

## Chapter Six

### Her Life: Finally a Widow

**February 23, 1872**

**Death of Rev. John H. Brown, D.D.**  
(1806-1872)

A month after the death of Elizabeth's brother, J. B. S. Todd, her husband of five years, Rev. John H. Brown, died on February 23, 1872, in Chicago, at age 65 years and 11 months. He was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield. Rev. Brown was Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield from 1857 to 1864, and at the time of his death was pastor of the 31<sup>st</sup> Street Presbyterian Church in Chicago.



Gravestone of Rev. John H. Brown in  
Oak Ridge Cemetery,  
Springfield, Illinois.<sup>359</sup>

At age 47, Elizabeth was a widow and she moved from Chicago back to the family home at 6<sup>th</sup> and North Grand Avenue in Springfield.

First wife was Clara Clelland Brown. Second wife was the cousin of Mary Todd Lincoln, Elizabeth "Cousin Lizzie" Todd Grimsley (previously divorced from Harrison J. Grimsley) whom he married in January, 1867.

The dispatch stated that he breathed his last about twelve o'clock on Friday night. His sickness, as we are informed, was very brief. On the Sunday previous, he had preached his morning sermon and appeared to be in his usual health; but upon his way home, he was attacked with a severe sinking spell. He was conveyed to his residence, and he seemed so far to rally that his physicians thought there was no cause for alarm; but on Wednesday he rapidly grew worse, and he continued to fail until his spirit was finally released from its mortal tenement. His son, Dwight Brown, Esq., of this city, reached his bedside on Thursday and remained with him to the end.

Dr. Brown was one of the noted men of the Presbyterian Church. He was not only possessed of great intellectual power, which had been thoroughly cultivated, but he had a polished manner and a fine address. Through life he was a laborious student, and few divines in the country surpassed him either in power or impressiveness. Here in Springfield, which was for many years his home, and where he was universally known and esteemed, his death will be received with deep and sincere regret by a large circle of relatives and friends.

Dr. Brown was born in the town of Greensburg, Kentucky, on the 26th of March 1806. He commenced the study of theology, at a very early age, with the Rev. Dr. Clelland, a noted divine of that State, whose daughter he subsequently married. After finishing his theological studies, he took the pastoral charge of the First Presbyterian Church at Richmond, Kentucky, where he preached with great success for upward of twelve years. He then, at the earnest request of his friends, moved to Lexington and became the pastor of the McCord Church in that city, where he built up a large and most prosperous Society. He ministered in Lexington for twelve years, and then accepted a call to the Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville, Illinois. After remaining there about fifteen months, he received a call from Springfield, and at the same time one from Memphis, Tennessee; but he preferred Illinois, and in 1857, upon the resignation of the Rev. Dr. James Smith, of the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, he became the pastor of that Society. All our citizens are witnesses of the zeal and earnestness and ability with which he performed his ministerial labors in this city. The First Church, under his preaching, rapidly increased in numbers and influence; but after the lapse of six years, Dr. Brown's health became seriously impaired, and he was compelled to resign his charge and give up continuous preaching. Subsequently, however,

<sup>359</sup> Oak Ridge Cemetery, Block 7, Lot 187.

in 1869, his health became so far restored that he accepted a call from the Thirty-first Street church of Chicago; and he was the pastor of that Society at the time of his death.

In all the relations of life, Dr. Brown was a most excellent man. Tender, sympathetic, full of genuine human kindness, always ready "in and out of season" to minister to the sorrows, the wants and the afflictions of those in distress, he not only honored the cause of his Master but he endeared himself to all who came in contact with him. With his intellectual ability and gifts, he might have attained to a high place in the Church, but his health was never robust, and he had no ambition to be prominent further than to be an acceptable servant in the cause of Christ. His sermons, however, all display great power and would fill many volumes.

The only immediate relatives of Dr. Brown are his only son, Dwight Brown, Esq., of this city, and his second wife (who was Mrs. Elizabeth Grimsley, of this place) to whom he was married a few years ago. He leaves many connections, however, both in this State and Kentucky, to mourn his death. His remains will be brought to this city from Chicago by this afternoon's train; and his funeral will take place from the First Presbyterian Church on to-morrow afternoon. ~*IL State Journal*, Springfield, IL 2-26-1872 -'

Obituary of Rev. John H. Brown, *Journal*, Monday, February 26, 1872.<sup>360</sup>

1875

March 16, 1875

Robert had been concerned about his mother's erratic conduct since his father's assassination. His advisers agreed that commitment was the only way to keep his mother safe, but Mary's family was less certain. Both John Todd Stuart and Elizabeth Grimsley Brown were convinced of Mary's insanity and the need for a conservator to control her money and property, but wanted to pursue whether Mary would "consent to remain in some private hospital" if a conservator were appointed rather than the facilities operated by the State of Illinois at Batavia, Illinois.<sup>361</sup>

#### Robert Todd Lincoln Writes to Elizabeth Todd Grimsley Brown Requesting Her Presence in Chicago

In early March 1875 on the day Mary Lincoln arrived in Chicago, Robert Todd Lincoln wrote to his cousin, Elizabeth Grimsley Brown, who was one of only two family members with whom Mary still communicated. He informed her of Mary's situation and sounded her out about possibly coming to Chicago to stay with Mary. Robert wrote that he had "anticipated trouble," although he was hopeful that it would "blow over," as his mother's past episodes had.

On March 16, 1875, Elizabeth Grimsley Brown replied: "I will hold myself in readiness to answer your summons promptly. I can imagine your fears & sympathize with you."<sup>362</sup>

<sup>360</sup> *Journal*, Monday, February 26, 1872, p. 4.

<sup>361</sup> Elizabeth Todd Grimsley Brown to Robert Todd Lincoln, May 29, 1875, folder 10, box 2, Insanity File, Lincoln Museum, Fort Wayne, Indiana. *Emerson*, pp. 46-47.

<sup>362</sup> *The Madness of Mary Lincoln*, Jason Emerson, Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale, 2007, p. 46. (Hereafter *Emerson*.) Elizabeth J. Todd Grimsley Brown to Robert Lincoln, March 16, 1875, folder 10, box 2, Insanity File, Lincoln Museum, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Springfield March 16th

My dear Robert,

Yours of the 15th received to-day. Regret to know that you have even anticipated trouble, and hope, with you, it may - blow over. - But if you feel that I, more than anyone else, can aid you, and find you need me, I will hold myself in readiness to answer your summons promptly. I can imagine your fears and sympathize with you. Your request - confidential - shall be regarded.

As ever,

Your loving cousin

E. J. Brown<sup>363</sup>

When Robert Lincoln consulted Elizabeth Grimsley Brown in March 1875, Elizabeth told Robert she believed Mary to be insane but objected to the idea of putting her in an asylum. However, she believed Mary's failure to prevent the trial was an act of Providence. Elizabeth was thankful, "That perhaps strangers could accomplish that in which relatives might fail. Neither you, Cousin John [Todd Stuart] or myself could have induced your mother to have gone voluntarily before a jury and our presence would perhaps have rendered her violent period."<sup>364</sup>

Springfield

May 19th 1875

My dear Bob

If I had received your telegram of the 18th before night I should have gave up on the night train, but my going to-day would be of no service to you. You received Cousin John - s answer to your communication so of course did not expect us this morning, but I assure you dear Bob I have a heavy heart for you and your poor Mother this day. I have not seen Cousin John for several days, but learn through the family that a majority of consulting physicians think the case urgent enough to counsel an asylum. Can your mother be induced to go to a private asylum? And could I influence her in such a decision, or must it be compulsory? After I found I could not go last night, & submitted to what I could not prevent, I came to the conclusion that it was Providence that prevented - that perhaps strangers could accomplish that, in which relatives might fail. Neither you, Cousin John, or myself could have induced your Mother to have gone voluntarily before a jury and our presence perhaps would have rendered her violent. I felt dreadfully at the idea of her being alone, at such a time - and I also felt as if it proved me ungrateful to have accepted her hospitalities & kindnesses at a time when it was so pleasant for me, and now to leave her alone when she needed a friend - I have held myself in readiness to go to her, when you thought she needed me, but Will you would send next week perhaps for me - Please notify me at once dear Bob, of the result of today's proceedings. I shall wait for news very anxiously. Let me know if I can still do any thing for you or her and if you desire me to come telegraph me, care J.T. Grimsley, and I will come.

