

# Manuscript Collection Inventory

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## REV. DAVID TODD. 1821-1874

David Todd was born November 15, 1821, in Hanover Township, Pennsylvania, the youngest child of James Todd, 1779-1851, and Sally Ainsworth, 1780-1831.

The other children in the family were Mary, 1809-1871, Margaret, 1811-1849, James, 1814-1887, Sally, also called Sarah, 1816-1860, and John, 1818-1894. John was our grandfather Todd and, being next to David, was close to him in every way.

Up to this time no one in the Todd family had received very much education but with new ideas being developed at Oberlin College, James Todd sent his two sons there to become ministers.

Sally Ainsworth Todd died in 1831. Her grave may be seen in the Old Hanover Church burying ground, the last of her family to be placed there. In 1840 James Todd left Hanover and emigrated with his daughter Sarah and her husband, Claudius B. French, to Granville, Illinois.

David Todd graduated from Oberlin in 1843 with a B.S. degree, then received his B.D. degree in 1846. John received his degrees a year or two earlier.

While at Oberlin College David became very much interested in a young woman named Charlotte Farnsworth who had been sent to Oberlin to school from New Hampshire and they were engaged in a reserved way. Soon after his graduation he left for Granville, Illinois, to join his father. Only a few of the letters survive and I do not know how. In the summer of 1847 Charlotte contracted typhoid fever and died. David did not know of her death for some time. It must have been a great blow to him. He never married.

John and his family moved to southwest Iowa about 1852. The earliest letter in the series from David to John is dated Dec. 6, 1855. I surmise that when the John Todds left Ohio for Iowa no letters could be taken. Then, for several years they were unsettled, finally moving to the site of Tabor College and the church. Most of the letters written by David to John were carefully preserved. When I was quite a young girl I remember they were in an attic room of the old Todd house and Gene Todd, an older cousin, was allowed to cut off some of the stamps for his collection.

To return to David. It was his duty as a new minister to walk around the country looking for a place where a new church could be started and where the people would accept him as its minister. The letters to John for this period are largely missing, but those that remain give some hints and make interesting reading. I have wished that some of the letters written by John to David had been saved.

One of David's first duties was to substitute in the Congregational Church of Princeton, Illinois, while Owen Lovejoy, who was pastor, made a trip East. Owen Lovejoy was the leader of the abolitionists in Illinois. David stayed at the Lovejoys' at this time and looked upon Mrs. Lovejoy almost as a mother.

Most of the rest of David's biography comes out in the index to the letters which I plan to write. The one thing that will probably remain is a marker placed in front of the little church in Providence, Illinois, which is just a cross-roads near Wyanet, Illinois. The church is probably closed since I visited it three years ago. It stands in the midst of rich cornfields. The marker reads as follows:

Providence Colony

Organized in Rhode Island in 1837 named for Rhode Island Capital  
Foremost among those who came to make homes here were:

Caleb Kushing,

Asa Barney Hosea,

James Dexter,

Alfred Anthony

Providence Congregational Church organized in 1841 faithfully led for 25 years by David Todd. Membership twice doubled under E.A. Paddock, 1883-1887, greatly strengthened by O.C. Clark, 1887-1891. From this church have gone two sons to the foreign mission field: Lawrence Powers to India; Charles Nelson who completed 45 years of notable service in China.

Stone placed by descendants of the colonists 1937.

## LETTERS OF DAVID TODD

**1. July 21, 1846**

**Oberlin, Ohio**

Charlotte Farnsworth to David Todd

Confirmation for a meeting date in near future.

**2. Aug. 4, 1846**

**Clarksfield Huron Co., Ohio**

David Todd to Charlotte Farnsworth

Discusses visit to John Todd's home in Clarksfield and his impressions of the town.

**3. Sept. 4, 1846**

**Oberlin, Ohio**

Charlotte Farnsworth to David Todd

Discusses classes, religious beliefs, and anti-slavery within the Church and hopes for teaching school.

