

# Col. Charles Stewart Todd (1791-1871)

By Jerry Long  
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Col. Charles S. Todd (1791-1871)



**Daviess County, Kentucky Celebrating Our Heritage, 1815-2015**  
**(Evansville, IN, M. T. Publishing Company, Inc., 2015) p.10:**

1871, 5-17

Col. Charles Stewart Todd died while on a visit to Baton Rouge, LA. He was chief of staff for Gen. Harrison in the War of 1812, served as Kentucky Secretary of State, representative in Kentucky Legislature, consul to Columbia and minister to Russia. In 1840 he wrote a book on Gen. William Henry Harrison. He was buried at Elmwood Cemetery, beside his wife, Letitia Shelby Todd, daughter of Isaac Shelby, the first governor of Kentucky.



**An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, KY.**  
**(Edwardsville, Il: Leo McDonough & Co., 1876) pp.37 & 40:**

COL. CHARLES STEWART TODD (DECEASED)

The Hon. Thomas Todd, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in King and Queens County, Virginia, on the twenty-third of January, 1765, and was the fifth in lineal descent from Thomas Todd, who emigrated from England and settled in Norfolk County, Virginia, August the eighth, 1637. At the age of twenty he emigrated to Kentucky, and having chosen the profession of law, the energy of his character, united to a naturally superior mind, carried him triumphantly through the difficulties presented to the study of a learned profession by the unorganized condition of frontier life, and to the supreme bench when the new territory had risen to the dignity of a State in the infant union. Judge Todd displayed such eminent judicial qualities of mind in adjusting the numerous difficulties arising out of the passage of the celebrated Land Law of Virginia that President Jefferson, in 1807, called him to the supreme bench of the United States, which position he held for twenty years, till his death on the seventh of February, 1826.

Charles Stewart Todd was born on the twenty-second (22d) of January, 1791, near Danville, in Lincoln County, Kentucky, and received his primary education at the Transylvania Seminary at Lexington, Kentucky. After a preparatory course in this institution, he was sent to the celebrated William and Mary college in Virginia, where he graduated in 1809. The following two years were spent in the study of law, the latter in attending a course of lectures by Judge Reeves and Gould at Litchfield, Connecticut. At the end of that time he received his license to practice and opened an office in Lexington, Kentucky.

But his legal career was cut short by the opening of the second war with Great Britain, in which he was destined to be a distinguished actor, and which was the opening of a long and brilliant career in the field and in the councils of the nation. Among the first to volunteer, he was elected ensign in one of the companies raised in Lexington. From this position he was advanced in a few months to a place in the quartermaster's department, which made him the acting quartermaster of the advance of the left wing of the northwestern army. In December he was appointed on General Harrison's staff as division judge advocate of the Kentucky troops, and in this capacity was the bearer one hundred miles across the wilderness, on snow and ice, of the confidential instructions of the commander in chief to General Winchester, previous to the disastrous affair of the river Raisin. From this period dates a friendship between Ensign Todd and General Harrison which ended only with the death of the latter. At the close of this campaign, through the earnest recommendation of the commander-in-chief, Ensign Todd received a commission as captain in the seventeenth regiment of infantry, and was soon afterward made aid to General Harrison, in which capacity he acted till after the battle of the Thames, receiving the highest praise in the official report of his commander.

In the pursuit of the British General, Proctor, after the battle of the Thames, Captain Todd and Major Wood distinguished themselves by the capture of the sword, papers, etc., of the defeated commander. Captain Todd then accompanied General Harrison down the lakes to the Niagara frontier and Sacketts Harbor, and thence to Cincinnati, having succeeded as deputy inspector general of the eighth military district. During the summer of 1814 he acted as adjutant general of the district, and was with General McArthur in his successful expedition into Canada in the fall of that year; and had the high honor of being credited, in the official report of that general, with a large share in the successful issue of the enterprise, and of being recommended for promotion for eminent services rendered the government. In March following he was promoted to the situation

of inspector general with the brevet rank of colonel of cavalry. No more fitting close to this short notice of the military career of the subject of this memoir can be written than the opinion of General Harrison, expressed in a letter to a member of the cabinet, "that Colonel Todd was the equal in bravery and superior in intelligence to any officer of his rank in the army."

At the termination of the war Colonel Todd returned to Kentucky and resumed the practice of law in Frankfort, where in 1816 he married the youngest daughter of Governor Shelby, who after having been the first governor of Kentucky, was again, in the hour of danger, called to the chief magistracy of the State. In this capacity, and as senior major-general of the Kentucky forces, commanding the left wing of the army at the battle of the Thames, he added new lustre to the military fame won as a leader in the glorious war of independence, and new laurels to the civic crown awarded to him for his services to the State.

