

# A HOUSE DIVIDED

## The Lincolns' Confederate Relatives

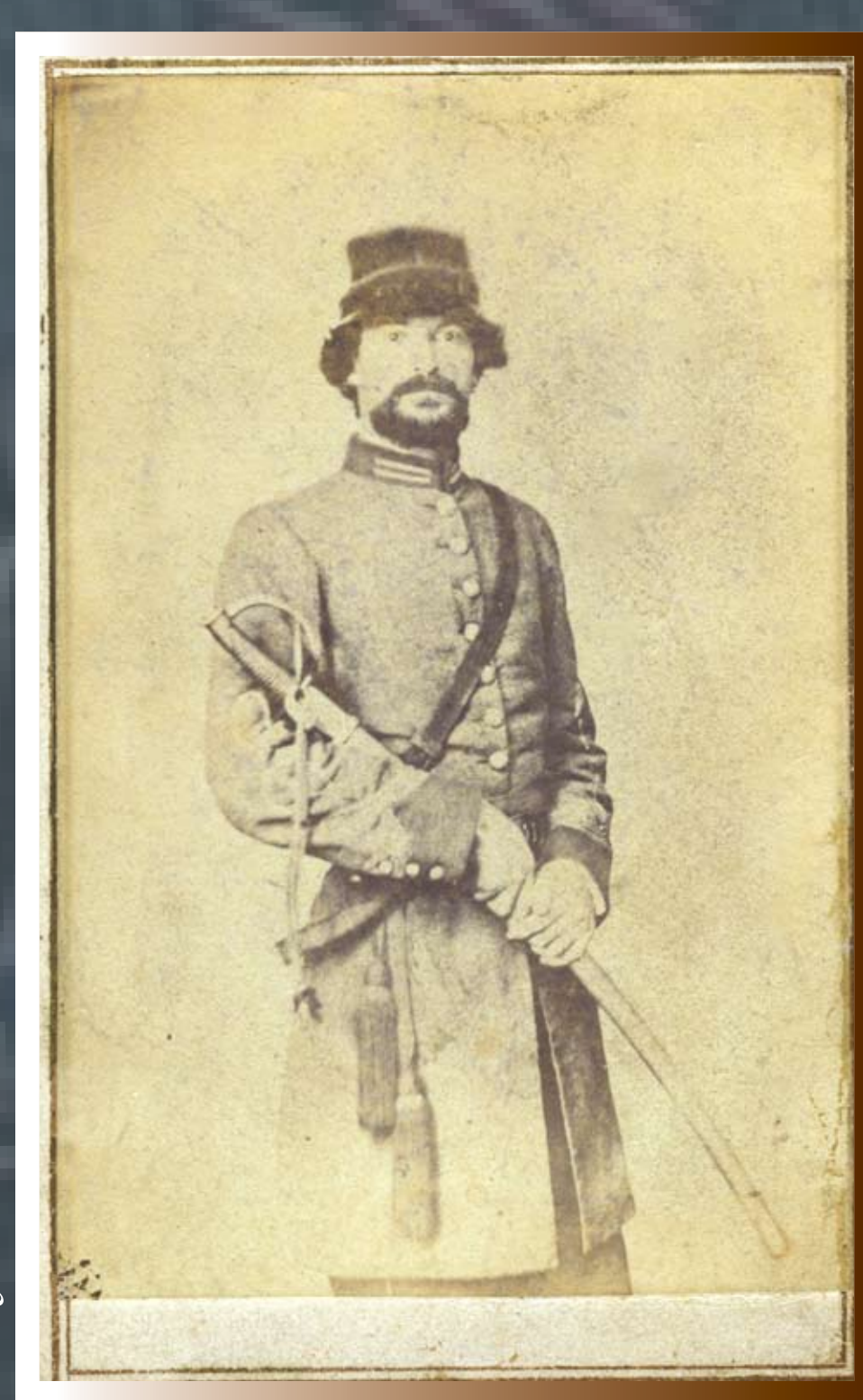
**Did you know ... While Abraham Lincoln was president, several of his wife's brothers served in the Confederate Army?**

Abraham Lincoln had five brothers-in-law who served in the Confederate Army. At least one was present at many of the major battles of the Civil War, including Gettysburg, Vicksburg, and Bull Run. David was given an officer's commission. George was an army surgeon. Samuel and Aleck enlisted. Samuel was killed at Shiloh and Aleck at Baton Rouge.