**4. Sept. 10, 1846**

**Granville, Ill.**

David Todd to Charlotte Farnsworth

Visited brother-in-law C. B. French in Chicago. Description of Chicago landscape and no. of inhabitants. Family health, and sickness in Granville.

**5. Oct. 24, 1846**

**Oberlin, Ohio**

Charlotte Farnsworth to David Todd

She expresses her love and states that she did not receive a school position.

**6. Nov. 9, 1846**

**Princeton, Ill.**

David Todd to Charlotte Farnsworth

David's boarding with Lovejoy Family and taking over Owen's ministry until he returns.

**7. Dec. 28, 1846**

**Granville, Ill. (at home)**

David Todd to Charlotte Farnsworth

He asks questions about Charlotte's teaching school and he calls her a "Yankee."

**8. Dec. 29, 1846**

**Granville, Ill.**

David Todd to Charlotte Farnsworth

Charlotte now teaching school in North Dover, Ohio. Mentions Hannah's marriage.

**9. Jan. 14, 1847**

**Wethersfield Henry Co., Ill.**

David Todd to Charlotte Farnsworth

Attended Protestant-Methodist meeting in French Grove. Travelled to homes of English immigrants. Calls himself "wanderer."

**10. Feb. 22, 1847**

**Victoria**

**Knox Co., Ill.**

David Todd to Charlotte Farnsworth

Description of liquids drunk in the 40's and the scenery of Galesburg. Idea of going to Mexico as a soldier.

**11. March 8, 1847**

**Victoria**

**Knox Co., Ill.**

David Todd to Charlotte Farnsworth

Discusses steam ships, weather, and the chance of becoming a missionary in a foreign land.

**12. April 3, 1847**

**Oberlin, Ohio**

Charlotte Farnsworth to David Todd

Apology for not writing, complaint about no letters from home, and of Mr. Finney's talk to her. Describes conversation with friend Maria.

**13. April 7, 1847**

**Galesburg**

**Knox Co., Ill.**

David Todd to Charlotte Farnsworth

Politics discussed; Whigs and Democrats; Constitution of Illinois. David asks about classes at Oberlin.

**14. April 26, 1847**

**Galesburg**

**Knox Co., Ill.**

David Todd to Charlotte Farnsworth

Sad letter due to David's depressed state of mind.

**15. May 5, 1847**

**Victoria**

**Knox Co., Ill.**

David Todd to Charlotte Farnsworth

Description of prairie fire and farming procedures. Asked about his former classmates at Oberlin College.

**16. May 10, 1847**

**Oberlin, Ohio**

Charlotte Farnsworth to David Todd

Charlotte tells of scarcity of letter paper; describes the weather and signs her letter "Lotte."

**17. May 24, 1847**

**Farmington Fulton Co., Ill.**

David Todd to Charlotte Farnsworth

Education and politics

**18. June 7, 1847**

**Galesburg, Ill.**

David Todd to Charlotte Farnsworth

Discusses missions with the Indians; Charlotte's mother's address in Boston; foreign mission with Bro. Cushman; slaveholding as being a-political.

**19. June 15, 1847**

**Victoria**

**Knox Co., Ill.**

David Todd to Charlotte Farnsworth

News from Oberlin through visitors; worried about Charlotte's health, and mentions Knox College.

**20. July 7, 1847**

**Victoria**

**Knox Co., Ill.**

David Todd to Charlotte Farnsworth

Comments on Miss Adams' letter informing him of Charlotte's illness (fever). Attended July 4th event in Hendersonville. (Charlotte never opened this letter)

**21. July 23, 1847**

**Victoria**

**Knox Co., Ill.**

David Todd to Charlotte Farnsworth

Miss Adams informs David of Charlotte's health in a previous letter of July 13-David discusses crops, physicians, and medicine. Good description of the Scottish Settlement in Henry County is included. (Charlotte never saw this letter).

