although I am conscious I performed my duty.

I could readily produce the evidence of my clerk and two other soldiers present at the time of the difficulty, said men being in the escort of Genl Hood, but think the evidence of citizens sufficient to prove the charges malicious, and having their origin in the brain of an irritable, arbitrary and avaricious dotard.

I am, very Respectfully
Your Obdt Servt
David H. Todd
Capt. 21 La Regt

There was no official document giving the final disposition of this case in the CSR's or in the Record Group 109 Letters at the National Archives. There was, however, this letter from Major G. W. Holt, Office of the Adjutant and Inspector General:

Meridian, Sept 6, 1864

Capt. D. H. Todd

Capt.

Your communication was received yesterday and in answer to your question I will inform you that I think you need not trouble yourself about the matter any longer. The letters you sent to me relieved you from all censure in the case, and the charges were deemed absurd. The reason the papers have not been returned to you is because they were referred to Maj. Paxton and he has not as yet returned them. Hoping this will prove satisfactory.

I am Capt.
Your Obd Sv
GW Holt, Maj A IG
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The remaining documents of interest in the CSR's were David Todd's application for disability retirement from the hospital at Marion, Alabama, dated January 6, 1865, which was mentioned earlier and his parole after the surrender given at Meridian, Mississippi, and dated May 15, 1865. His illness probably accounts for the lack of documentation in his records for the last eight months of the war.

The circumstances of David Todd's marriage on April 4, 1865, in Marion, Alabama, to the young widow, Susan Turner Williamson, of Huntsville, Alabama, were told (so far as they were known) in my earlier article concerning him.³⁸ They moved to Huntsville in late April 1865, and took up residence in the Turner home at the corner of Franklin and Gates. David apparently joined his father-in-law, Daniel B. Turner, in his mercantile business which had its beginnings in the early 1820's. A daughter, Elise, was born to the couple on January 22, 1866. In order to regain the rights of full citizenship, David Todd applied in May 1867 for a pardon under President Andrew Johnson's amnesty proclamation of May 29, 1865. Johnson's proclamation supplemented President Lincoln's proclamation of December 8, 1863, which declared a general amnesty for most persons, but required applications for special pardons for seven classes of persons such as Confederate officials and Confederate military officers above the rank of colonel. Under Johnson's proclamation, 14 classes of persons were excluded from the general amnesty. The pardons of the 95 Madison County, Alabama residents in these categories are discussed in an earlier article by the author.³⁹ David Todd's request for pardon and the recommendation by his cousin, J.B. S. Todd, are shown below:

Huntsville, May 15, 1867

His Excellency
Andrew Johnson
President
Washington DC

Mr. President

Having taken an active part in the late war on the side of the South & having since the surrender of all the Southern armies taken at Nashville Tenn the oath described under the "Amnesty Proclamation" I would respectfully request that you grant me dispensation from the penalties of being worth more than \$20, 000 & having as a soldier in the Mexican war, taken an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, both exceptions being disqualifications to vote or have anything but an existence or privilege of living in my home with a keen patriotic feeling. I fought in

<https://louis.uah.edu/huntsville-historical-review/vol28/iss4/5>

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1846-47 and with the same idea of duty in the last war to the best of my
ability & can again shoulder my gun in the defense of what is my country.
Prior years have satisfied me as to what is my country and to that is my
allegiance due.

Respectfully &
Your Servant
David H. Todd

Washington, D. C.
June 22nd 1867

The President:

I have the honor to enclose the application of David H. Todd of Huntsville,
Alabama, for a release and pardon of the laws and penalties incurred in
consequence of participation in the late rebellion, and to respectfully rec-
ommend and request that Executive clemency be extended to him. His let-
ter is frank and explicit and the promise it contains explicit and positive.
Knowing him from his boyhood I have every confidence in his plighted
word. I also appeal to your Excellency's clemency in his behalf on my own
account – twenty years of active service in the army of the Unites States
and my services in the army during the late rebellion in defense of the
Union, I promise myself, will induce you to favor this application.