Yours affectly

E. J. Brown<sup>365</sup>

<sup>363</sup> Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana 71200908502613\_1

<sup>364</sup> *Emerson*, p. 65.

<sup>365</sup> Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana 71200908502613\_2

### March 18, 1875

#### Robert Todd Lincoln Request Elizabeth Todd Grimsley Brown to Attend Insanity Trial

On March 18, 1875, Robert Todd Lincoln sent telegrams to Mary's cousins, John Todd Stuart and Elizabeth Grimsley Brown, requesting that they come to Chicago and sit with his mother for moral support during her insanity trial. Neither was able to do so.<sup>366</sup>

### March 29, 1875

#### Elizabeth Grimsley and John Todd Stuart Decline Invitation to Mary Todd Lincoln's Insanity Trial

Elizabeth Brown said she received Robert's telegram of May 18, 1875 too late to make the journey from Springfield to Chicago in time for the trial on May 19. Stuart said he had to attend a meeting of the Penitentiary and State House Boards dealing with a problem that "My reputation was too much involved in... for me to leave." He added, moreover, "I did not think I could be of any service" at the trial. Both excuses seem rather contrived. Brown and Stuart both considered Mary insane. Neither, however, wanted her committed nor did either want to be publicly involved in the legal proceedings.<sup>367</sup>

### 1876

#### Elizabeth Todd Grimsley Brown Living at the Northwest Corner of 6th and North Grand Avenue

In 1876, Elizabeth Grimsley Brown was living at the northwest corner of 6th and North Grand Avenue in Springfield, Illinois.

#### First Presbyterian Church Moves From 3rd and Washington to 7th and Market (Capitol)

In 1876, the First Presbyterian Church purchased the church building at the northwest corner of Seventh and Capitol from the Third Presbyterian Church and there from their church at the southeast corner of Third and Washington.

#### Elizabeth and Ninian Edwards Rescue Mary Lincoln

In 1876, despite their rocky relationship with Mary Lincoln, Elizabeth and Ninian Edwards rescued Mary from the insane asylum at Batavia, Illinois to which she had been committed in 1875. They took her into their Springfield home at Second and Charles Street. the same house in which Mary was married to Abraham Lincoln. It was here that she lived for six years until her death there on July 16, 1882.

#### Death of William Levi Todd

(\_\_\_\_-1876)

Italy

#### Death of Lockwood Marcus Todd

(1826-1876)

<sup>366</sup> Emerson, p. 58.

<sup>367</sup> Emerson, p. 211, fn. 74.

In 1876, Elizabeth's brother, Lockwood Marcus Todd, age 50, died in Virginia City, Montana Territory.

1879

**Helen Dodge Edwards to Helen Edwards Condell:  
About Elizabeth Todd Grimsley Brown's Christmas Cookies**

On December 26, 1879, Helen Dodge Edwards (Mrs. Benjamin) wrote to Helen Edwards Condell about doughnuts that were given to her by Elizabeth Grimsley Brown.

I had a Christmas present of some "Oley Koehs[?]" a Dough nuts- from Mrs Dr Brown, the only nicest I ever ate, and I intend trying to get the recipe, if I do, I will give it to you. They are certainly the most delicate I ever saw, just delicious.<sup>368</sup>

1880

**United States Census**

The 1880 United States Census for Springfield, Illinois was taken on June 14, 1880. Living with Elizabeth Grimsley Brown were her 18-year-old son William, her 32 year-old son, John and his wife and five year old daughter.

Brown E. J.	White	Female	55	abt 1825	Self (Head)	Widowed	Illinois	Pennsylvania	Kentucky
Grimsley J. T.	White	Male	32	abt 1848	Self (Head)	Married	Illinois	Kentucky	Illinois
Grimsley C.	White	Female	32	abt 1848	Wife	Married	New Jersey	New York	New York
Grimsley May	White	Female	5	abt 1875	Daughter	Single	Illinois	Illinois	New Jersey
Grimsley William L.	White	Male	18	abt 1865?)2	Son	add	Illinois	Kentucky	Illinois

Elizabeth is listed as a widow, as her husband Dr. John H. Brown had died in 1872.

1880

The 1879-1880 Springfield City Directory listed John T. Grimsley as working as a clerk at R. F. Herndon & Co., a dry goods store in Springfield. He was boarding at the northwest corner of Sixth and North Grand Avenue. His brother Will was listed as a clerk also boarding at the same address.

<sup>368</sup> Condell Family Papers, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Helen Dodge Edwards to Helen Edwards Condell, December 26, 1879.

## Dr. Francis Walton Todd Applies For Passport

[FORM FOR NATIVE CITIZENS.]

No. 14304 Issued Aug. 25, 1880

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

State of District of Columbia ss.  
County of Washington

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do swear that I was born in  
the State of Kentucky, on or about the 17<sup>th</sup> day  
of April, 1816; that I am a Native and Loyal Citizen of the United States,  
and about to travel abroad.

Given & taken at this 25<sup>th</sup> day  
of August, 1880. J. Walton Todd M.D.  
Newton Benedict  
Notary Public  
Passport Clerk

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do swear that I am acquainted  
with the above-named J. Walton Todd, and with the facts stated  
by him, and that the same are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Given & taken at this 25<sup>th</sup> day  
of August, 1880. F. L. Apple  
Newton Benedict  
Notary Public  
Passport Clerk

**DESCRIPTION OF J. Walton Todd**  
(4 wife)

Age, <u>64</u> years.	Mouth, <u>medium</u> .
Stature, <u>5</u> feet <u>7 3/4</u> inches, Eng.	Chin, <u>beard</u> .
Forehead, <u>high</u> .	Hair, <u>gray</u> .
Eyes, <u>gray</u> .	Complexion, <u>fair</u> .
Nose, <u>prominent</u> .	Face, <u>oval</u> .

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect,  
and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign;  
and that I will bear true faith, allegiance, and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution, or law of any State,  
Convention, or Legislature to the contrary notwithstanding; and further, that I do this with a full determination,  
pledge, and purpose, without any mental reservation or evasion whatsoever; and further, that I will well and faithfully  
perform all the duties which may be required of me by law: So help me God.

J. Walton Todd M.D.

Sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 18 \_\_\_\_.

Applicant desires passport sent to following address: \_\_\_\_\_

On August 28, 1880, a passport was issued to Dr. Francis Walton Todd. The passport application states the following:

Age 64 years  
Height 5' 7 3/4"  
Hair gray  
Chin Beard  
Face oval  
Eyes gray

1882

**Sunday, July 16, 1882**  
**Death of Mary Todd Lincoln**  
 (1818-1882)

Sunday, July 16, 1882 — Mary Todd Lincoln died at the age of 63 in the home of her sister Elizabeth Todd Edwards at the corner of Second and Charles Streets in Springfield, Illinois. This was the same house where Mary was married to Abraham Lincoln.

