

Chapter Seven Afterwards

1896

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.

Marriage of John Todd Grimsley to Alithea T. Fuller

On May 20, 1896, John Todd Grimsley, the son of Elizabeth, married Alithea T. Fuller, at her home in Springfield. They had two [THREE] children: Elizabeth M. Grimsley, born in November 1897 in Illinois, and Alithea T. Grimsley, born in about 1903 in Illinois.

Wednesday morning, at 10 o’clock, a pretty home wedding was celebrated at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Fuller on South State street. The bride, Miss Alithea Fuller, has only been a resident of the city for a few years, but in that time has made many friends. The groom, Mr. John T. Grimsley, is a partner in the great dry goods house of R. F. Herndon & Co., and a son of the late Mrs. Dr. Brown. The ceremony was impressively performed by Rev. F. W. Taylor, D. D., rector of St. Paul’s Church. The bride and groom were unattended, save by the parents of the bride, who gave her away. The bride was attractively attired in a handsome going-away gown of novelty cloth, with velvet trimmings. After partaking of a wedding breakfast, the bride and groom left for a short bridal tour, after which they will be at home at the residence of the groom, North Grand avenue and Sixth street. Friends present from out of the city were: Dr. {Francis Walton} Todd, uncle of the groom, from San Francisco. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Foster of Decatur, Mrs. Fannie Young of Albuquerque, N. M., and Misses Sarah and Louie Boyd of Decatur. Many handsome gifts were received by Mr. and Mrs. Grimsley from friends abroad as well as in the city.

Daily Inter Ocean, Chicago, Illinois, Saturday, May 23, 1896.³⁹⁹

1898

Death of Dr. Francis Walton Todd (1816-1898)

Dr. Francis Walton Todd, Elizabeth’s brother, died on August 5, 1898, in Capitola, California, at age 82.

* * *

Todd--John T. Grimsley received a telegram last night announcing the death of his uncle, Dr. F. W. Todd, at 7:30 o'clock Friday evening, Aug. 5, in Capitola, Cal.

Doctor Todd practiced medicine here sixty years ago and will be remembered by many old residents who highly esteemed him. He left here in the early sixties and located in Capitola, Cal., where he died. Dr. Todd was related to Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, Mrs. John T. Stuart and Mrs. Dr. Wallace.

* * *

Journal, Sunday, August 7, 1898.⁴⁰⁰



Grave of Dr. Francis Walton Todd

³⁹⁹ *Daily Inter Ocean*, Chicago, Illinois, Saturday, May 23, 1896, Volume: XXV, Issue: 60, Section: Part Second, p. 15.

⁴⁰⁰ *Journal*, Sunday, August 7, 1898, p. 6.

FRANCIS WALTON TODD, M.D., was born at Bardstown, Ky., April 17, 1816, and was educated at Illinois College, Jacksonville, Ill. In March, 1838, he was graduated in medicine at Cincinnati College under the tutelage of Drs. Drake, Willard Parker, Fash McDowell and Samuel D. Gross, and in 1839 he went to Port Gibson, Miss., where he practiced his profession until February, 1847, when he joined the army of General Scott as an assistant surgeon, and made the campaign to the city of Mexico. After the close of the war he resided in New Orleans until the spring of 1849, when he went to Panama, and was employed by the chief engineer superintendent of the railroad, then building, to take care of his sick, which he did until the steamer Panama came around from New York, on which vessel he went to California, arriving at San Francisco June 4, 1849. For several years he resided at Todd's Valley, Placer County, and to the practice of medicine he added horticulture and viticulture in which he was successful, but the mines having become exhausted, and the population gone to other pursuits, together with his remoteness from market he gave away a property that had cost him a large sum and removed to Stockton, where he gave twenty years to medicine, except three years spent in Europe. During this time he held, for several years, the office of member of the first State Board of Health, was a delegate to the International Congress in 1876 at Philadelphia, was one year the secretary, three years a vice-president, and one year president of the State Medical Society of California, president of the Board of Health of Stockton, for two years president of the San Joaquin Society of California Pioneers, and as long as the Society existed was secretary of the San Joaquin County Medical Society. Retiring at the age of 72 years, from a laborious practice, he sought ease in retirement at Coronado, Los Angeles, and other resorts. Dr. Todd was a mason and Knight Templar and died at Capitola, Cal., Aug. 5, 1898, strong in the faith of the Christian religion.⁴⁰¹

1899

Death of Frances "Fanny" Jane Todd Wallace
(1817-1899)

Frances "Fanny" Jane Todd Wallace, Mary Lincoln's sister and widow of Dr. William Wallace, died at age 82 on August 14, 1899. She is buried at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois.