Brother-in-law Benjamin Hardin Helm, a West Point graduate from Kentucky who had been in the United States Army before the war, became a Confederate general. His death at Chickamauga in 1863 greatly saddened Lincoln, who had tried to retain Helm in the Union service. Mary did not mourn her fallen brothers publicly, telling one visitor that in joining the Confederates, they had "made their own choice."



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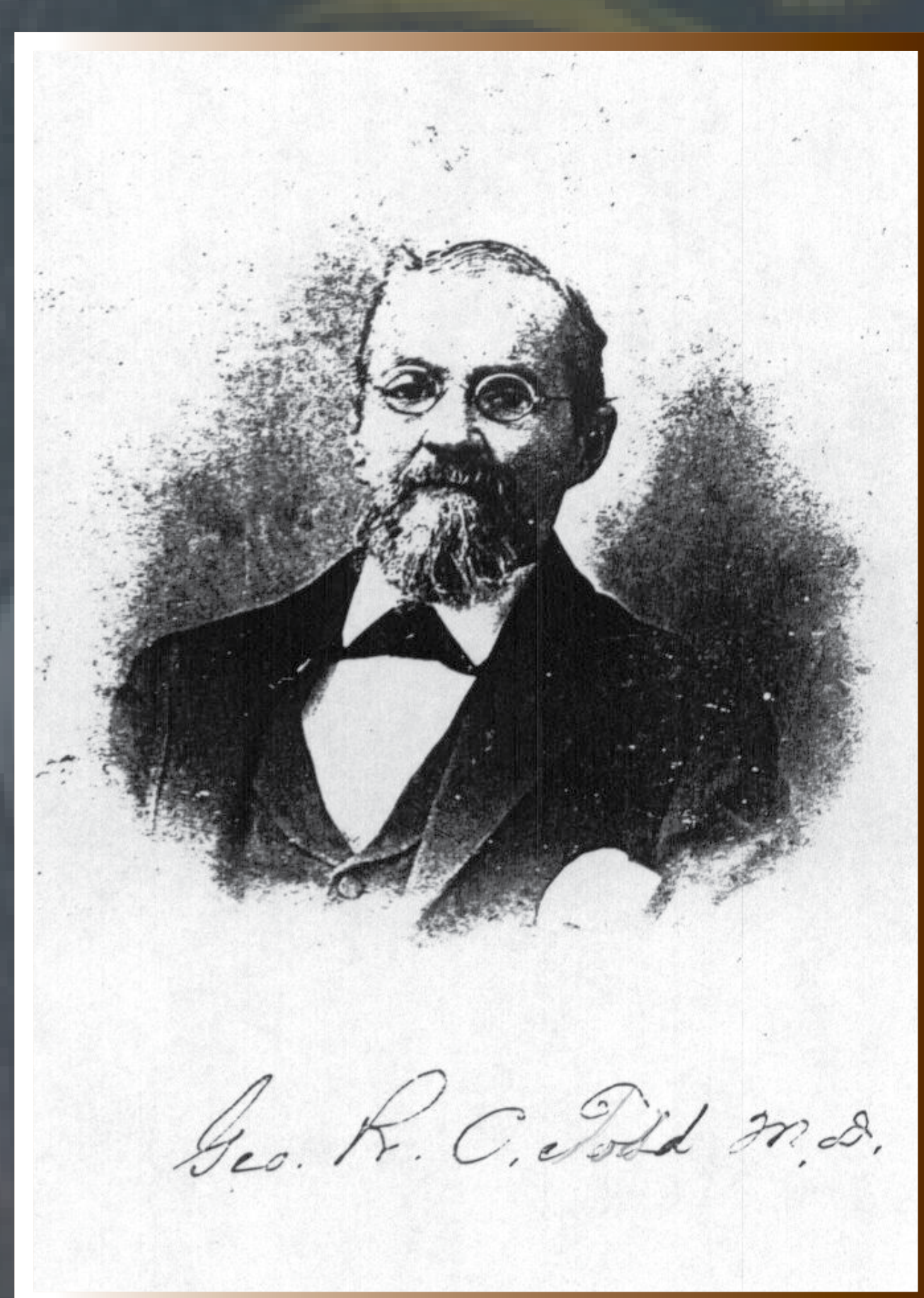
Mary Todd Lincoln House Collection