In the early morning of July 16 [1882] she died of a stroke. Three days later, if she had hovered at her funeral, she must have been pleased. Again Mary Todd Lincoln was somebody. The mayor had declared a holiday. Springfield's stores were closed, and thousands lined the streets. Even the newspapers that had insulted her in the past appeared with black bands around their columns, and in their obituaries they returned her to female respectability as a loyal wife. In the crowded First Presbyterian Church, where four clergymen officiated, the elaborate decorations that filled the apse and transept included a floral representation, in carnations, roses, and daisies, of the spiritualist convention — 'the Pearly Gates Ajar.' The citizens of Springfield had sent a floral cross as tall as she, with her name emblazoned in forget-me-nots. The choir, which included Lizzie Grimsley's son Will, sang 'Nearer My God To Thee,' and though there was no eulogy, one pastor spoke of two pines that had grown so close that their roots were intertwined. When one was struck by lightning, the other wasted away.<sup>369</sup>

**Wednesday, July 19, 1882**  
**Funeral of Mary Todd Lincoln at First Presbyterian Church**

During Mary Todd Lincoln's funeral at the First Presbyterian Church, on July 19, 1882, Elizabeth Todd Grimsley Brown sat in the front row next to Robert Todd Lincoln.

The pallbearers for Mary's funeral were Illinois Governor Shelby Moore Cullom, Milton Hay, James C. Conkling, John A. McClelland substituting for O. M. Hatch (who had originally been named), Jacob Bunn, and John S. Bradford. The above named men were the active pallbearers. They were preceded by two honorary pallbearers: Judge S. H. Treat and Col. John Williams. Mary was buried in a white silk dress that the Edwards family had quickly ordered from Chicago. The eulogy was given by Dr. James Armstrong Reed. The church was the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield. The date of the funeral was July 19, 1882. Mary died without leaving a will, but her wish to be buried in the Lincoln Tomb in Springfield was honored. Among the attendees at the funeral were Robert T. Lincoln, Mrs. W.S. Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. Ninian Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Smith, and numerous other relatives and long-time friends and dignitaries (including many officers of the state of Illinois plus members of the Lincoln Guard of Honor). Flowers at the funeral were elaborate. Among the banked-up tributes of flowers was one in the form of a large book made of carnations with the name Mary Lincoln in blue forget-me-nots on the opened pages. This gift of flowers came as "the loving offering of the people" of Springfield. Another floral representation, in carnations, roses, and daisies, was of the spiritualist convention - "the Pearly Gates Ajar."

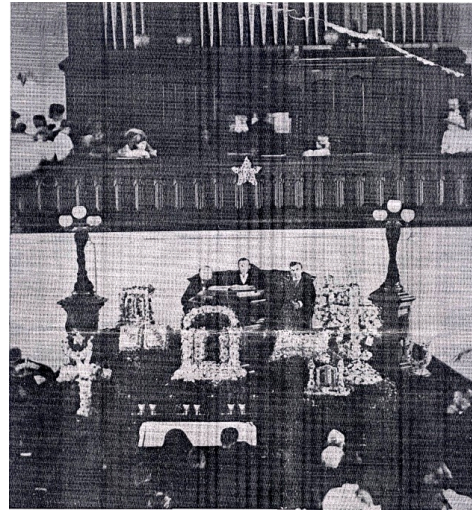
*Mary Todd Lincoln, Jean Baker*<sup>370</sup>

<sup>369</sup> Mary Lincoln, Jean Baker, W. W. Norton & Company, 1989, pp. 368-369.

<sup>370</sup> <http://rogerjnorton.com/Lincoln96.html>



**First Presbyterian Church**  
Northwest corner of Seventh and Capitol Streets,  
Springfield, Illinois



**Funeral of Mary Todd Lincoln**  
**at First Presbyterian Church**

The photograph of Mary Lincoln's funeral on July 19, 1882 reproduced here, was taken by J. A. W. Pittman who had studios at 323 S. 5th Street. The funeral took place in the First Presbyterian Church. In the center behind the clergymen is a star floral offering from the citizens of Springfield. The church was crowded for the funeral but the picture does not disclose the people. The casket may be seen in the foreground with only the handles actually fully visible. Officiating at the funeral was Dr. James A. Reed, pastor of the church from 1870 to 1880. He is shown seated in the chancel at the center. Assisting at the rites were the Rev. R. O. Post, who opened the service by reading the 90th Psalm and the Rev. T. A. Parker who offered the closing prayer.<sup>371</sup>

#### **Burial of Mary Lincoln in Oak Ridge Cemetery**

Then with Robert Lincoln, whose wife did not attend, and the Edwardses leading the long line of carriages, the procession moved slowly off to Oak Ridge Cemetery and a final prayer before Mary Lincoln's casket was placed in the burial chamber, underneath the 120-foot obelisk commemorating her husband.<sup>372</sup>

#### **Dr. Francis Walton Todd Visits Sister Elizabeth Todd Grimsley Brown Prior to European Trip**

Two months after Mary Lincoln's death, Elizabeth Brown and her brother, Dr. Francis Walton Todd and his wife, of Stockton, California, took a trip to Europe. They sailed from New York on October 4, 1882. Elizabeth was 57 years old and must have had sufficient discretionary funds to make such a trip. That she spent two years in Europe seems astounding to me. I only wish there existed a diary or letters of Elizabeth during this time.

**Dr Walton Todd of Stockton, Cal, is in the city, visiting his sister, Mrs Dr Brown, and other relatives, prior to a trip to Europe.**

*Journal*, Saturday, September 23, 1882.<sup>373</sup>

<sup>371</sup> *Springfield Sun*, Springfield, Illinois, July 19, 1967, p. 4.

<sup>372</sup> *Mary Lincoln*, Jean Baker, pp. 368-9.

<sup>373</sup> *Journal*, Saturday, September 23, 1882, p. 6.





MRS. ELIZABETH TODD GRIMSLEY

**Dr. Francis Walton Todd and Sister Elizabeth Todd Grimsley Brown  
Sail For Europe From New York City**

Mrs. Dr. Brown of this city sailed Wednesday from New York for Europe. She was accompanied by her brother, Dr. Walter Todd of Stockton California.

*Journal*, Friday, October 6, 1882.<sup>374</sup>

**Dr. Francis Walton Todd and Sister Elizabeth Todd Grimsley Brown  
Arrive in Paris and Leave For Mediterranean For Winter**

News was received yesterday from Mrs. Dr. Brown announcing her safe arrival in Paris. She had a pleasant voyage, with no seasickness. At the time the letter was written she was about to leave for the Mediterranean to spend the winter.

*Journal*, Tuesday, October 31, 1882<sup>375</sup>

**Death of William Levi Todd  
(\_\_\_\_-1883)**

William Levi Todd - died on or about January 1, 1883, "on the street, unattended" in Los Angeles. Possibly buried at the old cemetery at Fort Hill, and reinterred at Evergreen Cemetery, East Los Angeles - in Potter's Field. No gravestone, but is marked. Cemetery cards gives different middle initial, different age, but subject was married (wedding ring ?). Date of death is correct. The maker of the California Bear Flag; cousin of Mary Todd Lincoln.

Society of California Pioneers, San Francisco.

**1884**

**Elizabeth Todd Grimsley Brown Spends Two Years in Europe and Arrives in Boston on Return**

In late August, Elizabeth Todd Grimsley Brown arrived in Boston upon returning to the United States after a two year trip to Europe.

<sup>374</sup> *Journal*, Friday, October 6, 1882, p. 6.

<sup>375</sup> *Journal*, Tuesday, October 31, 1882, p. 6.

Word was received yesterday, in this city, by wire, of the safe arrival in Boston of Mrs. Dr. John Brown, who has been traveling in Europe for the past two years.

