

was a leading member of its assembly, the first legislative body organized west of the Alleghanies. He established himself at Todd's Station, near Lexington, Kentucky, in 1776, and in December of that year, with nine others, went through the wilderness to bring the powder which Virginia had granted for the defence of the frontier, from Limestone Creek to the Kentucky forts. His party was defeated on Christmas day by the Indians at the Blue Licks, and he narrowly escaped death near the very place at which he was destined to fall a few years later. •

In the spring of 1777, he and Richard Calloway were chosen the first burgesses from Kentucky to the general assembly of Virginia, and made the perilous journey to Williamsburg to perform their public duties. He rendered efficient aid in bringing about the expedition of George Rogers Clark to the Illinois, in 1778, and was with that famous soldier at the capture of Kaskaskia and of Vincennes. This has been doubted, but the fact is established by family papers that Todd accompanied Clark in this campaign, and there is a tradition that he was the first man to enter the fort at Kaskaskia when it was taken from the British.

In October, 1778, the general assembly of Virginia passed "an act for establishing the County of Illinois, and for the more effectual protection and defence thereof." It provides that all the citizens of Virginia settled on the western side of the Ohio shall be included in a distinct county, to be called Illinois County. This practically included the whole region afterward known as the Northwest Territory. Of this county, the governor of the State was authorized to appoint a county-lieutenant or commandant, who could appoint and commission deputy commandants, militia officers, and commissaries, and pardon all offences except murder and treason.

On December 12, 1778, Patrick Henry, as governor of