Under Governor Madison, the successor of Governor Shelby, Colonel Todd was appointed Secretary of State, an office retained until the death of Governor Madison, when he resigned, and in the following year was elected to the legislature from Franklin County. In 1818 he was again elected to the same position, over Judges Bibb and Marshall and General Hardin. Soon after the expiration of his second term he was entrusted, with President Monroe, with a confidential mission to the government of Colombia, in South America. Returning to the United States after the successful accomplishment of his mission, he was again, in 1822, deputized to the capital of Colombia, bearing the recognition of the independence of that country. Some years after the termination of this second mission, Colonel Todd devoted himself to agricultural pursuits, on a beautiful farm in Shelby County. For several years he was vice president of the State Agricultural Society, and while writing a great deal on agricultural affairs, his ready pen was still wielded in the field of politics and religion. He was a warm personal and political friend of Mr. Clay, and supported his claims to the presidency, but as he withdrew from the canvass in 1835, he advocated the claims of General Harrison, and in 1840 was his enthusiastic supporter, writing, in connection with Mr. Drake, of Cincinnati, his life, which was received with such favor as to be used as a campaign document in the contest for the presidency. He accompanied General Harrison to Washington in February of the following year, and was with him when death severed the friendship that had existed between them since the memorable campaigns of 1812.

Under President Tyler Colonel Todd was appointed Minister to Russia. He reached St. Petersburg in 1841, and remained there for four years, to the entire satisfaction of the administration, receiving, among other distinctions, the compliment of being elected a member of the Imperial Agricultural Society, an honor never before awarded to a foreigner. At the close of his term of office a vote of thanks was given to him, and entered upon the journal, and upon his leaving the capital he was presented with a gold medal. In 1850 Colonel Todd, with General Robert B. Campbell and Oliver P. Temple, was appointed commissioner to treat with the Indians on the border of the United States and Mexico, One of the most important results of this commission was the attention drawn to the Southern Pacific Railroad, of which Colonel Todd was the pioneer and most ardent supporter. For three years prior to the late war he was vice-president of the road, and but for the breaking out of hostilities would doubtless have seen the enterprise an accomplished fact. Residing in Texas at the commencement of the war, he in 1861 removed to Owensboro, Kentucky, which remained his home until his death, which occurred from pneumonia during a visit to his daughter, Mrs. Russel, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, May the sixteenth, 1871. He was buried in the Todd lot at Elmwood cemetery, near Owensboro, and over his remains arises a shaft of pure white marble, emblematical of the strength and purity of character of the Soldier, Statesman, Diplomat, and patriot who lies beneath.



**History of Daviess County, Kentucky,**  
**(Chicago, IL: Inter-State Publishing, Co., 1883) pp.151-154:**

Colonel Charles S. Todd, a distinguished politician and statesman, was for many years a resident of this county and was the son of the late Thomas Todd, who filled the high office of Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States, he was born near Danville, Ky., on 22d January, 1791, and graduated with high reputation, at the ancient university of William and Mary in Virginia in 1809, and in 1810 attended a course of lectures in Litchfield, Conn., by Judges Reeves and Gould.

In 1811 he established a law office in Lexington, but at that time the second war with Great Britain broke out and he took part in the contest, and in 1812 volunteered his services and was elected ensign in one of the companies from Lexington, though before the march of the troops in August, was appointed to a situation in the Quartermaster General's Department which made him, the acting Quartermaster of the advance, of the left wing, of the North-western Army. In December he was appointed into General Harrison's staff, as Division Judge Advocate of the Kentucky troops. In this capacity he was the bearer, 100 miles across the wilderness on ice and snow, of the confidential instructions from the Commander-in-chief to General Winchester, previous to the disastrous affair of the river Raisin. McAfee's History of the war, Butler's History of Kentucky, and Judge Hall's life of Harrison, all speak of incidents in this campaign, in which Ensign Todd's enterprise and intrepidity were highly commended. He was appointed to a vacancy of Captain in the Seventeenth Regiment of Infantry, and after commanding the recruiting rendezvous of the regiment at Newport, was transferred to an original vacancy in the Twenty-eighth Regiment of Infantry attached to the brigade of General Cass and was appointed aid to General Harrison.

During the summer of 1814 Major Todd acted also as Adjutant General of the district and is thus handsomely noticed in General McArthur's report of the expedition into Canada during that fall: " I have the support of the troops in assuring you, that to the military talents, activity and intelligence of Major Todd, who acted as my Adjutant General, much of the fortunate, progress and issue of this expedition is attributable."

In march following he was promoted to the position of Inspector General with the brevet rank and pay of Colonel of Cavalry. Upon the disbandment of the army in 1815 he returned to his profession at Frankfort, and in 1816 married the youngest daughter of Governor Isaac Shelby.

Soon after he was appointed "Secretary of State" by Governor Madison. Colonel Todd resigned this office upon the death of Governor Madison, and the year following was elected to the Legislature from Franklin County, and again in 1818.