*Journal*, Tuesday, August 26, 1884<sup>376</sup>

### Elizabeth Todd Grimsley Brown Arrives Home After Two Years in Europe

On Friday, August 29, 1884, Elizabeth Todd Grimsley Brown returned to Springfield after a two year trip to Europe. She was accompanied by Dr. and Mrs. F. Walton Todd of San Francisco, California, who will visit friends in Springfield for a short time.

Mrs. Dr. John Brown arrived home yesterday morning from a two years absence in Europe, accompanied by Dr. and Mrs. F. Walton Todd of San Francisco, Cal., with whom Mrs. Brown has been traveling. Dr. and Mrs. Todd will visit friends here for a short time before returning to their California home.

*Journal*, Saturday, August 30, 1884<sup>377</sup>

## 1885

### Death of Clark M. Smith (1820-1885)

Clark M. Smith, the husband of Ann M. Todd Smith, died on July 29, 1885. He was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.



Grave of Clark M. Smith,  
Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois

### Death of an Old and Prominent Citizen—A Catholic Brother Gone, Etc. Died

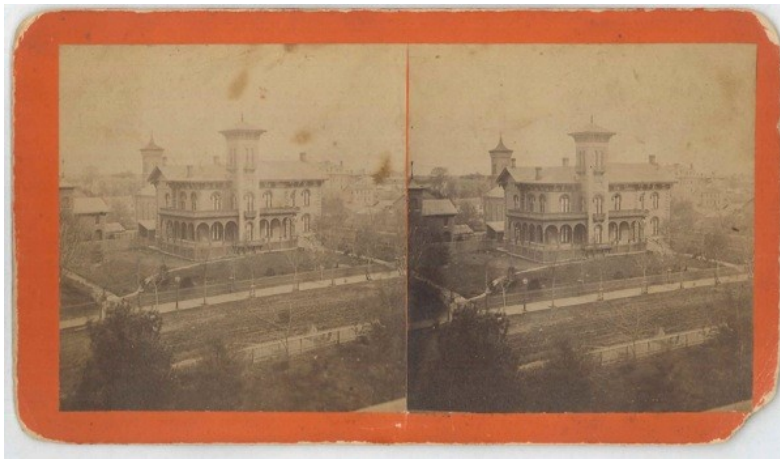
SMITH—At 4:30 o'clock on the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup>, at his residence on South Fourth street, and of a complication of diseases, Clark Moulton Smith.

<sup>376</sup> *Journal*, Tuesday, August 26, 1884, p. 8.

<sup>377</sup> *Journal*, Saturday, August 30, 1884, p. 8.

The funeral services will be held tomorrow, at 3 p.m. , at the residence.

Clark M. Smith was born in Clarksville, Tenn., May 10, 1820, and was therefore in the 66<sup>th</sup> year of his age when he died. In 1845 he located at Carrollton, Greene county, this state, and the following year began selling goods as a clerk. In 1840 he embarked in general merchandising on his own account; later his brother Stephen became a partner. In 1852, they came to Springfield and formed a partnership with Wm. Yates, as Yates, Smith & co. C. M. Smith became full proprietor Jan. 1, 1864, and the latter part of the same year; Mr. John S. Condell, Sr., purchased an interest in the business which rapidly grew into a mammoth concern, embracing five departments, dry goods, clothing, boots and shoe, groceries, drugs, each occupying a separate room. Mr. Smith was one of the projectors and prime actors in the improvement of Oak Ridge cemetery. He married Ann M., daughter of Robert S. Todd, sister of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, at Lexington, Ky., Oct. 24, 1846, and she bore him two sons and two daughters, all of whom survive. Mr. Smith was an energetic business man, and leaves a large estate, and a life insurance of \$17,000. The family have the sympathy of the community in their bereavement.<sup>378</sup>



Residence of Clark M. Smith on South Fourth Street<sup>379</sup>

### Death of John Todd Stuart (1807-1885)

John Todd Stuart, Elizabeth's uncle, died on November \_\_ 1885 and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

<sup>378</sup> *Register*, Wednesday, July 29, 1885, p. 3.

<sup>379</sup> From the collection of Richard E. Hart. Photographer: \_\_\_\_\_.

1856, and John fell in 1860 for the presidency. In 1862 he again became a candidate for congress, and in addition to the full democratic vote, he received the votes of many republicans and was triumphantly elected. In 1864 he was the democratic candidate for congress but was defeated by Hon. Shelby M. Cullum. From that time he ceased to take part in public life.

During the Black Hawk war he was the major of a battalion in which Abraham Lincoln commanded a company. In 1863 Maj. Stuart formed a law partnership with Hon. Benjamin S. Edwards. In 1865 C. C. Brown was taken into the firm, and that partnership continued up to the day of Maj. Stuart's death.

In 1866 he was elected president of the Springfield City Railway company, president of the Illinois Watch company, and president of the board of trustees of the Butler Street institute. He was one of the three commissioners for building the new state house, was chairman of the executive committee of the National Lincoln Monument association, and in all of these positions discharged his duties intelligently and honestly.

Maj. Stuart was married on the 5th of October, 1827, at Jacksonville, Ill., to Mary V. Nash, a daughter of Mr. Frank Nash, of St. Louis county, Mo., and a niece of the late Judge Lockwood, of this state. His children were born of this union. They were Bettie, who afterwards became Mrs. C. C. Brown, and after whom the Bettie Stuart Institute was named, John T., Jr., Frank S., Virginia L., Hannah and Robert. Of these all survive except the first named.

Socially there is nothing to be said of Maj. Stuart but what is good. "As a husband and father he was kind and affectionate; as a neighbor he was friendly and accommodating; as a citizen he was public spirited and helpful. The poor have always found a friend in him; the cry and distress of the unfortunate ever touched his heart, and he was ever ready to hasten unto their cry and minister to their wants. The young loved him, the middle aged trusted him, the old leaned upon him as a friend. The golden rule was the rule of his life. He showed his love to God by his love of his fellow men. He was an honest man and a just man, and now that he has been called by the Judge of the universe to a higher work, his place will be difficult to fill."

**BAR MEETING.**  
The members of the Sangamon county bar are requested to meet in the street court room at 5 o'clock Monday morning, to take appropriate action in regard to the death of Hon. John T. Stuart. Every member of the bar should be present.

The funeral will be held at 9 o'clock on —

*Register*, Sunday, November 29, 1885<sup>380</sup>

1887

### Elizabeth Brown Living at 1205 North Sixth Street.

The Springfield City Directory for 1887-1888 1894 listed Elizabeth Brown (Mrs. J. H. Brown, widow) living at 1205 North Sixth Street.

### Death of William L. Grimsley (1852 - 1887)

William L. Grimsley, Elizabeth Grimsley Brown's son, died on August 10, 1887, at age 35. He died at his mother's home at the corner of Sixth and North Grand Avenue in Springfield.

Will L. Grimsley

Foremost tenor singer of Springfield, Illinois, in late seventies and eighties.

A lyric voice of unusually high range, and sympathetic, musicale quality was trained by leading vocal teacher of Boston. Mr. Grimsley at various times was solicited in leading churches of Springfield, and gave freely of his talent to charitable and cultural events. He was tenor in the quartet of First Presbyterian Church at the funeral of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln.

### Death of Will L. Grimsley

GRIMSLEY—Will L. Grimsley died Wednesday morning, Aug. 10, 1887, in the 35<sup>th</sup> year of his age, at the residence of his mother Mrs. H. J. Brown, corner of Sixth street and North Grand avenue.