**22. Aug. 18, 1847**

Charlotte Farnsworth's obituary in *Oberlin Evangelist*.

**23. July 6, 1853**

**Providence**

**Bureau Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Harrison

Family news, religion, population of congregation and railroad laborers were discussed.

**24. Dec. 6, 1855**

**Providence, Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

David a land speculator. Went to musical convention (Bradburg). Politics.

**25. Feb. 29, 1856**

**Providence**

**Bureau Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Illinois weather conditions; abolition-ists; and Kansas; land speculation; and a religious colony planned to be set up by Brother Coleman.

**26. May 13, 1856**

**Providence, Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Weather; preaching in Providence, and railroads and R.R. towns. Politics concerning Nebraska issue - formed a Republican Club.

**27. Sept. 8, 1856**

**Granville, Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Farming conditions, spiritualism, feelings toward Democrats and real estate.

**28. April 16, 1858**

**Buda**

**Bureau Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Financial situation in the area and a "Revival" in the congregation.

**29. May 5, 1858**

**Providence**

**Buda P.O.**

**Bureau Co., Ill.**

David Todd to J. L. Shellabarger

David inquires about information concerning John R. Harrison's death. Mentions his ancestors from Hanover Township, Dauphin Co., Penn.; and knew a family by name of Shallenbarger.

**30. Jan. 12, 1859**

**Providence, Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Politics (fugitives, Cuba, parties) and weather, religious, and financial conditions in the area.

**31. March 2, 1859**

**Providence, Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Settlement of Margaret and John Harrison's estate. Spoke of money for A.M.A.

**32. Nov. 1, 1859**

**Granville**

**Putnam Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Mentions Harpers Ferry and Kansas issue. Prospects good for remaining in Providence as a preacher.

**33. May 29, 1860**

**Providence**

**Bureau Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Attended Republican National Convention. Mentions Lincoln, Seward, and Slavery.

**34. Oct. 8, 1860**

**Granville, Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Typhoid fever crisis in Granville and sickness in Providence.

**35. Oct. 25, 1860**

**Granville**

**Putnam Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Death of Sister Sarah from typhoid fever - severe hemorrhaging, (Oct. 23, 1860).

**36. Nov. 28, 1860**

**Providence, Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Claudius French, Sarah's husband, in deep mourning.

**37. April 22, 1861**

**Providence, Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Rumors of Washington's take over; Jeff Davis; Fort Sumpter's fall; and the "crisis of the nation."

**38. June 20, 1861**

**Providence, Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Financial and farming situations. He also mentions Stephen Douglas.

**39. Aug. 19, 1861**

**Providence**

**Bureau Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Financial affairs. Captain Swain, and "martial music."

**40. Sept. 12, 1861**

**Providence**

**Bureau Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

An account of battles and volunteers; Owen Lovejoy and casualties from Oberlin; money standard; slavery; and Lincoln.

**41. Nov. 18, 1861**

**Providence, Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

May enter army as a private. Cousin James Todd died.

**42. June 11, 1862**

**Providence**

**Bureau Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Detailed sketch of Mrs. Lovejoy's experiences in Washington, D.C. Political issues concerning Congress and Illinois. Willie Lincoln's illness and death.

**43. Nov. 7, 1862**

**Providence, Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Civil War, elections, and Harrisburg wounded.

**44. July 2, 1863**

**Providence, Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Rumor that Negroes will be armed. David's trip to the East and a mosquito scourge in Providence.

**45. Sept. 14, 1863**

**Providence, Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Visited military prison on Rock Island; Indian prisoners at Davenport; and family affairs.

**46. Nov. 28, 1863**

**Granville, Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Plans made to become a teacher and preacher among the freedmen in Dixie. Others are going along through the A.M.A.

**47. April 16, 1864**

**Pine Bluff, Ark.**

David Todd to John Todd

13 members of A.M.A. left Chicago Dec, 1863. 5 people stayed at Pine Bluff. A description of the settlement is given.