In 1820 Colonel Todd was appointed Minister to Colombia, South America, upon a confidential mission, with the pay and duties of a *charge d'affaires*. He returned to the United States in 1821, and resumed his position at the capital of Colombia in 1822, bearing the recognition of the independence of that Government. At the close of the mission to Colombia, in 1824, Colonel Todd returned to the United States, and established himself upon a tract of land in Shelby County, originally located by Governor Shelby. In 1837 to '39 he served as a commissioner in the Presbyterian General Assembly, in Philadelphia, by which the separation was effected, he sustaining the Old School party. In 1840 he was invited by the committees of Ohio and Kentucky, in connection with the late Benj. Drake, of Ohio, to prepare sketches of the civil and military

history of General Harrison. He then assumed the editorial charge of the Cincinnati Republican, devoted to the support of General Harrison's claims to the Presidency. Colonel Todd accompanied General Harrison to Washington, and remained with him as a member of his family during the short interval that he occupied the Presidential chair, and as the last sad office accompanied his remains to North Bend, and by request of Mrs. Harrison selected the spot for his burial.

On the death of Harrison, President Tyler, desiring to carry out the wishes of Harrison, appointed Colonel Todd Envoy-Extraordinary to St. Petersburg, and John Lathrop Motley, was chosen first Secretary of Legation, and they reached St. Petersburg early in November, 1841.

The Emperor of Russia held him in high esteem, and he was elected a member of the Imperial Agricultural Society, the only compliment of the kind ever paid an American citizen. His mission to Russia expired in 1846, and he returned to the United States. In 1850 he accepted a mission, in company with Robert B. Campbell and Oliver P. Temple, tendered them by the United States Government, to treat with the Indian tribes on the borders of the United States and Mexico.

Colonel Todd was among the first of American statesmen who advocated and demonstrated the practicability of the Pacific Railroad from the Mississippi, through Texas to El Paso, and was elected Vice-President of the road upon its organization, and held that position up to the breaking out of the late war.

Colonel Todd then removed to Owensboro, and was appointed United States Assessor by President Lincoln for Southwestern Kentucky, which position he retained during the war, when his feeble health and increasing years would not permit him to engage any longer in public life, and the last years of his life were spent with his children in Owensboro, Ky. He was reared in the military school of Harrison and was a pupil in the diplomatic school of Monroe, and with his ripe experience in public affairs and high mental accomplishments, united to courteous and graceful manners, was worthy to have been associated with such eminent patriots and illustrious statesmen as Madison, Monroe, Adams, Harrison, Clay and Webster. After having discharged faithfully and with ability all the duties of the man, the soldier, the patriot and statesman, he died at an advanced age, while on a visit to his granddaughter, at Baton Rouge, La., May 16, 1871.



**Record of the Harris Family Descended From John Harris**  
**Born 1680 in Wiltshire, England, Joseph Smith Harris**  
**(Philadelphia, PA: Press of George F. Lasher, 1903) pp.41-44:**

Charles Stewart Todd was born in Lincoln county, Kentucky, and was educated at William and Mary college, Williamsburg, Virginia, in 1807, 1808 and 1809. He was graduated in law at Litchfield, Connecticut, where was the foremost law school of that time, in the early spring of 1812, and began at once the practice of his profession in Lexington, Kentucky. He enlisted in the summer of 1812 as an ensign in the local military company which was called into service on the outbreak of the war of 1812. During the next winter he was promoted to a captaincy of the Twenty-eighth Infantry, May, 1813, and was appointed aide-de-camp and assistant inspector-general May 20, 1813, on General William Henry Harrison's staff, in which capacity he served at the Battle of the Thames, October, 1813. He was appointed November 1, 1813, assistant inspector-general with the rank of major, and was assigned to duty in the eighth district, comprising the states of Kentucky and Ohio, and the territories of Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Missouri. He resigned his commission in 1815, and resumed the practice of law in Frankfort, Kentucky.

In 1817 he was, for a few months, Secretary of State in the Administration of Governor Madison, who died soon after his inauguration.

In 1818 he abandoned the practice of law, and settled on a fine farm called 'Stockdale' in Shelby county, Kentucky, which land had been surveyed for, and patented to his wife's father, Governor Isaac Shelby, in April, 1776.

In 1820 Colonel Todd was appointed by President Monroe Charge d' Affaires, and in 1822 Minister to the State of Colombia, South America. It was during his administration of the latter office that President Monroe made the declaration in regard to the necessity of non-interference in American affairs by European powers, which has since been known as the Monroe doctrine. He returned from Bogota in 1825. On his way home in a United States frigate he was attacked by yellow fever when off Santiago, Cuba. His life was despaired of, and he was landed at Charlestown, South Carolina, to die. He did recover, but it was a singular consequence of his sickness that, whereas he had from his infancy hair of positive redness, it changed at the age of 34, before his arrival at home in Kentucky, to a dark brown, and so remained throughout his life, being but slightly tinged with gray when he died, at the age of 76 years. It is further worthy of note that all of his children had dark hair, and that among his descendants, which have now reached to the fifth generation, red heads occasionally appear, which can only be traced to Colonel Todd.