### David Todd

David Todd was the "black sheep" of the family. He ran away from home to fight in the Mexican War when he was fourteen years old. A Confederate officer, he was briefly commandant of the infamous Libby Prison in Richmond, VA. His reputation for brutality to Union prisoners of war outraged the nation and deeply embarrassed the Lincolns.

### Battle of Shiloh

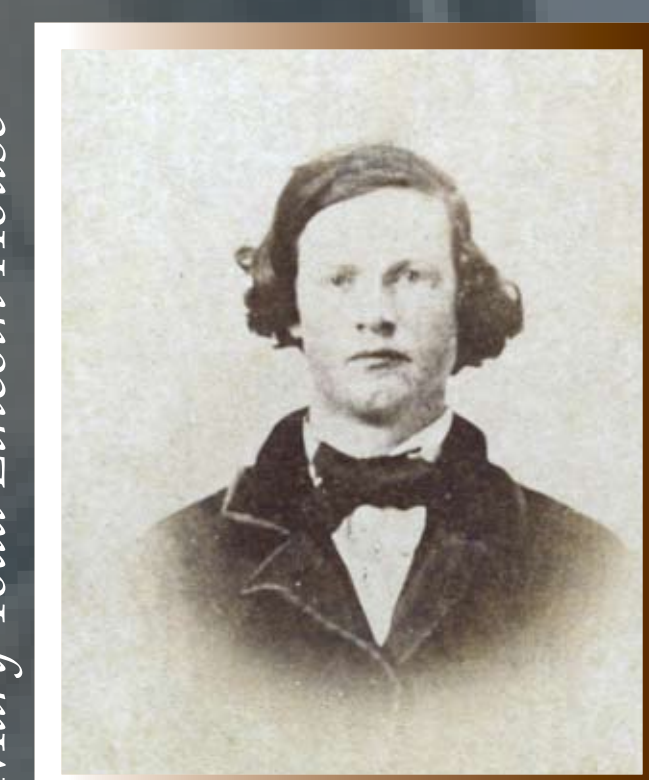
Samuel Todd was the first Todd brother killed in the war. He died at the Battle of Shiloh in April 1862. Four more of Lincoln's brothers-in-law were present at the battle in southwestern Tennessee. Benjamin Hardin Helm was a Confederate brigadier general. His aide-de-camp was youngest Todd brother, Aleck. David Todd also was present at the battle.



Courtesy of the Collection of Lincoln Financial Foundation

### George R. C. Todd

A skilled surgeon, George Todd was the only child from his father's first marriage to side with the Confederacy. He traveled with Lee's army during the 1863 Gettysburg campaign, where Northern papers accused him of looting civilian homes. Investigations after the war implicated him in episodes of brutality to Union prisoners under his care.



