

# A HOUSE DIVIDED

## The Lincolns' Confederate Relatives

### *Did you know ...* A monument to the divisions within the Todd family still stands in Lexington?

The Civil War opened a rift between Mary Todd Lincoln and the Confederate Todds that proved unbridgeable. Each new incident and press report made it harder to reconcile. No known evidence suggests that Mary ever communicated with her Confederate siblings after the war.

Mary's sister Emilie, however, had always been close to Robert, the oldest of the Lincolns' sons. She maintained affectionate contact with him for the rest of her life. Her daughter Katherine wrote a biography of her aunt Mary in 1928, relying heavily on Emilie's reminiscences. In the book, she glossed over differences within the family.

Yet Mary's stepmother left a concrete testament to the family's divisions. At her death in 1874, Betsy left money for a large monument to be erected in the family plot in Lexington Cemetery. Located less than a mile from the present-day Mary Todd Lincoln House, it reads: "In Memory of My Boys, Samuel B. Todd, David H. Todd, Alexander H. Todd. All Confederate Soldiers."



Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum, Lincoln Memorial University

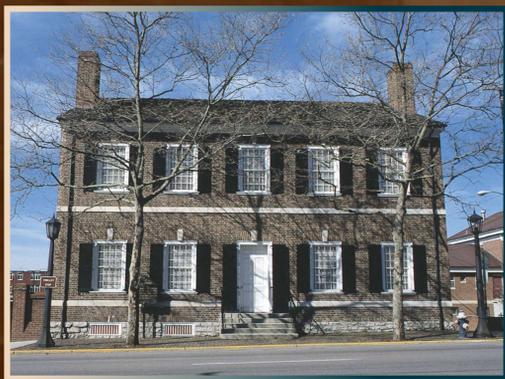
#### Mary Todd Lincoln

In addition to writing the 1928 biography *Mary, Wife of Lincoln*, Katherine Helm painted several imagined portraits of her aunt as a young woman. Today, one of these paintings hangs in the Lincoln Bedroom of the White House.



#### Lexington Cemetery Monument

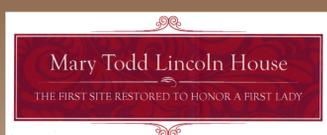
Betsy Todd left funds for this Lexington Cemetery monument honoring her sons who served in the Confederate Army. Although Mary Todd Lincoln's stepmother was strongly sympathetic toward the Southern cause, the monument was not erected until after her death. Betsy died in 1874.



#### "A House Divided"

This house was the Todd family home from 1832-1849. All of the Todd children who sided with the South during the Civil War—and most who sided with the North—lived in this house on Main Street in Lexington. Abraham Lincoln first met much of his wife's family here during a three-week visit in 1847. It opened as a museum in 1977 and is the first historic site dedicated to a first lady.

#### Sponsored by:



This program was funded in part by the Kentucky Humanities Council, Inc., and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission ([www.kylincoln.org](http://www.kylincoln.org)), and the Mary Todd Lincoln House.