Funeral services will be held in the First Presbyterian church Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

The death of Will L. Grimsley was not unexpected yet his sickness was of but a few weeks duration. A few weeks ago he was the picture of health and no one dreamed that there was not a ripe old age in store for

<sup>380</sup> *Register*, Sunday, November 29, 1885, p. 7. *Journal*, Sunday, November 29, 1885, p. 1.

him. He was stricken down with complicated physical troubles which battled the skill of the best physicians. *Anxious friends and* relative hoped for his recovery, but they hoped against hope when the physicians gravely shook their heads and could give words of but doubtful encouragement. A consultation of doctors was held to consider the advisability of a dangerous and delicate surgical operation and they decided that it was impracticable in his exhausted condition. The nature of his affliction was such that he could not long endure it, but he bore his suffering heroically, fully realizing that his recovery was impossible, and his death was merely the relief from his ineffable sufferings. The private post-mortem examination revealed the fact that the ailment was what is known to the physicians as an inflammatory band, probably of long standing, located at the beginning of the sigmoid flexure, which finally totally obstructed the natural action of the bowels. There was no especial inflammation at the point of actual obstruction.

struction.  
Will Grimsley was a native of Springfield, where he has resided ever since his birth. He graduated from the city high-school with high honors and in a few years afterwards he accepted a clerkship in the dry-goods house of R. F. Herndon & Co., which position he retained, with the exception of one year, until his last sickness. He was a thorough gentleman and as such he won friends in every walk of life. He was a young man of generous impulses, a happy disposition and an irreproachable character. His soul was of that refined nature which sought the beautiful in literature, art, music and the gratification of a rare aesthetic taste. His love of music is known to all, and for that he was best known. He devoted much time and care to the improvement of his naturally sweet and mellow tenor voice and to the attainment of a thorough knowledge of music. For years he has been considered the leading tenor of Springfield and times almost innumerable has he lent his voice in aid of religious and charitable undertakings. With his death following so close upon that of Mrs. Nelson Allyn, the musical circle of Springfield sustains a loss which cannot soon be regained.

Journal, August 11, 1887.<sup>381</sup>

<sup>381</sup> Journal, August 11, 1887, p. 4

Will L. Grimsley<sup>382</sup>

**The Funeral of Mr. Grimsley.**  
 The funeral services over the remains of the late Will L. Grimsley took place at the First Presbyterian church yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Every pew and seat in the great church was occupied by mourning relatives and friends. They had gathered from far and near, and it was hard for some to realize that it was the obsequies of Will Grimsley they were attending, for he was strong and gay and full of life when last seen by most of the people who had gathered there. As the remains were brought in, Prof. Louis Lehman, who was at the organ, played a paraphrase of "Lead Kindly Light." The professor officiated at the organ by the special request of his friend, Mr. Grimsley, who also expressed a wish that the services should be conducted without vocal music. The remains were carried by Messrs. Stuart Brown, Edwards Brown, John H. Brown, Frank Cowgill, John Black and Henry Kemann. No flowers cast their fragrance from the cover, as Mr. Grimsley had requested that his friends contribute none. The Rev. Dr. F. H. Wines read the Episcopal burial service, after which the remains were taken from the church while Prof. Lehmann played on the organ, the melody alone of "Safe in the arms of Jesus" as sung by Mr. Grimsley. The cortege then moved to Oak Ridge cemetery where the remains were interred.

**In Memoriam—Will L. Grimsley.**  
 They laid him sadly down to sleep  
 Beneath the willow's peaceful shade;  
 They come, with bleeding hearts, to weep,  
 Around the spot where he is laid;  
 They're but his lyre upon his tomb,  
 Which he at times was wont to string,  
 And to the wind it mows the doom  
 Of him who now lies slumbering.

Weep, gentle matron; well you may—  
 I would not chide a mother's grief;  
 Blame Nature mourns the sad decay  
 Of fading flower and falling leaf,  
 For now she weeps, and sorrow's dim path

*Journal*, August 13, 1887.<sup>383</sup>



Grave of William L. Grimsley,  
 Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois

<sup>382</sup> Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Illinois.

<sup>383</sup> *Journal*, August 13, 1887, p. 4.



1888

**Death of Elizabeth Todd Edwards**  
(1813-1888)

Elizabeth Todd Edwards, Elizabeth Grimsley's first cousin and the wife of Ninian Wirt Edwards, died on February 22, 1888. She was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

**MRS. NINIAN W. EDWARDS.**  
SPRINGFIELD, ILL. Feb. 22.—Mrs. Elizabeth Edwards, the wife of the Hon. Ninian W. Edwards, died suddenly this morning at her home on Second street. She left the house about 10 o'clock to go down town but fell in a faint before reaching the gate. She was taken into the house by the servants at once but she only lived two or three minutes. Apoplexy is supposed to be the cause. Mrs. Edwards was the daughter of Robert Todd, of Lexington, Ky., and a sister of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln. She was born the 18th of November, 1813, and married the 16th of February, 1832, and the fifty-sixth anniversary of the marriage had just been celebrated. She came to Springfield with her husband in 1835.



*Daily Inter Ocean* (Chicago, Illinois), Friday, February 24, 1888<sup>384</sup>

Grave of Elizabeth Todd and Ninian Wirt Edwards,  
Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois

1889

**Death of Ninian Wirt Edwards**  
(1809-1889)

Ninian Wirt Edwards, the widower of Elizabeth Todd Edwards, Mary Lincoln's sister, died on September 2, 1889. He was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

1889-1894

**John T. Grimsley Living at 1205 North Sixth Street.**

The Springfield City Directories for 1889 through 1894 listed John T. Grimsley living at 1205 North Sixth Street and working at R. F. Herndon & Co.

1891

**John Todd Grimsley Described in Sangamon County History**

JOHN TODD GRIMSLEY, of the firm of Herndon & Co., is one of the leading merchants and prominent business men of Springfield. The firm has a commodious double store, comprising three floors, and advantageously located on the corner of Adams and Fifth Streets, and is carrying on a very extensive business in the sale of general dry goods and cloaks. This is one of the largest and most prominent firms in this city, doing an annual business of \$200,000 and employing a force of sixty-three hands.

<sup>384</sup> *Daily Inter Ocean* (Chicago, Illinois), Friday, February 24, 1888, Volume: XVI, Issue: 336, Section: Part 1, p. 2.

Our subject is a native of Springfield, and was born February 3, 1848, to Harrison and Elizabeth (Todd) Grimsley, natives respectively of Kentucky and Illinois. Completed his education in the city schools, and has been in the mercantile business all of his active life, and a member of the same firm for twenty-two years. He is systematic, prompt and enterprising in his business dealings, and is withal true and upright in all his relations, whether of a business or social nature. He is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and stands among the first citizens of this his native city. Mr. Grimsley and Miss Cornelia Messler, of Somerville, N. J., celebrated their marriage December 12, 1871. It has been blessed to them by the birth of one child, Mary Swift. Mrs. Grimsley is a daughter of the Rev. Dr. Messler, now deceased, who was for forty-seven years the pastor of the First Reformed Church of Raritan, at Somerville, N. J.<sup>385</sup>

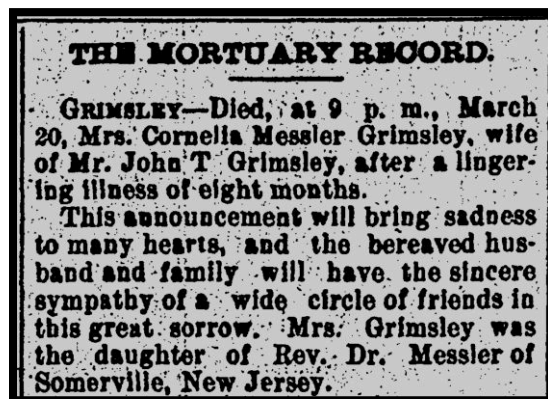
**Death of Cornelia Messler Grimsley, wife of John Todd Grimsley**  
(1841-1891)

Cornelia Messler Grimsley, the wife of John Todd Grimsley, died on March 20, 1891, at her residence at 1205 North Sixth Street in Springfield, the former residence of her mother-in-law, Elizabeth Grimsley Brown. She was buried in the Dr. John Todd plot at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois.