⁴⁰¹ The Journal of the American Medical Association <https://books.google.com/books?id=Pe45QAAMAAJ> 1898 - Medicine

ANOTHER PIONEER GONE

DEATH CLAIMS MRS. FRANCIS JANE WALLACE.

Came to Springfield When It Was But a Frontier Village— Was a Sister of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln—Funeral This Afternoon.

Wallace—At her home, 1013 South Second street, Monday, August 14, 1899, Mrs. Francis J. Wallace, aged 82 years.

The funeral services will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral this afternoon at 3 o'clock, the Rev. F. W. Taylor officiating.

Sixty-three years of continuous residence in Springfield spans the entire history of the city as the capital of Illinois, and only a few pioneer residents are now living who can recall the historic incidents that fell within the experience of Mrs. Wallace who came here in the early days when, as a frontier village, Springfield attained its first prominence upon the map through the act of the legislature, which made it the seat of the state government. Francis Jane Todd, a daughter of Robert S. and Elizabeth Parker Todd, was born at Lexington, Ky., March 7, 1819. The Todd family was of ancient and honorable lineage and the name is prominent in American history. On the maternal side Mrs. Wallace was descended from Gen. Andrew Porter, of revolutionary fame, and she was well worthy of such a descendant. About 1836 she came to Springfield to visit her sister, Mrs. Ninian Edwards, and here she met a young physician from Pennsylvania, Dr. William S. Wallace. Their acquaintance ripened into an attachment which resulted in their marriage on May 21, 1838. The marriage was solemnized by the Rev. Charles W. Dresser,

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May 21, 1838. The marriage was solemnized by the Rev. Charles W. Dresser, rector of St. Paul's parish, at the home of Mrs. Edwards. At first the young couple boarded at the old St. Charles hotel, and of this period of her married life and the social pleasures of that early day Mrs. Wallace was accustomed to speak with enthusiasm and to recall many interesting incidents. Dr. and Mrs. Wallace lived successively at a home on South Sixth street about where the Dresser flats are now situated and at the corner of Seventh street and Capitol avenue. Dr. Wallace died in 1867. About twenty years ago his widow removed to her late home, 1013 South Second street, where she has lived a quiet and retired life ever since.

Mrs. Wallace was followed to Illinois by her younger sisters, Mary, who was married to Abraham Lincoln, and Ann, who became the wife of C. M. Smith, the leading merchant of the city. The four sisters continued to reside in Springfield during their lives and all became acknowledged leaders in the social life of the city, which even in pioneer days was distinguished by the association of some of the most brilliant men and women of the age.

Mrs. Wallace long outlived all of her sisters and most of her intimate associates, but not even the weight of years, with the bodily infirmities incident to age, could dim the brightness of her active mind or break the indomitable spirit that animated her.

She was essentially self-reliant and strong, but kindness and love ruled her life. She was never so happy as when doing some good for others. The precept that it is more blessed to give than to receive was exemplified in her daily life. Her quiet home was a central place for the entire neighborhood, and young and old alike loved to seek her society. The delight she felt in the companionship of her neighbors was reciprocated to the fullest degree. Her reminiscences of people and events of the old times were of a most interesting character, and her memory to the last was remarkable in their fidelity to details as well as the force and vividness of the impressions conveyed. As her life drew toward its close the true beauty and strength of her Christian character became more apparent. She was one of those who had thoroughly learned the art of growing old gracefully, and the sunset of her life may be truly called a golden one, in which the last rays, softened in the haze of evening, cast a glory backward over the darkening way as

one, in which the last rays, softened in the haze of evening, cast a glory backward over the darkening way as to leave a promise of the greater glory yet to come.
Mrs. Wallace is survived by one daughter, Mrs. John P. Baker, of St. Louis, and two sons, Edward D. Wallace, of St. Louis, and William F. Wallace, of this city. She leaves eight grand-children and four great-grand-children. Of her other relatives in this city, the nearest are her granddaughter, Mrs. Walter L. Patterson, and her nephews, Allen H. and Edwin Smith. She also leaves two half-sisters, Mrs. Emille Helm, of Elizabethtown, Ky., and Mrs. Margaret Kellogg, of Cincinnati, O.