I am very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
J. B. S. Todd
Dakota Ty ⁴⁰

General J. B. S. Todd states that David Todd's letter is "frank and ex-
plicit" and it is certainly that and quite different from any of the other Madi-
son County applications. Its tone is what one might expect from a "soldier
of fortune" or, at least, a professional soldier and David Todd's career, to
that point, is even suggestive of the former. This characterization together
with the ever present factor of his special relationship could account for the
problems he encountered during his Richmond prison assignment. He prob-
ably thought his responses, the accounts of which may have been exagger-
ated, were required to maintain order and, so far as is known, no official
charges of cruelty were ever filed against him by either the Federal or the
Confederate government. It will be noted that even the frivolous charges of
Robert G. Scott were investigated expeditiously.

As yet, there is no other information available concerning David Todd's
remaining years. He died on July 30, 1871 and was probably buried near
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his father-in-law, Daniel B. Turner, in Plot 4-6-5 of Huntsville's Maple Hill Cemetery, but their stones have not survived. Turner died in January 1867. So let us think a little more kindly of Captain David H. Todd as we view the item below, which is a copy of his funeral notice in the Emile Todd Helm Helm Papers:

FUNERAL NOTICE

*The friends and acquaintances of the
Late CAPTAIN DAVID H. TODD and family, are
invited to attend his funeral at the Church
of the Nativity, this afternoon at
5 ° o'clock.*

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA August 1, 1871

APPENDIX

Camp near Corinth (Tennessee) April 21, 1862

Capt. D. Todd:

Dear Sir – I have just received your letter requesting particulars concerning the death of your brother, Sam'l B. Todd. He was my particular friend and I lament his loss as I would that of my own brother. We fought side-by-side unhurt through the battle of the 6th, and slept together that night in one of the enemy's tents. At about ten o'clock next day, when our regiment was making a charge upon the enemy, he fell, pierced through the lower part of the abdomen by what I suppose to have been a Minie ball, from the nature of the wound. As soon as possible afterwards, Lieut. Field, myself and two other men, carried him out of range in a blanket, procured an ambulance and sent him to the hospital. Our regiment was ordered to another part of the field, and I found it impossible to get an opportunity of seeing him afterwards

I understand that one of our men, named George French, who was wounded and returned to the city, stated before he left that your brother was put into one of our wagons, died on the way in to Corinth, and was buried by the side of the road. French can be found at French's Auction Store, Poydras St. See Directory. If this be true, I don't think that the men who were present, or who drove the wagon, belong to this regiment, as I have been unable to find any one who knows anything about it. If true, however, it would be easy to recover the body.

I have written to his widow, giving her the particulars of this unhappy affair, and should I obtain any further information I will communicate with you both.

Respectfully yours,

G. W. Stoddard

Shapiro: Captain David H. Todd: "A Brother of Mr. Lincoln's Wife"
Corinth (Tennessee) 22 April '62

Friend Dave,

Yours of the 18th at hand, I regret sincerely that even at this late date you should not be in possession of the facts concerning the death of your Brother. It certainly has been from no fault of mine, as I have made a special request of each member of the company who has returned (and there has been some 10 or 12) to see that your brother's family were made acquainted with all the particulars in our possession. I thought they might do this much as a large portion of our time, immediately after our return from Shiloh, was absorbed in getting their furloughs, discharges, etc.