Of Only a Few Days—Bronchitis the Cause—A Prominent and Well Known Lady—The Funeral of Mrs. John T. Grimsley to Occur at 2 p.m. Tomorrow from the Residence



Grave of Cornelia Messler Grimsley,  
Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois



Obituary of Cornelia Messler Grimsley,  
*Journal*, March 21, 1891<sup>386</sup>

<sup>385</sup> *Portrait & Biographical Album of Sangamon County, Illinois*, Chicago, Chapman Brothers, 1891.

<sup>386</sup> *Journal*, March 21, 1891, p. 4.



Mr. Grimsley and Miss Cornelia Messler, of Somerville, N.J., celebrated their marriage December 12, 1871. It has been blessed to them by the birth of one child, Mary Swift. Mrs. Grimsley is a daughter of the Rev. Dr. Messler, now deceased, who was for forty-seven years the pastor of the First Reformed Church of Raritan, at Somerville, N.J.

Mrs. Cornelia Grimsley, wife of John T. Grimsley, died at 9 o'clock on Friday night, March 21, 1891, at their residence, No. 1205 North Sixth street, of a complication of diseases after an illness of about one year, during which time she has been a patient sufferer. She was born in Somerville, N. J., and was the daughter of Rev. Abraham and Elma Doremus Messler, who formerly resided in Riordan, N. J., where her father was the pastor of the First Dutch Reformed church for seventeen years, afterwards dying in Somerville, New Jersey, in 1882. Mrs. Grimsley's maiden name was Cornelia Messler, and she was married to Mr. John T. Grimsley in Somerville, N. J. on Dec. 12, 1871, soon thereafter removing to this city where they have since resided, Mr. Grimsley being a partner in the dry goods firm of R. F. Herndon & Co.

She is survived by her husband, one daughter, May Gimsley (their only child); her mother, living in Somerville, N. J., who is 85 years of age; one brother, Mr. Thomas Messler of Pittsburg, Pa., vice president of the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad company; four sisters, Mrs. M. S. Swift, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., (at present in the Island of Bermuda); Mrs. Helen D. Covert, and the Misses Sarah and Emily of Somerville, N. J.

Mrs. Grimsley leaves a large circle of warm friends, both in this city and in the east by whom she was much beloved for her sweet and amiable disposition. She was a devout Christian, and a kind and loving wife, mother, and daughter. She was a patient sufferer through many months of painful illness, and her departure will be most sincerely felt by all. The funeral will take place tomorrow from the residence. The remains will be interred in Oak Ridge cemetery. IL State Register, Springfield, IL 3-22-1891

**Funerals.**  
**GRIMSLEY.**

The great esteem in which Mrs. John T. Grimsley was held was attested by the large attendance at her funeral which occurred at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon from the family residence, No. 1205 North Sixth street. The Rev. T. D. Logan, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, officiated, and breathed words of comfort and cheer into the ears of the sorrowing husband, daughter and relatives. The pall bearers were: R. F. Herndon, O. F. Stebbins, J. W. Patton, E. A. Hall, N. B. Wiggins and Alfred Orendorff. At the request of the family, there was no music. The interment took place at Oak Ridge cemetery.

Obituary of Cornelia Messler Grimsley,  
*Journal*, March 24, 1891<sup>387</sup>

Obituary of Cornelia Messler Grimsley,  
*Register*, March 22, 1891<sup>388</sup>



### Death of Ann Maria Todd Smith (1820-1891)

Ann Maria Todd Smith, the widow of Clark M. Smith and the sister of Mary Lincoln, died on March 21, 1891, at age 71.

<sup>387</sup> *Journal*, March 24, 1891, p. 5.

<sup>388</sup> *Journal*, March 22, 1891, p. 1.

**A SUDDEN SUMMONS**

Death of Mrs. C. M. Smith in San Francisco, Cal.

Mrs. C. M. Smith

A dispatch was received yesterday afternoon by Mr. Allen H. Smith announcing the sudden death in San Francisco, Cal., of his mother, Mrs. Ann M. Smith, widow of Mr. C. M. Smith. The cause of death was bronchitis, which Mrs. Smith probably contracted on her way from this city to San Francisco, she having visited her son Allen for two weeks and left here three weeks ago for San Francisco, intending to remain there for two years. Her youngest daughter, Minnie, accompanied her. She was in her 65<sup>th</sup> year. Mrs. Smith's death was entirely unlooked for, as she was not even considered seriously ill. Mr. William Ridgely had received a telegram from Mrs. Smith yesterday forenoon, directing him as to the disposal of some money from rentals he had collected for her. The news spread rapidly over the city and was everywhere received with feelings of surprise and sincere regret by her numerous friends, and the warmest sympathy for her sorrowing children was expressed.

Mrs. Smith's maiden name was Ann M. Todd, and she was the daughter of Robert S. Todd, of Lexington, Ky., where she was born. In 1845, she came to this city on an extended visit with her sister, Mrs. Ninian W. Edwards, and the following year, at the age of 19, she was married at the residence of her sister, Mrs. Edwards, to Mr. Clark Moulton Smith, who was one of the most prominent businessmen of the city. Mr. Smith died in 1885, and since then his widow has spent most of the time in California.

Mrs. Smith was the sister of Mary Todd, afterward the wife of President Abraham Lincoln, and of Elizabeth Todd, afterward the wife of Hon. Ninian W. Edwards, of this city, both of whom are dead. She is survived by the following sisters: Mrs. William Wallace, of this city; Mrs. Mary T. Helm, of Elizabethtown, Ky, and Mrs. Margaret Kellogg, of Cincinnati, Ohio. She is also survived by four children Edgar Todd Smith, of this city; Clara, wife of Mr. Geo. W. Hett, of Chicago; Allen Hall Smith, of the firm of Smith & Lures, of Springfield, and Miss Minnie Smith, who was with her at the time of her death.

Mrs. Smith was endowed with charming disposition, rare graces of mind and person, and was a universal favorite in Springfield society in which she shone as a leader to the time of her husband's death, when she retired from active social life.

Her son, Edgar T. Smith, left last night for Denver, Col., to meet his sister, Minnie, who will leave San Francisco at once with the remains. They will be brought to this city and interred in the family lot at Oak Ridge Cemetery.

*Register*, Sunday, March 22, 1891<sup>389</sup>

**1891-1892**

**1892-1893**

**Elizabeth Brown Living at 2015 North Sixth Street**

The Springfield City Directories for 1891-1892 and 1892-1893 listed Elizabeth Brown as a widow living at 1205 North Sixth.