Tuesday, August 15, 1899

Paper: Daily Illinois State Register (Springfield, Illinois)

Page: 5

Mrs. John Todd Grimsley Advertises For White Cook

Missing GET

Register, Wednesday, December 27, 1899⁴⁰²

⁴⁰² Register, Wednesday, December 27, 1899, p. 9.

1901

Death of Mary Virginia Nash Stuart
(1816-1901)

Mary Virginia Nash Stuart, widow of John Todd Stuart, died on May 31, 1901, in Springfield, Illinois, at age 84y 9m 16d and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Stuart—At the residence of her son-in-law C. C. Brown, 1119 South Fourth street, Friday, May 31, 1901, at 3:30 p.m. of old age, Mrs. Mary Virginia Nash Stuart, widow of the late John Todd Stuart, age 85 years.

Mrs. Stuart was one of the oldest residents of this city, having lived here continuously since 1837. She was the only child of Francis Nash and Judith Bland Nash, and was born on Aug. 25, 1816, near Richmond, Va. When she was quite young her father moved to the territory of Missouri. The trip was an eventful one even in that day of migrations, and was made by carriage and flat boat. With the expectation that there would be a large city on the west bank of the Mississippi, General Nash purchased a tract of land at the juncture of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers about fifteen miles from the present city of St. Louis, which was then but a small village.

Upon the death of her father Mrs. Stuart went to Jacksonville to reside with her uncle, Judge Samuel D. Lockwood, then one of the judges of the supreme court of Illinois. She was married on October 25, 1837, to John Todd Stuart, of this city. Mrs. Stuart first lived on Jefferson street near First street. When Major Stuart was elected to congress in 1835, Mrs. Stuart accompanied him to Washington and lived there during his first term. About 1840, Mr. and Mrs. Stuart built a residence on South Fourth street, opposite to the governor's mansion where they lived until the death of Major Stuart in 1885. Mrs. Stuart was a woman of high intellectual attainments, of most dignified and pleasing manners, and possessed of interesting and independent convictions. Although her husband was what might be called an old-line Whig with a leaning toward the democratic party, Mrs. Stuart always advocated the principles of the republican party. During her long lifetime she was a consistent member of the Presbyterian church. She had a large acquaintance with the prominent men and women of the country and related many interesting anecdotes of Webster and Calhoun, Clay, Benton and the men of later times.

She was the mother of three daughters, Bettie J. Stuart, wife of C. C. Brown, Virginia and Hannah, of whom Hannah alone survives here, and four sons, John T., Frank N., Robert L. and Edward, of whom are left John T. of Chicago, and Robert L. of this city.

The funeral will occur Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock from the late residence. The interment will be at Oak Ridge cemetery.

1902

Dr. John Todd's Sixth Street House Torn Down

This newspaper account of the raising of the Dr. John Todd house is filled with errors to numerous to mention. It does, however, set the date for the demolition of house.

Building at 322 South Sixth Street is Being Removed

The building at 322 South Sixth, now vacant, but lately occupied by Doctor Fowler and which was once the home of Mary Todd, afterward the wife of Abraham Lincoln, is now being razed. Myers and Van Duyn, who own the property, intend to build a modern structure on the site but have not yet decided what sort of a building it will be.

This property, which for years was known as the Ferguson property and which has in its time been a place of residence of the best citizens of the city, has tumbled into decay and soon will be but a memory.

Capt. R. H. Ferguson's father built the residence and soon after its completion Dr. John Todd came to Springfield, with four nieces, and moved into it. Doctor Todd's four charges afterward became the

wives of well-known citizens. One became the wife of the future president of the United States, another became the wife of C. M. Smith, the third became Mrs. W. S. Wallace, and the fourth took the name of Mrs. N. W. Edwards. It was at the home of the last named, in another part of the city that Lincoln courted Mary Todd and there he was married to her.

The Todd's lived at 322 South Sixth street a few years when Mr. Ferguson built a home for them on the lot where Myers and Van Duyn's establishment now is located, and a few years later this house was taken from its foundation and removed to a point on North Sixth street.

The next occupant of the old Todd home, at 322 South Sixth street, was J. Newton Francis, one of the early associate proprietors of the *Journal*. Mr. Francis became a member of the firm in 1838. He died in 1843.

Mrs. Henrietta Ulrich was the next to occupy the place, which even at that late day was looked upon as an elegant residence site. It was after Mrs. Ulrich moved that the place began to be let promiscuously and its occupants became less known. Mrs. Ulrich was the mother of E. R. Ulrich and will be remembered as the one whom Henrietta street was named after, when a tract of land belonging to the family in that part of the city was made an addition to Springfield.