Well to the facts: from the time I first met you brother at Camp Crescent to the time I last saw him, can heartily testify that he conducted himself in every respect as becomes a first class soldier. On Sunday he fought with us the whole day. On Monday morning we were under fire for a considerable length of time without being able to reply. The Washington Artillery was placed in battery, a very advanced position – we supported them under the most murderous fire you ever had any idea of. The Yankees advanced steadily, the whiz of the minie balls increased at a fearful rate. I heard the artillery boys calling on their mates for "Cannister," the Yankees were within 70 or 80 yards and becoming very visible. The artillery lumbered to the rear, one piece, of which one after another all the horses were shot down, by that delay lost our Regt some 3 or 4 gun shots – we were ordered to advance – done so – fired 3 or 4 rounds and drove the Yankees back and as we were in a very exposed position and the Yankees entirely under cover, we were ordered to fall back to a Ravine. It was in falling back that your brother was shot. I was not aware of his being absent when we formed in the Ravine, we had been there but a short time, however, when I saw him coming down the hill apparently wounded. Stoddard, myself and 2 or 3 others immediately ran to him. Bosworth unstrapped his blanket from his saddle and we put him in and carried him to the ambulance. He was shot by a minie ball, which I believe passed entirely through his body. I noticed the wound only in front in the lower part of the abdomen, from which the intestines protruded. We left him in the ambulance & cautioned the driver particularly about driving carefully. He seemed to think his wound mortal and the last remark in answer to mine saying "I hoped it was not serious" was "Ah. Lieut., I believe they have got me this time." The ambulance drove off and that was the last time I ever saw him. Private Geo. B. French (now in the City) says he saw him afterwards in the ambulance and talked with him and afterwards saw the driver of the same ambulance who told him that his friend (meaning your brother) had died and they had buried him. This is all the information I have about his death. You had better call

on French. I gave three or four little things from his effects to your brother (who called on me) and to your brother-in-law - have forgotten the names of both – the remainder I sent to his wife – there was very little, but you know how soon a soldier gets rid of all surplus weight.

I made the following mention of him in my report to the Colonel:

“ON the 7th, in the first charge, Private Samuel B. Todd was mortally wounded (I may be permitted to observe that he is a brother-in-law of Abraham Lincoln, Pres. of the Northern Republic). Both here and in the engagement on the previous day, he displayed remarkable coolness, bravery and courage. His loss will be a source of deep regret to his fellow soldiers. Always pleasant and ready to do his duty, either in the trenches with a spade or on the field of battle, he died as he had lived, a true Knight worthy to be remembered hereafter”.

You must excuse not only the composition but the lack of legibility as I am flat on my back in the Crescent Hospital.

Yours,

Seth R. Field

Lt. Cmdg.

Co. A

Cres.Reg.

ENDNOTES

¹ Norman M. Shapiro, “The Star of the Collection,” *The Huntsville Historical Review*, Vol. 24, No. 1 (Winter-Spring 1997), pp. 1-17.

² Jean H. Baker, *Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography* (NY: W. W. Norton, 1987), p. 223. Elizabeth “Betsey” Humphreys Todd, Robert Smith Todd’s second wife whom he married sixteen months after the death of his first wife, Eliza Parker Todd.

³ Justin G. Turner and Linda Levitt Turner, *Mary Todd Lincoln: Her Life and Letters* (NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1972), p. 155.

⁴ C. W. Hackensmith, “Family Background and Education of Mary Todd Lincoln,” *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Vol. 69 (July 1971), p. 192.

⁵ Emile Todd Helm was the only sibling of the “second” Todd family with whom Mary Lincoln maintained a close relationship during the war. She married Benjamin Hardin Helm, a distinguished Kentuckian and an 1851 graduate of West Point. A particular favorite of Lincoln, the President offered him a commission in the United States Army which he did not accept. He remained with the Confederacy, became a brigadier general, and was wounded and died at Chickamauga.

⁶ Katherine Helm, *The True Story of Mary, Wife of Lincoln, Containing the Recollections of May Lincoln's Sister Emilie (Mrs. Ben Hardin), Extracts from her War-Time Diary, Numerous Letters and Other Documents now First Published* (NY: Harper & Brothers, 1928).

⁷ William C. Davis, *Breckenridge: Statesman, Soldier, Symbol* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1974).

⁸ Shapiro, "The Star of the Collection," p. 9.

⁹ Baker, p. 222.

¹⁰ Much of the 1860 New Orleans Population Census, which might have described this endeavor, was not legible.

¹¹ Helm, p. 210.

¹² Nathaniel Henry Rhodes Dawson, *Papers, 1851 – 1915*, No. 210 of the Southern Historical Collection, manuscripts Department, Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

¹³ At the bottom of the page is written "Died at B. Rouge". Apparently the copyist confused David Todd with his youngest brother, Alexander H. Todd, who was killed at Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1862.