A stay of six weeks in Charlestown so far recruited his health that he was able to undertake the journey of six hundred miles on horseback to his Kentucky home, where his fine blue-grass farm became noted as a model of agricultural management, as well as the seat of a gracious hospitality.

During the Presidential campaign of 1840 Colonel Todd spent many months in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he edited the "Republican," and took an important part in promoting the candidacy of his old commander, General William Henry Harrison. President Harrison lived but one month after his inauguration, but John Tyler, his successor, carried out Harrison's wishes in appointing Colonel Todd Minister to Russia, which position he held from 1841 to 1845.

During the next Administration, which was democratic in politics, he held no office, but in 1850 President Fillmore appointed him one of the commissioners to treat with the Indians of western Texas and New Mexico, a region which had but lately come under our control, and which was inhabited by the fiercest and most intamable savages which have ever been wards of the government of the United States. The familiarity with the topography and with the possibilities of this region, which he acquired while engaged in this duty, led him to become one of the projectors of the Southern Pacific railroad, and when a company was formed to build it, he was elected to its vice-presidency. While he held that position he made his home at Marshall, Texas, where he lived till 1861, when he returned to Kentucky, settled at Owensboro, and was appointed by President Lincoln Assessor of Internal Revenue for the district of western Kentucky.

Colonel Todd was a successful man throughout his life, making a shining mark as a scholarly writer, a brilliant diplomatist and a distinguished soldier, and he is remembered as one of the ablest public servants whom his native state has produced.

His wife was the youngest daughter of Isaac Shelby, the first governor of Kentucky, and a granddaughter of General Evan Shelby, who was in command of all the troops which were actively engaged in the hard-fought battle, and the important victory over the Indians, known as the "Battle of Point Pleasant," or the "Battle of the Great Kanawha," which was fought at the confluence of the Ohio and Kanawha rivers, October 10, 1774. Theodore Roosevelt, in his history of the "Winning of the West," says that Evan Shelby was a stout old Marylander of Welsh blood, and that his son, Isaac Shelby, a stalwart, stern-visaged young man, was a subaltern in his father's

company, but was put at its head when, upon the wounding of Colonel John Field, the command of all the forces engaged devolved upon Evan Shelby. General Andrew Lewis was the commander of the expedition, but he was not in the field during the fighting.

The Shelbys were at this time citizens of the debatable land claimed by Virginia and North Carolina, which afterward became the eastern part of the state of Tennessee, and Isaac Shelby was, in 1779, made county lieutenant of Sullivan county, a part of that territory. October 7, 1780, he was in command of the left wing of the American army at the battle of King's Mountain, which was, perhaps, the most completely successful action fought by the Americans during the war of the Revolution.

He removed to Kentucky, of which he became the first governor 1792-6, and was again governor 1812-16. He was born in Maryland, December 11, 1750, and died in Kentucky, July 18, 1826.

Evan Shelby's wife was Letitia Cox, and the wife of Isaac Shelby was Susanna Hood, a daughter of Nathaniel Hood and Sarah Simpson. Colonel Hood was killed and scalped by the Indians at Boonesborough, Kentucky, in August, 1782.

A romantic story is told of the meeting of Letitia Shelby, the youngest daughter of Isaac Shelby, with Charles Stewart Todd, who afterward became her husband. After the disastrous battle of the River Raisin, Upper Canada, January 22, 1813, General Winchester, who was in command, sent Captain Todd with dispatches to Governor Shelby, apprising him of the disaster to the Kentucky troops. After a journey of great hardship and privation through pathless forests in the dead of winter, Todd arrived at the executive mansion at Frankfort to find the governor at the theater. With torn and mud-stained uniform, showing signs of his wrestle with the difficulties of his journey, and of his haste to deliver his dispatches, he entered the theater and presented them to "His Excellency's" box. They told of the defeat and capture of five Kentucky regiments, and almost every person in the audience had a relative or a friend whose life was in jeopardy. The whole theater sat in suspense while the governor perused them, and the suspense but grew greater when, burying his face in his hands, he gave them to his secretary that he might read them aloud.

But the sad tale was no new one to the messenger. During his long journey he had become habituated to the moving details, and his wandering gaze being soon arrested by the sight of Letitia Shelby, seated in her father's box, he fell at once a victim to her charms. Her portrait remains to testify to her great beauty, and she, on her part, found the herald a young hero, who captivated her fancy, so that a mutual attachment was then formed which led to their marriage at the executive mansion three years later. She was fourteen years old when they met, having been born June 11, 1799, and she died July 22, 1868. Colonel Todd outlived her nearly three years, dying while making a visit at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He and his wife lie buried at Elmwood cemetery, Owensboro, Kentucky.



**History of Owensboro and Daviess County, Kentucky, Hugh O. Potter**  
**(Montgomery, AL & Louisville, KY: Herff Jones-Paragon Publishing, 1974)**  
**pp.12-13:**

A modest, weather-worn gravestone in Elmwood cemetery marks the final resting place of one of Kentucky's outstanding and versatile citizens of the 18th and 19th centuries, Colonel

Charles Stewart Todd, who made Owensboro his home during the last seven years of his eventful life.