When Doctor Fowler took up his residence in the house and converted a portion of it into an office for the reception of patients the place began to regain some of its old value. Four years ago Doctor Fowler moved away and since then the house has been vacant.

Journal, Thursday, April 24, 1902.⁴⁰³

⁴⁰³ *Journal*, Thursday, April 24, 1902, p. 5.

TEARING AWAY A LANDMARK.

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1907

Dr. John Todd's Heirloom Watch Stolen at Roy F. Donaldson's

A burglar entered the residence of Roy F. Donaldson, 802 West Edwards street, at about 7 o'clock last evening, in the absence of the family, and completely ransacked the house and made away with a solid gold watch of great value. When Mrs. Donaldson returned to her home in the evening, she was surprised on entering the front door, to hear someone run through the living room to the rear of the house, and out the back door. She immediately saw that the house had been thoroughly searched for the furniture was disarranged and the blinds had been run to the tops of the windows to supply more light.

The thief made away with a solid gold hunting case watch which was formerly the property of Mrs. [Mary] Donaldson's great grandfather, Lockwood Todd. [Granddaughter of Elizabeth Todd Gimsley Brown] The watch was presented to Lockwood Todd, Jr. by his father [Dr. John Todd] on March 1, 1848, and was an heirloom of the family. The watch was elaborately engraved with data of the family record and could be easily identified. On the small inner lid of the back of the case of case-watch was engraved: "Presented to Lockwood Todd by his father March 1, 1848." On the inside of the back outside lid of the watch was engraved the name of Mrs. _ . ; _ . _ . Todd and the date of birth and death.

On the inside of the front lid of the case was engraved the name of Dr. John Todd with the dates of birth and death. The watch, besides being very valuable, has a most interesting history.

It was not found that the thief took any other article of value and it is thought that he had not yet been able to completely search the house when he was scared away by the return of Mrs. Donaldson. A sack partially filled with candy that had been left on the library table by the little ___ Alice Donaldson, was taken by the intruder.

The fellow man ___ through the rear door of the house and ran west. His track in the damp earth in the back yard can be plainly seen.⁴⁰⁴

Register, December 18, 1907

1908

John T. Grimsley Living at 1205 North Sixth Street.

The 1908 Springfield City Directory listed John T. Grimsley living at 1205 North Sixth Street and working at R. F. Herndon & Co.

1909

John T. Grimsley Living at 1205 North Sixth Street

The 1909 Springfield City Directory listed John T. Grimsley living at 1205 North Sixth Street.

⁴⁰⁴ *Register*, Wednesday, December 18, 1907, p. 7.

1910-1911

John T. Grimsley Living at 1722 South Fourth Street

The 1910-1911 Springfield City Directory listed John T. Grimsley living at 1722 South Fourth and working as a department manager at R. F. Herndon & Co.

1912

John T. Grimsley Living at 1722 South Fourth Street

The 1912 Springfield City Directory listed John T. Grimsley and his wife Aletha living at 1722 South Fourth.

1891-1892

1892-1893

Elizabeth Brown Living at 1205 North Sixth Street

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

1919

John Todd Grimsley Gives Lincoln Trunk to Harry E. Baker

In 1919, Elizabeth Grimsley Brown's son, John Todd Grimsley, gave the Lincoln trunk to Harry E. Barker, a Springfield book, manuscripts and relics dealer. In 1929 the Kentucky collector William H. Townsend, who had been looking for an "authentic relic associated with Abraham Lincoln's life in Springfield," learned of the trunk through his friend Dr. William E. Barton, the Lincoln scholar. Townsend traveled to Springfield to see it, interviewed Elizabeth's granddaughter Mary Donaldson, thoroughly satisfied himself as to the trunk's history, and bought it. It remained with Townsend until he sold it in 1963 to Justin G. Turner.



1920

Death of John Todd Grimsley
(1848-1920)

John Todd Grimsley, Elizabeth Todd Grimsley's son, died on November 20, 1920, in Washington, D. C. at age 72. He was survived by his wife, Aletha Fuller Grimsley, three daughters, Elizabeth and Aletha and Mrs. Roy Donaldson, and one granddaughter, Helen C. Donaldson. John was brought back to Springfield and buried in the Todd plot in Oak Ridge Cemetery.



