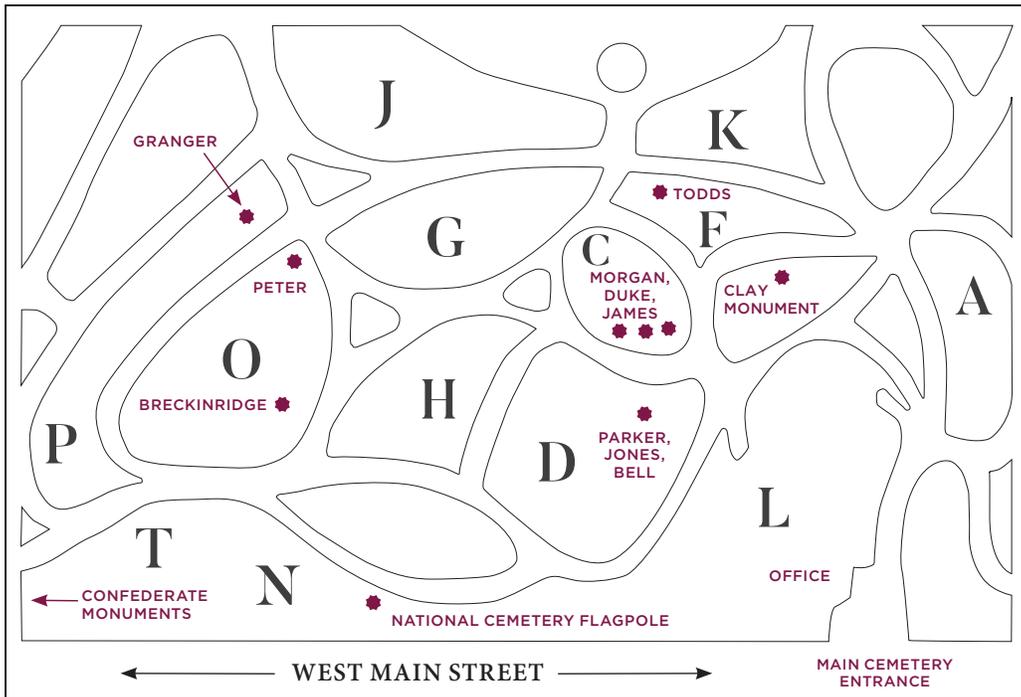


# A House Divided

## Lexington Cemetery *and the Civil War*



**Abraham Lincoln**  
said, “a house  
divided against  
itself cannot stand.”



He believed the United States could not continue without resolving the divisive issue of slavery. During the Civil War, Kentucky remained in the Union. But in a state where slavery was legal, many Kentuckians supported the Confederacy. Kentucky was deeply divided.

Opened in 1849, the Lexington Cemetery maintained political neutrality during the Civil War. Sympathizers on each side owned cemetery lots, and the cemetery set aside “soldiers’ grounds” for the burial of both United States and Confederate troops.

This tour explores the graves of soldiers and civilians who were a part of Kentucky’s “house divided.”

### HENRY CLAY MONUMENT

Kentucky politician Henry Clay is credited with delaying the Civil War with the Compromise of 1850. But the compromise was only a temporary solution to the slavery debate. Clay died in 1852, but his monument was completed in July 1861, just weeks before the war’s first major battle. Five grandsons served in the Civil War. One fought for the United States and four fought for the Confederacy.

## SECTION D

### ELIZABETH PARKER, PRUDENCE JONES, AND ANN BELL



ELIZABETH PARKER was Mary Todd Lincoln's grandmother. When Parker died in 1850, her will directed that three of the people she enslaved should "have their freedom given to them." Two of those people, PRUDENCE JONES and ANN BELL, are also buried in this plot. Only a small minority of Kentucky slaveholders made these kinds of arrangements—and even these were conservative approaches to ending slavery.

## SECTION F

### THE TODD FAMILY



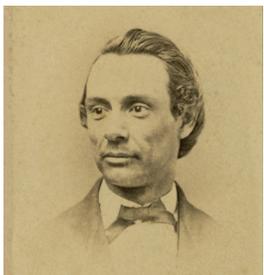
ELIZABETH HUMPHREYS TODD was Mary Todd Lincoln's stepmother. Although her stepdaughter was the first lady, Elizabeth sided with the Confederacy during the Civil War. When she died in 1874, she left money for a monument to honor her three sons who fought in the Confederate Army.



EMILIE TODD HELM was married to Ben Hardin Helm, a Confederate general. Her visit to the White House after Ben's death in battle caused gossip among Unionists. The last surviving Todd sibling, she participated in events that honored both the Lincolns and the Confederacy.



SAMUEL, ALEXANDER, and DAVID TODD joined the Confederate Army in 1861. Samuel and Alexander were killed in 1862. David survived the war, gaining notoriety for his harsh treatment of Union prisoners. When David died in 1871, he asked to be buried in his Confederate uniform.



Cousin LYMAN BEECHER TODD supported the United States. Abraham Lincoln appointed him Lexington postmaster in 1861. He met with Lincoln on the day of the assassination. A medical doctor, he was present when Lincoln died and helped in the autopsy.

## SECTION C

### JOHN HUNT MORGAN, BASIL DUKE AND BOUVIETTE JAMES

JOHN HUNT MORGAN achieved fame as a Confederate cavalry commander who raided Union cities, including several in Kentucky. In 1911, the United Daughters of the Confederacy commissioned the statue of Morgan in the cemetery. Kentucky state government helped fund the monument, reflecting a shift in sentiment towards the Confederacy after the war.

Morgan's brother-in-law, BASIL DUKE, was with Confederate President Jefferson Davis when he surrendered to Union forces. Duke later wrote *History of Morgan's Cavalry*, a book that romanticized Morgan's wartime exploits.



Virginia-born BOUVIETTE JAMES was enslaved by the Morgan family and cared for the children. She died in 1870 and was buried in the family plot. But her headstone, which describes her as “ever faithful,” was placed outside the family circle. Basil Duke later recorded many fond, but questionable, memories of James, consistent with the “mammy” stereotype.

## SECTION N

### THE NATIONAL CEMETERY

### Kentuckians overwhelmingly remained loyal to the United States during the Civil War.



The 965 Union soldiers buried here include 40 United States Colored Troops. About 23,000 Black Kentuckians enlisted in the Union Army. John Whales, who was enslaved by the Todd family, joined in 1864 and died of smallpox in 1865. The location of his grave is unknown.



## SECTION O

### ROBERT J. BRECKINRIDGE AND FRANCES PETER

ROBERT J. BRECKINRIDGE supported Abraham Lincoln's presidential nomination. He was a Unionist but held slaves and initially resisted Lincoln's emancipation policies. Two of his sons served in the United States Army and two served in the Confederate Army.

Teenager FRANCES PETER and her family were staunch Unionists, and her diary provides a rare insight into the domestic front. One entry describes Morgan's troops as “a nasty, dirty looking set.” Peter's grave is unmarked.



## SECTION P

### GORDON GRANGER

On June 19, 1865, United States General GORDON GRANGER arrived in Galveston, Texas, where he publicly read General Order No. 3 declaring that all those who had been enslaved were free. Juneteenth officially became a federal holiday in 2021.



## MARY TODD LINCOLN



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