A lawyer, the son of a justice of the Supreme court, twice a member on the U. S. foreign service, a soldier, a politician who lived for a while in the White House at Washington, a legislator, an agricultural expert and lecturer, author of a presidential campaign biography, and a promoter of a transcontinental railroad, Col. Todd had a distinguished career, but unfortunately for Owensboro he was by then, as Abraham Lincoln described him in 1864, "once quite a man . . . now superannuated."

Col. Todd was a distant relative of Mary Todd Lincoln, and this was probably the reason he moved to Owensboro as the Assessor of Internal Revenue in 1861, after the election of the "great emancipator."

On Nov. 13, 1861, Col. Todd called on President Lincoln at the executive mansion in Washington and left with a note addressed to Secretary of War Simon Cameron, which said:

"This will be presented by Hon. Charles S. Todd, of Ky., a gentleman of high standing, as you will remember, and distantly related to Mrs. L. He was once 'Charge d'affaires' at Bogota, and once Minister to Russia. He will present strong recommendations from Kentuckians; and I hope you will, if possible, find some employment for him, in which he can help in our present troubles. Yours truly, A. Lincoln."

The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln, compiled by the Abraham Lincoln Association of Springfield, Ill., says in a footnote that although Col. Todd was "strongly recommended by John J. Crittenden in a letter of Nov. 6, 1861, there is no record of his appointment."

Col. Todd, then in his seventy-first year, apparently turned elsewhere when Secretary Cameron was unable to find a military assignment for him, for not long afterward, he was assigned to Owensboro as "assessor of internal revenue," for Southern Kentucky.

Three years after his first unsuccessful effort to find an office through the War Department, Col. Todd wrote a prominent former Kentuckian, Francis P. Blair, Sr., asking his help in getting assigned to New Orleans as an advisor to General Nathaniel P. Banks. He said he wished to live in New Orleans and that his salary at Owensboro was inadequate. He pointed out that "as a pupil of (General) Harrison and Minister to Military Governments guided by (Simon) Bolivar and (Czar) Nicholas," he would be valuable to General Banks.

On Christmas Eve of 1864 Lincoln penned a note to Secretary of War William H. Seward which snuffed out Todd's hopes of leaving Owensboro for a better post.

It read:

"Gen. C. S. Todd, once much of a man, is now superannuated, and would be an incumbrance upon the Commander in New Orleans, unjustifiable in me to impose upon him."

It was signed, simply, "A. Lincoln."

Lincoln's endorsement was written on Seward's letter of Dec. 23, 1864, to Representative George H. Yeaman of Owensboro.

Col. Todd was born in Lincoln county, Kentucky, between Danville and Stanford on January 22, 1791. His father was Judge Thomas Todd, chief justice of Kentucky and a member of the Supreme Court of the United States. Charles Todd studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1811. He located in Lexington, and the next year when the War of 1812 broke out, entered the service under Governor Shelby, who served with the rank of general. Todd rose from ensign to brevet colonel of cavalry in three years.

Prior to and during the Battle of the Thames, in which Kentucky troops won national acclaim for their gallantry and victory, Todd served as an aide to General William Henry Harrison. After the war Harrison wrote a member of the cabinet of President Madison that "Colonel Todd was equal in bravery and superior in intelligence to any officer of his rank in the army."

In 1816, back in Kentucky, Colonel Todd and Letitia Shelby, then 17 and the youngest daughter of the state's first governor, were married. In the same year he became secretary of state under then Governor Madison, and in 1817 and 1818 represented Franklin county in the Kentucky legislature.

Letitia Shelby was born on January 11, 1799, three years after her father, Isaac Shelby, retired as the first governor of Kentucky and thirteen years before he began his second term.

In 1820, Todd was appointed United States charge d'affaires in Colombia by President James Monroe. Colombia had just become a republic under the presidency of the South American liberator, Simon Bolivar.

Colonel Todd represented the United States at Bogota when Bolivar drove the Spanish troops out of Colombia in 1822, and returned to the United States in 1824 during a period of national disorder which preceded and followed Bolivar's assumption of dictatorial control of his country.

In Kentucky, Todd now devoted much of his time to the science of agriculture. He established himself on a tract of land about five miles north of Shelbyville in Shelby county, which had originally been located by Governor Shelby. The former governor built his daughter and Colonel Todd a brick home there which was a replica of the first governor's mansion at Frankfort.

While operating this farm Todd introduced the first blooded cattle in that section and experimented with bluegrass. He was elected vice president of the Kentucky State Agricultural Society and wrote articles and gave lectures on agricultural subjects.

Todd was active in Whig political circles and with Benjamin Drake prepared a life of General William Henry Harrison, which was published in 1840 and became a widely circulated campaign biography in that year's presidential election. Todd also became editor of the Cincinnati Republican which, despite its name, was the Whig political organ.