Grave of John Todd Grimsley,
Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois



The Todd Family Plinth in Oak Ridge Cemetery

**J. T. GRIMSLEY
DIES IN EAST**

WAS FORMER MEMBER OF R. F.
HERNDON DRY GOODS
COMPANY.

John Todd Grimsley, formerly a member of the firm of R. F. Herndon and company, local dry goods' merchants, died yesterday in Washington, D. C., according to word received by relatives in this city. He was 72 years old.

Mr. Grimsley, a son of Harrison and Elizabeth J. Todd Grimsley, was born in Springfield, February 3, 1848. He resided here continuously until a year ago when he went to Washington. In 1912, he retired from active business life.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Aletha Fuller Grimsley; three daughters, the Misses Elizabeth and Aletha Grimsley and Mrs. Roy Donaldson, and a granddaughter, Helen C. Donaldson.

The remains are expected to arrive here Monday night. Arrangements for the funeral have not been completed.

Register, November 21, 1920.⁴⁰⁵

**GRIMSLEY RITES
ARE HELD TODAY**

Funeral services for John Todd Grimsley, former Springfield business man, who died Saturday in Washington, D. C., were held at 10:30 o'clock this morning at First Presbyterian church. Dr. John T. Thomas officiated. Interment was made in Oak Ridge cemetery.

Register, November 23, 1920.⁴⁰⁶

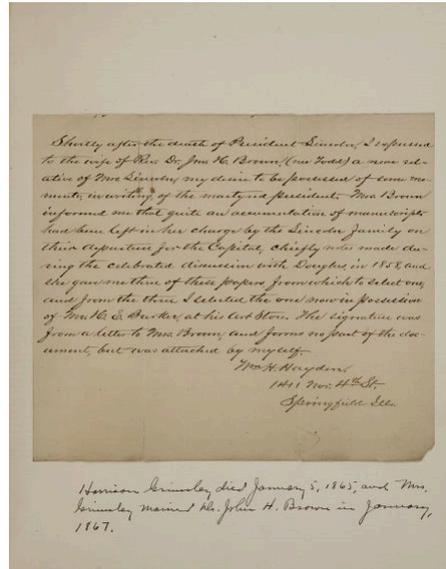
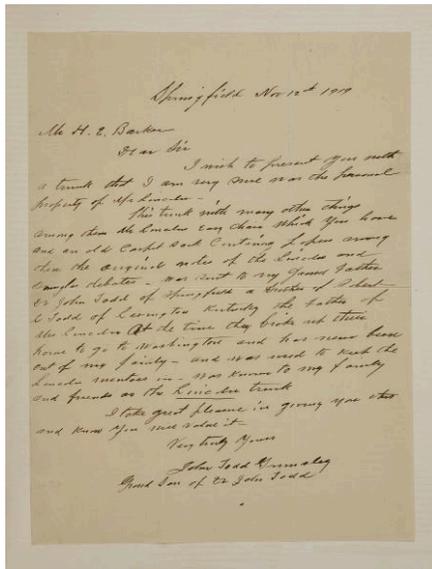
⁴⁰⁵ Register, November 21, 1920, p. 18.

⁴⁰⁶ Register, November 23, 1920, p. 11.

1925

**Grimsley Trunk Document
October 30, 1858 Final Speech of Abraham Lincoln in 1858 Campaign**

On October 30, 1858, Abraham Lincoln gave his final speech in the campaign for Senator and that speech was discovered and sold by Elizabeth Brown's great grandson. The document was once in the famous trunk that Abraham Lincoln gave to Elizabeth Grimsley before he left for Washington D. C. in 1861.



February 12, 1925, *New York Times*

Not quite sixty years after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln there has come to public view an utterance of the martyred President which dates back to the tempestuous days of his debates with Stephen A. Douglas. It is the text of a speech, hitherto unpublished; a speech which he made in Springfield, Ill., Oct. 30. 1858, after the debates were finished. and as that famous campaign for the Senatorship from Illinois was ending.

The undated and unsigned one-page fragment is being sold by a great-grandson of Mary Todd Lincoln's cousin Elizabeth Todd Grimsley of Springfield, Ill., who has not been identified. The speech draft was left with Mrs. Grimsley in a carpetbag filled with Lincoln's papers when the Lincolns moved to Washington in 1861. After Lincoln's assassination, some contents of that carpetbag, which Lincoln had called his "literary bureau," were dispersed to collectors seeking relics of the President.

"According to the family legend," Mr. Kiefer said, "the carpetbag was destroyed accidentally by a servant after this page had been removed, sometime between 1900 and 1916.