¹⁴ Theophilus Hunter Holmes was, in June 1861, Brig. General in the Provisional Confederate Army and then commanded Reserve Brigade at First Manassas.

¹⁵ *War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series II, Vol. III* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1897), p. 687.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 683.

¹⁷ William B. Hesseltine, *Civil War Prisons* (Kent, OH: The Kent State University Press, 1962), p. 5.

¹⁸ Ernest B. Ferguson, *Ashes of Glory: Richmond at War* (NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1996), p. 85.

¹⁹ Robert W. Wait, Jr., *Confederate Military Hospitals in Richmond*, Publication No. 22, Internet, www.mdgorman.com/general_hospital_24.htm.

²⁰ See Arch Frederic Blakey, *General John H. Winder, C. S. A.* (Gainesville, FL: University of Florida Press, 1990), p. 213.

²¹ Michael D. Gorman, *Civil War Richmond / Prisons*, Internet, www.mdgorman.com/prisons.htm.

²² This was the first of two battles near this place; the second battle was fought 29-30 August 1862. They were both Confederate victories. The Union called the battles, First and Second Bull Run.

²³ William H. Jeffrey, *Richmond Prisons, 1861 –1862* (St. Johnsbury, VT: The Republican Press, 1893).

²⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 13-14.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 14-15

²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 83.

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27 Ibid., p. 111.

28 Ibid., p. 131.

29 See, for example, C. T. Clyne, *Andersonville and Other Civil War Prisons, North and South* (Cincinnati OH: Cincinnati Civil War Roundtable, 1997), Internet, <http://members.aol.com/cinticwrt/anders.html>; and Harnett T. Kane, *Spies for the Blue and Gray* (Garden City, NY: Hanover House, 1954), p. 238, Internet, www.civilwarhome.com/crazybet.htm.

30 The regiment was organized March 28, 1862, from independent companies, as the 22d Regiment Louisiana Infantry and the designation changed about January, 1863, to the 21st (Patton's) Regiment Louisiana Infantry. It was consolidated with the 3d, 17th, 22d, 26th, 27th, 28th and 31st Regiments Louisiana Infantry by S. O. No. 16, Department of Alabama, Mississippi and East Louisiana, dated January 16, 1864 to form one regiment which was designated the 22d Regiment (Consolidated) Louisiana Infantry by Special Order No. 34, Department of Alabama, Mississippi and East Louisiana, dated February 3, 1864. Battle History: New Orleans (April 18-25, 1862); Vicksburg Bombardments (May 18-July 27, 1862); Chickasaw Bayou (December 27-29, 1862); Snyder's Mill (December 27, 1862); Fort Pemberton (March 11-April 4, 1863); Snyder's Bluff (April 30-May 1, 1863); Vicksburg Campaign (May-July, 1863); Vicksburg Siege (May-July, 1863).

31 Arthur W. Bergeron, Jr., "They Bore Themselves with Distinguished Gallantry: The Twenty-Second Louisiana Infantry," *Louisiana History*, Vol. 13, No. 3 (1972), pp. 268-270.

32 Edwin C. Bearss, *Rebel Victory at Vicksburg* (Vicksburg, MI: The Vicksburg Centennial Commemoration Commission, 1963), p. 137.

33 *War of the Rebellion, Series I, Vol. XV*, p. 10.

34 Bergeron, pp. 279-280.

35 Ibid.

36 The letter sent to the Secretary of War and endorsements was in File 657-T-1864 (Letters Received by the Confederate Adjutant & Inspector General's Office) and was obtained from Record Group 109: War Department Collection of Confederate Records at the National Archives.

37 Thomas McAdory Owen, *History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography, Vol. III* (Chicago: J. S. Clarke, 1921), p. 1511.

38 See Shapiro, "The Star of the Collection."

39 Norman M. Shapiro, "The Pardons of Madison County," *The Huntsville Historical Review*, Vol. 22, No.1 (Winter-Spring 1995), pp. 1-29.

40 John Blair Smith (J. B. S.) Todd was David Todd's first cousin. A graduate of West Point, he was a brigadier general in the Union army during the war and the Dakota's first delegate to the U.S. Congress.