When General Harrison went to Washington in March of 1841 to become the chief executive, Colonel Todd went with him "as a member of his family" for the month that the old soldier survived his inauguration. President Harrison's death had special historical significance, since he was the first head of this nation to die in office.

Later in 1841, Col. Todd was appointed minister plenipotentiary to Russia by President Tyler, serving in that capacity until 1845.

While he was in Russia, Col. Todd was made a member of the Imperial Agricultural Society, an honor said to have been conferred on few foreigners. He also took an opportunity to visit the King of Sweden, who had been Bernadotte, the only one of Napoleon's marshals to retain a crown conferred on him by the little emperor.

In 1848 Todd was active in the presidential campaign of General Zachary Taylor.

Senator John J. Crittenden, with whom Todd served in the War of 1812 and was a longtime friend, had just been elected governor of Kentucky. Following his inauguration he turned his attention to the job of getting Gen. Taylor elected and sent Col. Todd to Pennsylvania and Ohio to speak for the presidential nominee. Pennsylvania was a doubtful state and part of the credit for swinging it to Taylor was given to Todd.

Two years afterward, in 1850, Col. Todd was appointed one of three commissioners to treat with Indian tribes on the Texas-Mexico border. While in Texas he wrote several articles about the

mineral and other resources of that country and advocated the construction of a railroad to the Pacific, by a southern route through Texas. When the Pacific railroad was organized, Todd was elected a vice president, but gave up the position when the Civil War began. It was a few months later that the Todds moved to Owensboro.

Mrs. Todd died on July 22, 1868. Col. Todd survived her by nearly three years. He was at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on a visit when he died on May 17, 1871. His body was returned to Owensboro and buried in the family plot in Elmwood Cemetery by the side of his late wife's body.



**Owensboro Monitor, Owensboro, KY, 16 May 1866, p.3:**

Personal

We were gratified on our return to our editorial labors to learn that our venerable fellow-citizen Col. C.S. Todd, had arrived safely last week at his home, after an illness of many weeks at Washington.— For this favorable result he was, in a great degree indebted to the management and affectionate care of his son Dr. C. H. Todd, who took him out of a sick bed, and brought him in the sleeping cars, on three successive nights to Cincinnati, and thence to his home by water.

We rejoice in his returning health, as well as in his promotion to the confidential and comprehensive office of Special Agent of the Treasury Department, which is a suitable tribute to his character and feeling after being superseded as Assessor, without any charges, and without the knowledge, and contrary to the wishes and expectations of the Kentucky delegation in Congress.

The new appointment is a commendable offering to this distinguished veteran of the war of 1812.



**Filson Club Historical Society, Louisville, KY:**

The Papers of Charles Stewart Todd

Collection consists of correspondence; papers concerning investment in Minn. lands; Todd's sketch of the life of Isaac Shelby; a muster roll, 1813, of the Kentucky Mounted Volunteers for service under William Henry Harrison; dates of commissions of general and field officers of Ky. troops in the War of 1812; Todd's map of the Battle of the Thames; and a scrapbook of newspaper clippings containing biographical data on Todd.

Correspondence consists of twenty-six letters, 1808-1816, to Todd from his father Judge Thomas Todd about his education, service in the War of 1812, and family affairs; letters between him and his wife, Letitia Shelby Todd; political letters from members of the Whig Party during the presidential campaign of Zachary Taylor; letters, 1861-1871, to Dr. Charles H. Todd from Todd, Letitia Todd, and Letitia Todd Carter; letters to Judge Thomas Todd from Isaac Shelby and others; and a 1790 letter from Harry Innes to George Muter. Other correspondents include Henry Clay, John J. Crittenden, J. Madison Cutts, John Maxwell, James Monroe, Charles B. Penrose, and Albert Pike.

Collection also includes a scrapbook of sketches about the civil and the military services of William Henry Harrison.



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 18 July 1909, p.6:**

### Valuable Volume Owned by Owensboro Man

One of the rare and curious volumes owned in Owensboro and having a local flavor for several reasons, is a well-preserved copy .of a work written in 1840 in defense of Gen. William Henry Harrison, who was, in that year, a successful candidate for the presidency on the Whig ticket. He defeated Martin Van Buren, who was elected to succeed Andrew Jackson In 1836. Hard times had come upon the country. Van Buren was a man of wealth and culture from the empire state of NewYork while Harrison, "Old Tippecanoe," was a, sort of rough-and-ready westerner, his home being in extreme Southwestern Ohio, near the Hoosier line. . The campaign proved to be one of the most exciting ever held in this country up to that day. Harrison's phase of it became known as the "hard cider campaign," because it was said that was the most expensive liquor, Harrison or his friends could afford. In sharp contrast with this Van Buren was placarded. and crudely, cartooned as imbibing only the finest wines. The log cabin and the coon skin tacked on its outer walls were also freely used, in Harrison's behalf , as they were again in 1888 in the interest of his grandson, Benjamin Harrison when he defeated Graver Cleveland.