Mary Todd Lincoln House

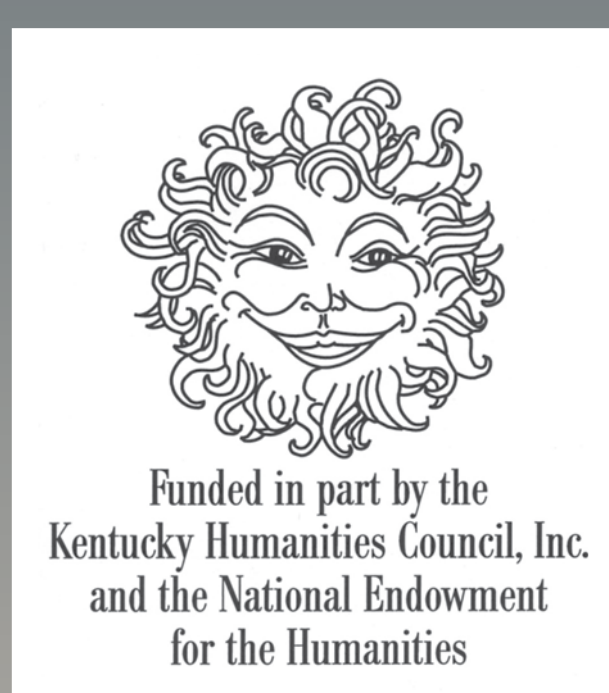
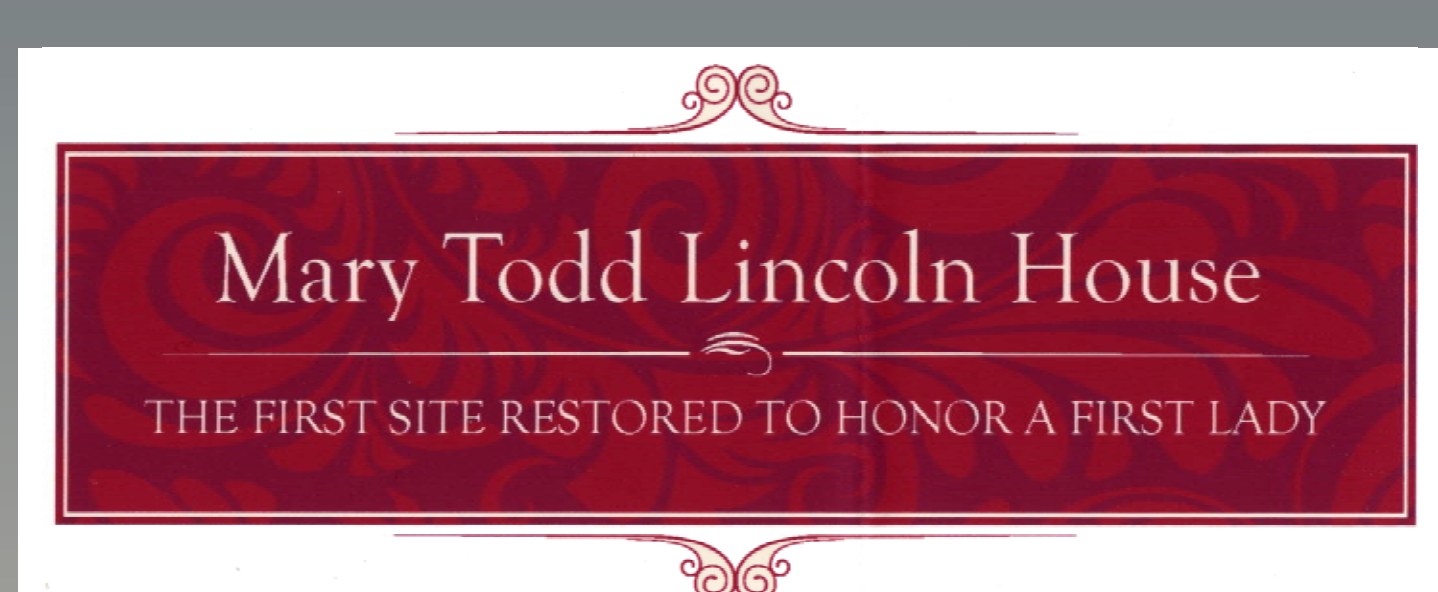


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### Alexander "Aleck" Todd & Battle of Baton Rouge

Alexander "Aleck" Todd was the youngest brother and a family favorite. He joined the "Orphan Brigade," the largest Confederate force raised in Kentucky. Aleck served at Shiloh and the first siege of Vicksburg—much of that time as an aide to his brother-in-law, General Benjamin Hardin Helm. He was killed by friendly fire near Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in August 1862.

### Sponsored by:



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