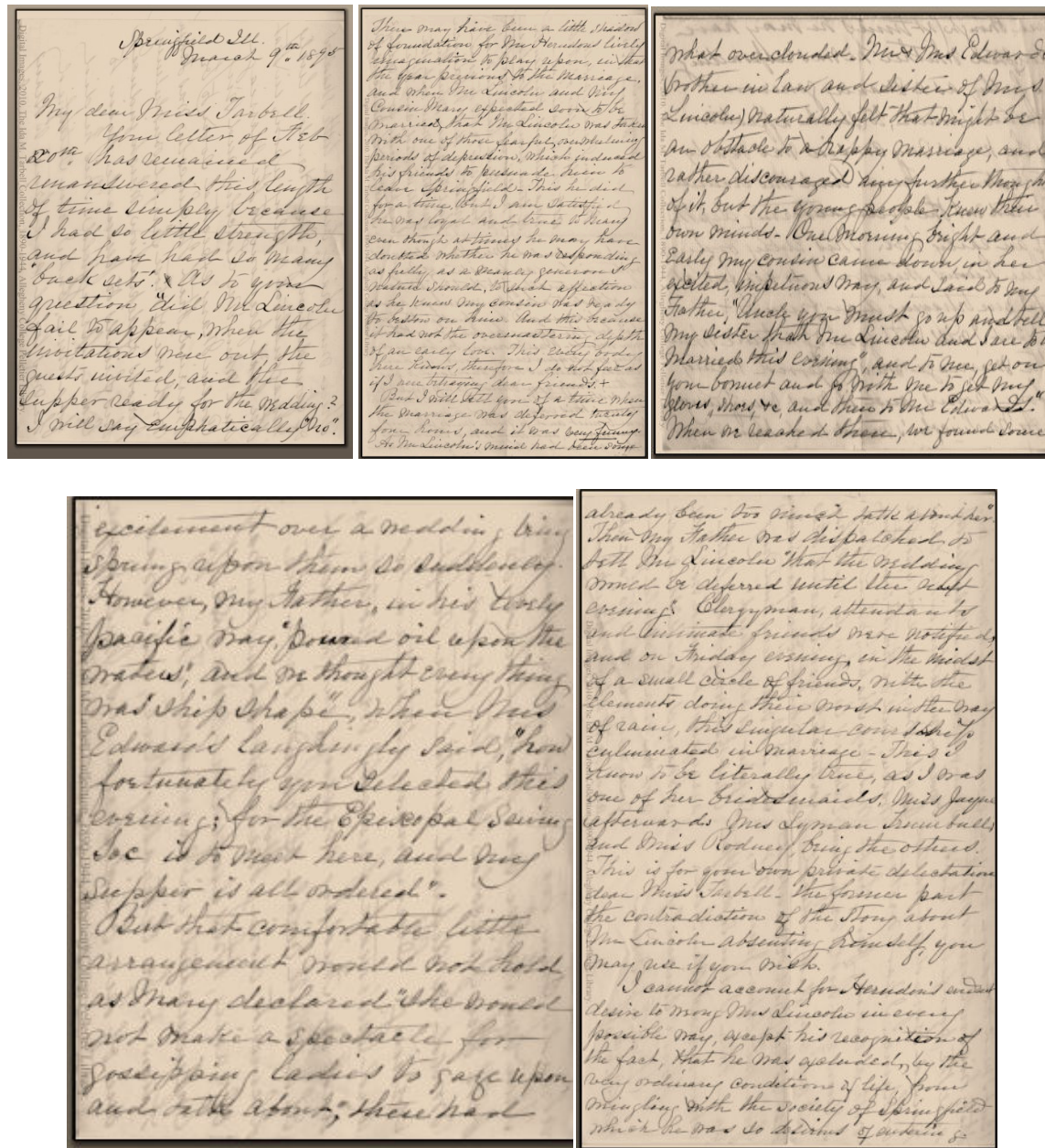
<sup>389</sup> *Register*, Sunday, March 22, 1891, p. 1.

1895

March 9, 1895

## Elizabeth Todd Grimsley Brown Writes to Ida Tarbell

On March 9, 1895, Elizabeth Todd Grimsley Brown wrote a six-page letter to historian Ida Tarbell, who was then writing a biography of Abraham Lincoln.<sup>390</sup>



## TRANSCRIBE

<sup>390</sup> Ida Tarbell Collection, Allegheny College. "Story of Lincoln-Todd Wedding" by Mary Edward Brown 15.3170.0007 Part of typed letter 15.3170.0008. 915.3170.0001

August 31, 1895

**Elizabeth Todd Grimsley Brown Writes to Robert Todd Lincoln**

On August 31, 1895, Elizabeth Todd Grimsley Brown wrote a letter to Robert Lincoln, asking him to review her manuscript prepared for Ida Tarbell who was writing a biography of Abraham Lincoln.<sup>391</sup>

Just found, and transcribed, 2 letters of 1895 here, from LTGB to RTL, and his reply from her. She was in Duluth. This seems to be the only 1895 letter we have here in RTL's hand, a real oddity.

1895 Aug. 31 Lizzie to Robert: ALS, 3 sides of a folded sheet. Year determined from Robert's reply of 9.3.1895.

"Duluth, Aug. 31st My dear Robert, I am writing on my back, having had two sick days again. I send the Ms. [manuscript] and when you are through with it, will you send on, at once, to Miss Ida Tarbell. 626 Centre Street, Newton, Mass. I suppose this address corresponds with the one she gave you. I do not think you will find much that you can object to, while there is not much especially interesting. But the demand was strong, some one was going to take up this part of the projected work, and no one loved you all, as I did. There are a thousand things I should like to have said, but I felt they were too personal. I never heard from Mrs Preston, so did not use her name. After looking this over will you forward at once, to Miss Tarbell, as she wishes it early.

Yours with much love E.J. Brown. 614 Torrey [Toney?] Building.

1895 Sept. 3 ALS, 4 sides of 1 folded leaf, from Robert to

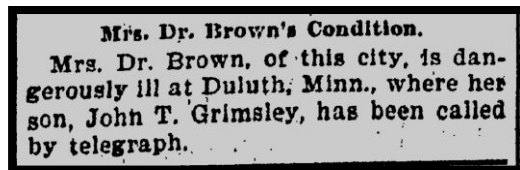
"My dear Cousin" on letterhead from THE TEMPLE, CHICAGO. "I have read over the Mss. with great interest & gratification at your discretion, but I will be ever so much obliged to you if you will carry it still further in regard to the incidents of Mr. Seward & the first "Reception" & the Prince Napoleon dinner. I know that they represent the first attitude of Mr. S. but he changed it all in the most loyal way and aside from hurting the feelings of Frederick Seward, the accounts of the details as written, would give him an opening to write a very nasty squib & make me very unhappy. Except in those two places, your article can give offence to no one & I am most anxious that it should be wholly in that tone. It would be so hard for me to give you an idea of my feeling about this that I will not attempt it, hoping that you will appreciate it. I return & send you in pencil a suggestion of the way in which I hope you will be willing to let it go. If you assent & return it with any changes, I will [carat] (perhaps better to yours ?? illegible) put the new sheets in their proper places & send it all on as you wish."

[end] is there a short leaf missing?<sup>392</sup>

September 5, 1895

**Elizabeth Jane Todd Grimsley Brown Dangerously Ill in Duluth, Minnesota**

On September 5, 1895, the *Register* reported that Elizabeth Grimsley Brown was "dangerously ill at Duluth, Minn." Her son John T. Grimsley was called and was soon present.



*Register*, September 7, 1895.<sup>393</sup>

<sup>391</sup> Ida Tarbell Collection, Allegheny College. "Story of Lincoln-Todd Wedding" by Mary Edward Brown 15.3170.0007 Part of typed letter 15.3170.0008. 915.3170.0001

<sup>392</sup> James M. Cornelius, Ph.D., Curator, Lincoln Collection, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum, 112 N. Sixth St., Springfield, IL 62701-1310 217.785.7954

<sup>393</sup> *Register*, September 7, 1895, p. 5.