Book By Chas. S. Todd.

The book referred to was written by Chas. S. Todd, father of Dr. C. H. Todd, of this city. He had been an inspector general in the United States army and knew Gen. Harrison well. His home was at Shelbyville, Ky., but when the bitterly abusive campaign against the Whig candidate began he was summoned to Cincinnati, where he became the editor of the Globe, which was a Harrison organ. He also wrote the book for circulation at this time. It was published by W. P. James, of Cincinnati, and contains 165 quarto pages. It contains the biography of Gen. Harrison and incidentally much information of interest in regard to Kentucky and Indiana, and the Ohio Valley generally but the most interesting chapter to Daviess countians is that which refutes the charge that Gen. Harrison was responsible for, or in any way conni..(?) at, the death of Col. Joe Daviess, who fell at the battle of Tippecanoe in November, 1811.

Was Not on White Horse.

Following is General Todd's treatment of this charge:

"Another charge circulated against the commander-in-chief is that he put the gallant Daviess on his white horse in consequence of which that officer lost his life. In reply to this unfounded allegation, it is only necessary to say that Major Daviess was killed whilst bravely charging on foot, and that he was not on General Harrison's horse, nor any other horse, during the engagement. This charge has been varied so as to make Owen) instead of Daviess, the individual who was killed on Gen. Harrison's white horse. This is equally untrue. Owen was killed on his own white horse, and was not, at any time during the action, on either of Gen. Harrison's horses. The facts in this case have been stated distinctly by the commander-in-chief in a letter, to Dr. Scott, of Frankfort, Ky., which I give herewith.

Gen. Harrison's Explanation.

Following is an extract from the letter of Gen. Harrison to Dr. Scott:

"I had, in camp, for my own riding, a gray mare .and a sorrel horse. They were both fine riding nags, but the mare was uncommonly active and spirited.. I generally rode them alternately, day and day about. On the day we got to the town I was on the mare and as it was our invariable rule to have the horses saddled and bridled through the night, the saddle was kept upon her, and, like other horses belonging to my family, she was tied to a picket driven into the ground, in the rear of my Marquee, and between that and the, baggage wagon. In the night the mare pulled up the picket and got loose. The dragoon sentinel awakening my servant George, the latter taught the mare, and tied her to the wagon wheel on the back side. When the alarm took place I called for the mare, George being aroused from his sleep, and confoundedly frightened forgot that he had removed her to the other side of the wagon, and was unable to find her. In the . meantime Major Taylor's servant had brought up his horse. The major observed that I had better mount him and he would get another horse and follow me. I did so.

Owen on White Horse.

Poor Owen, accompanied me, mounted on a remarkably white horse. Before we got to the angle, which was first attacked. Owen was killed. I, at that time, supposed it was a ball which had passed over the heads of the infantry that had killed him, hut I am now persuaded that he was killed by one of the two Indians who got within the lines, and that it was extremely probable that they mistook him for "me? Taylor joined me in a few minutes after, mounted on my gray mare. I immediately directed him, to go and get another horse. He returned to my quarters and preferring any sorrel horse to another of his own that was there, mounted him, and we thus continued on each other's horses, till near the close of the action. Being then with both my aides-de-camp, Taylor and Hurst, in the rear of the right flank line, the fire of several Indians near the line was directed at us. One of the balls killed the horse that Taylor was riding and another passed through the sleeve of his coat, a third wounded the horse I was riding in the head and a fourth came very near ending my earthly career."



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 12 September 1926, pp.1B & 3B:**

**COL. CHARLES S. TODD, FRIEND OF  
PRESIDENTS; ONCE MINISTER TO  
RUSSIA IS BURIED IN ELMWOOD**

By Hugh O. Potter, Owensboro Inquirer

Modest Monument Marks Grave  
of Distinguished Soldier-Statesman

Buried in Elmwood cemetery with a modest monument marking his grave. is one of Kentucky's most distinguished soldiers and statesmen. Colonel Charles S. Todd, hero of the war of 1812; United States minister to Russia and Colombia, the grandfather of Misses Frances S. and Rosa S. Todd, 1121 Allen street.

According to the "Biography of Col. Charles S. Todd" by G. W. Griffin, uncle and coach of the famous actress Mary Anderson, Col. Todd had seen every president from Jefferson to Lincoln and had an intimate personal acquaintance with most of them.

He was a close personal friend of President William Henry Harrison, under whom he fought during the second war with Great Britain. He attended Harrison's inauguration and remained as a guest until the death of the president, a short while afterward. Then, in compliance with the request of Mrs. Harrison he selected the spot where the late president was buried.

#### Born In Lincoln County

Col. Todd was born January 22, 1791 in Lincoln county Kentucky, the second son of Hon. Thomas Todd, chief justice of the United States Supreme court. He attended Transylvania Seminary at Lexington and later entered William and Mary college in Virginia. where he was graduated in 1809.

