

Virginia, by virtue of the aforesaid act, appointed John Todd county-lieutenant or commandant of the County of Illinois. He repaired to his new post in the following spring, arriving at Kaskaskia in May, 1779. He was exceedingly busy with the duties of his government during the greater part of that year, and evidently found his position distasteful, for in a letter to the governor of Virginia, dated Kaskaskias, August 18, 1779, he asked permission to attend the session of the legislature in the following spring, and "get a discharge from an office which an unwholesome air, a distance from my connexions, a language not familiar to me, and an impossibility of procuring many of the conveniences of life suitable, all tend to render uncomfortable."

Col. Todd, however, does not appear to have been granted this permission, or to have availed himself of it, and during the few remaining years of his short life, although he seems not to have been in Illinois after 1779, his correspondence shows that he was earnestly attentive to its interests. In 1780, he was elected a delegate from the County of Kentucky to the legislature of Virginia, and was married while attending its session of that year, to Miss Jane Hawkins. In the summer of 1781, Gov. Thomas Jefferson appointed Todd colonel of Fayette County, Kentucky; and in May, 1782, he was made one of the trustees of Lexington, in that State, by act of Virginia. In the summer of that year, as senior colonel, he commanded the little force of one hundred and eighty men who went in pursuit of the Indians retreating from Simon Girty's famous raid on the settlements south of the Ohio, and on August 19, 1782, he died heroically at the disastrous battle of the Blue Licks. His only child, Mary Owen Todd, was married first to a Mr. Russell, and afterward became the second wife of Robert Wickliffe of Lexington, Kentucky, and died childless.