**48. Sept. 12, 1864**

**On board Steamer "Golden Era"**

John Todd to Reverend D. Worcester

John is preacher for a regiment and is heading home. Describes his experiences with the Regiment.

**49. Sept. 29, 1864**

**Pine Bluff, Ark.**

David Todd to John Todd

David is ill, still continues to teach. Saw William Hicks hung as a spy. Describes conditions on the farm.

**50. May 6, 1865**

**Pine Bluff, Ark.**

David Todd to John Todd

Discusses politics, rumors, war, and educational achievements of the freed-men.

**51. June 24, 1865**

**Pine Bluff, Ark.**

David Todd to John Todd

Colony of freedmen located at Senator R. Johnson's farm (4 to 500). Weather hot, good produce available.

**52. Sept. 8, 1865**

**Granville**

**Putnam Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

David returned to Granville due to his illness. Invested in Government Bonds through his brother John.

**53. Sept. 27, 1865**

**Granville**

**Putnam Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Financial investments. David so ill he is unable to write his own letters.

**54. Oct. 20, 1865**

**Granville**

**Putnam Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

David unable to return to Pine Bluff due to severe illness. He ordered his trunk back home.

**55. Nov. 28, 1865**

**Granville**

**Putnam Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

David's condition during the illness.

**56. March 13, 1866**

**Princeton**

**Bureau Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Visiting parishioners. Has to watch his health in hot weather; political issues; and his future plans.

**57. May 12, 1866**

**Harrisburg, Penn.**

David Todd to John Todd

Penn. Describes his journey to Penn., and the stops he made to see friends.

**58. June 20, 1866**

**Harrisburg, Penn.**

David Todd to John Todd

News of friends, visited Ft. Washington, prices of produce, and a description of the burning of the Harrisburg bridge.

**59. July 27, 1866**

**Harrisburg, Penn.**

David Todd to John Todd

David's health is better and preached a few times. Spectator at Freedman's Parade. Describes a new sport--baseball.

**60. Dec. 24, 1866**

**Harrisburg, Penn.**

David Todd to John Todd

Discusses politics and religion. David sold Cobbins Domestic Bible with no success, but conversed with some real nice people.

**61. Jan. 17, 1867**

**Harrisburg, Penn.**

David Todd to John Todd

Discussed political issues and witnessed the inauguration of Gen. Geary as Gov. of Penn.

**62. June 11, 1867**

**Providence**

**Bureau Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Preaching in Providence area. Left Harrisburg in April. Sketches trip home from Penn.

**63. July 1, 1867**

**Providence**

**Bureau Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

David decided to preach in Providence. Discusses ancestors from Dover, Antrim.

**64. July 23, 1867**

**Providence**

**Bureau Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Discusses money matters. Mentions Tabor College and hopes to have John come visit.

**65. Aug. 7, 1867**

**Providence**

**Bureau Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

John not going to see his son James graduate from Oberlin. Family affairs discussed.

**66. Sept. 20, 1867**

**Providence**

**Bureau Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Visited Granville and discussed his interest in Tabor College and the idea of a professorship for a Todd. Also discussed family affairs.

**67. Nov. 5, 1967**

**Providence**

**Bureau Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Election of county officers; reconstruction; religious associations.

**68. July 9, 1868**

**Providence**

**Bureau Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Effort made to get money and recognition for Tabor College. Political issues discussed.

**69. July 23, 1868**

**Providence**

**Bureau Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Crops and weather discussed.

**70. Aug. 20, 1869**

**Providence**

**Bureau Co., Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

Family news and an eclipse.

**71. Sept. 5, 1870**

**Providence, Ill.**

David Todd to John Todd

David's health not good. Discussed crops, weather and the Franco-Prussian, incident.

**72. Aug. 12, 1874**

**Granville, Ill.**

C. B. French to Friends

Describes David's illness and his death.

**73. Dec. 7, 1874**

**Granville, Ill.**

C. B. French to John Todd

Commemorative plaque placed by descendants of colonists at Providence Colony.

Discusses news of family and friends. Mentions division of David's estate.