In 1810 Col. Todd was licensed to practice law in Lexington. Two years later he answered the call to arms and was elected Ensign of his company at Lexington. Soon after the troops under his command had seen action. Gen. William Henry Harrison in a letter to the war department recommending that Todd be advanced in rank said: "He appeared to have the ardor or youth with the maturity of age."

From the beginning to the close of the war, Todd was engaged in battle. He rose in rank to Colonel and Inspector General of the Cincinnati district. General McArthur publicly praised him for his services as adjutant general, while under his command.

After the war Todd returned to Kentucky, settling at Frankfort, where he re-entered the practice of law and married Miss Letitia Shelby, a daughter of Governor Isaac Shelby, in 1816. Mrs. Todd died in 1868 three years before her husband's death.

#### Appointed Secretary of State

During the year of his marriage, he was appointed secretary of state by Governor Madison. He resigned this office in 1817, when he was elected to the state legislature.

In 1820 he was appointed United States' minister to Colombia to complete negotiations suspended by the death of Commodore Perry and to remain as a confidential agent with the salary of a charged affairs. In 1821 he contracted yellow fever and was permitted to return to the United States to regain his health. The following year he returned to Colombia following the recognition of the independence of that country.

Two years later, in 1824, Colonel Todd returned to the United States and established himself on a tract of land in Shelby county Kentucky. There he introduced blooded cattle and blue grass. While on his farm he was elected president of the Kentucky Agricultural Society in recognition of his farming ability.

When William Henry Harrison's presidential campaign was started, Todd moved to Cincinnati, where he took charge of the "Cincinnati Republican." While in this capacity he wrote "The Life of General Harrison," which has remained as a basis for all succeeding lives of Harrison.

After the election and while discussing with his cabinet the appointments of the administration President Harrison said "I shall not be satisfied "with the appointments of the departments of state unless a first class position is given to my old friend and companion in arms Colonel Todd."

Todd accompanied Harrison to Washington for his inauguration and remained as a member of the family, during the month that Harrison occupied the presidential chair. When Harrison died he accompanied the body to its final resting place and selected the spot of burial

#### Envoy To Russia

President Tyler, carrying out the wishes of his late chief, appointed Colonel Todd envoy extraordinary to St. Petersburg. While in Russia Todd became a close friend of the Czar and induced him to secure the services of a Mr. Whistler, an engineer who constructed the railroads of the Russian empire.

An honor which was never before or afterward conferred upon a citizen of the United States, that of being elected a member of the imperial Russian Agricultural Society, was Col. Todd's while in St Petersburg.

It has been said that the Princess Olga was in love with Col. Todd until she learned that he was married and was the father of 13 children in the United States. The Czar gave him a valuable watch with picture of himself done in enamel on its back, for saving him from embarrassment and a possible accident when he quitted the royal mount as it became unruly during a parade, which he was reviewing This watch was stolen from the office of the late Dr. Charles H. Todd, son of Col. Todd in Owensboro.

His mission to Russia expired in 1846, when he returned to the United States and resumed his law practice at Frankfort.

The Whig state convention made an effort to secure his nomination for governor of Kentucky in 1848, but on the second ballot, Col. Todd withdrew his name from the list.

#### Treaty With Indians

In 1850, with General Robert B. Campbell and Oliver P. Temple, he accepted a mission tendered him by the U. S. government to treat with the Indian tribes on the border of Mexico. The mission was highly successful.

While in the West, Col. Todd the possibilities of a railroad to the Pacific and took an active part in securing the necessary legislation to make it possible.

During his sojourn in Texas, Col. Todd prepared a series of articles on the agricultural and mineral resources of Texas. He was preparing an early history of Kentucky, when he died.

During the campaign of Gen. Zachary Taylor Col. Todd took an active part for the old general and spoke in his behalf in Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

#### Resembled French King

He resembled Louis Phillipe, King of the French and was at one time, while coming out of a French theatre surrounded by a throne of royalists thinking he was the King. He became personally acquainted with Louis Phillipe and conversed with him about their mutual friends in Kentucky, where the king stayed incognito, while Duke of Orleans.

Col. Todd removed to Owensboro after returning from Texas and was appointed United States assessor, by Abraham Lincoln, for Southwestern Kentucky, which position he kept until after the Civil war, when his feeble health and increasing years would not permit him to engage in public life any longer.

During his residence here he was associated with his biographer G. W. Griffin, in the editorial management of the Louisville Industrial and Commercial Gazette. In 1871, while in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Col. Todd contracted pneumonia and died. Dr. Charles H. Todd, brought his body to Owensboro where it was buried.

Charles Stuart Todd, of Cincinnati formerly of Owensboro, has in his possession the coat and sword of Col. Todd, which he wore while at court affairs in Russia.





Monument of Charles Stewart Todd, Elmwood Cemetery (section D), Owensboro, Daviess County, KY: "Sacred To The Memory of Charles S. Todd, Born Jan. 22, 1791, Died May 17, 1871"



Charles Stewart Todd (1791-1871)