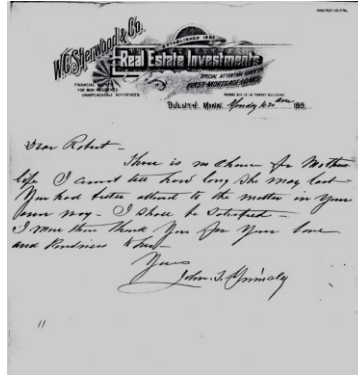


### Letter From John Todd Grimsley to Robert Todd Lincoln

John T. Grimsley responded to a telegram calling him to Duluth where his mother was gravely ill. While there, he used the stationary of a local real estate investment company to write to his second cousin Robert Todd Lincoln.



Circa 1890  
Duluth, Saint Louis County,  
Minnesota  
Residence of W. C.  
Sherwood Where Elizabeth  
Todd Grimsley Brown Died



Duluth, Minn  
Monday 10.30 am

Dear Robert-

There is no chance for Mother's life. I cannot tell how long she may last. You had better attend to the matter in your own way. I shall be satisfied- I more than thank you for your love and kindness to her.

Yours  
John T. Grimsley

### Letter From John Todd Grimsley to Robert Todd Lincoln<sup>395</sup>

September 23, 1895

### Death of Elizabeth Jane Todd Grimsley Brown (1825-1895)

Elizabeth Jane Todd Grimsley Brown died on September 23, 1895, at age 70 in Duluth, Minnesota. She was brought to Springfield and buried in the Dr. John Todd plot at Oak Ridge Cemetery.

#### HER FINAL SLEEP

#### MRS. J. H. BROWN OF SPRINGFIELD PASSES AWAY AT THE RESIDENCE OF HER NIECE, MRS. SHERWOOD

Mrs. J. H. Brown, of Springfield, Ill., who has been visiting in Duluth during the summer, died yesterday morning at the residence of her niece, Mrs. W. C. Sherwood, at Glen Avon.

She was attended by her son, who arrived here some days ago, called here by her illness, and the immediate Sherwood household.

Mrs. Brown was 72 years of age. Her death terminates a life of usefulness and beauty. She was a relative of President Lincoln, and attended as one of the bridesmaids at his wedding. She had recently completed a work entitled "Reminiscences of the White House, which is now in the hands of Robert T. Lincoln, who will publish it in McClure's magazine during the coming year. For fifty years Mrs. Brown was a teacher in the Sunday schools and a large class in Springfield mourns her demise. She has been prominent in missionary work, and was president of the World's Foreign Missionary Society of Illinois.

She leaves one son, John T. Grimsley of Springfield. Her remains were taken to her old home on yesterday's Omaha train, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Sherwood and Mr. Grimsley

<sup>395</sup> Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Lincoln Collection, Springfield, Illinois.

A short prayer service at Mr. Sherwood's residence was conducted by Rev. Clelland, T. W. Spellman and S. T. Harrison.



Elizabeth Todd Grimsley Brown<sup>396</sup>



Grave of Elizabeth Jane Todd Grimsley Brown  
Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois

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<sup>396</sup> Elizabeth Brown appears here, looking severe, in a photo from the Baldwin studio in Chicago, Illinois.  
[http://www.mkfound.org/collections/16/sub\\_category/311/view\\_item/21162?page=5--Elizabeth Todd Grimsley Papers](http://www.mkfound.org/collections/16/sub_category/311/view_item/21162?page=5--Elizabeth%20Todd%20Grimsley%20Papers), 1861, 7 items: Letters Grimsley wrote from Washington to her cousins Mr. and Mrs. John Todd Stuart describing White House events and Grimsley's manuscript concerning her White House visit.

**MEMORIAL MEETING.**

Services in Honor of the Late Mrs. Elizabeth J. Brown.

The regular meeting of the Woman's Foreign and Home Missionary societies of the First Presbyterian church was held yesterday at 3 p. m. in the church parlors, Mrs. D. C. Brown, the first vice president, presiding.

On appointment by the chair, Mrs. G. C. Smith led the devotional and memorial exercises, the meeting assuming the form of a memorial, on account of its being the first service held since the death of the devoted, faithful and most efficient president, Mrs. Elizabeth J. Brown, widow of the eminent Dr. J. H. Brown.

The exercises were tender and touching, each and every member of both societies, which now meet jointly, feeling deeply the loss, personally and as societies. Mrs. Brown was an ardent and untiring worker in the cause of missions, and was the inspiration of not only the societies of her own church, but of many other churches in this city and Presbytery. Being vice president of the board of the northwest, her influence in this line is felt in five or more states, and her death will be a great loss to the work. It has been decided to hold a public memorial service for her at 3 o'clock on Wednesday, Oct. 16, in the First Presbyterian church lecture room, in which all the missionary societies of all the churches in this city will be invited to participate, each society so desiring being represented by some one member in a short talk or paper of reminiscences at the proposed meeting. As Mrs. Brown's influence was so widely extended, this action of the ladies of the First Presbyterian church is most fitting.

The secretary, Mrs. Dr. B. M. Griffith, being absent, attending upon her sick husband, Mrs. G. C. Smith, Mrs. Goss and Mrs. A. M. Brooks were appointed a committee to draft resolutions concerning the death of their leader.

**BROWN**—At Duluth Minn., at 7 a. m. Monday, Sept. 23, 1895, Mrs. Elizabeth J. Brown, aged 70 years.

Mrs. Brown went north some time ago for her health, which has steadily failed until two weeks ago, when her son, John T. Grimsley, was sent for. He went immediately to his mother's bedside and there remained while she sank lower and lower, until death relieved her. She was born in Edwardsville, Ill., and was the daughter of Dr. John Todd. She was the grand-daughter of Dr. John Blair Smith, at one time president of Hampden-Sydney college, of Virginia, and also president of Union college, as well as a noted Presbyterian preacher. She was married in 1846 to Harry St. James Grimsley, and to them two sons were born, John T. Grimsley, of this city, who still survives her, and William L. Grimsley, deceased. Her husband died in 1865, and she was married a second time in 1867 to Dr. John Howe Brown, for many years pastor of the First Presbyterian church, and who died in 1872. She also leaves to mourn her loss, a brother, Francis Walton Todd, of Stockton, Cal. The deceased was a most kind and charitable woman. She was of a very loving nature and generous disposition, and no one ever went to her in their troubles but what received help. She was a strong Sunday school worker, being a teacher for several years. She was president of the Woman's Foreign Missionary societies of the Springfield Presbytery, and vice president of the Woman's Board of the Northwest.

The remains will arrive in this city at 4:05 p. m. to-day on the C. & A. limited, escorted by her son. They will be taken to her home at Sixth street and North Grand avenue.

Funeral notice later.

*Journal*, September 24, 1895  
Obituary of Elizabeth Jane Todd Grimsley Brown,  
*Register*, September 24, 1895<sup>397</sup>

**Helen Dodge Edwards Writes to Ida Tarbell  
About the Death of Elizabeth Jane Todd Grimsley Brown**

October 8, 1895

Did you know that Mrs. Dr. Brown is dead? She died at the home of a favorite niece in Duluth. Oh what a loss to her friends, to the church, to the whole community. I have known her nearly fifty-five years, & as a young girl — daughter — wife — mother — friend — never have I heard one disparaging word of her. Truly of her it must be said "none knew her but to love her, none named her but to praise." I believe the last work she did was to prepare some

<sup>397</sup> *Register*, September 24, 1895, p. 5.

papers for you about Lincoln – At least, I understand that her son John had said just before her last severe illness, that she had been writing for you. It will be two weeks tomorrow since she was buried – a lovely obituary notice was given in our daily paper – of two weeks since. Last evening, I sent down to the office hoping to get a copy, that I might send the article to you, believing you would be interested in it. But not one could be gotten.<sup>398</sup>

Helen Dodge Edwards

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<sup>398</sup> The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944; Pelletier Library, Allegheny College; Helen Dodge Edwards to Ida Tarbell, October 8, 1895.