



Kentucky's War of 1812: Charles Stewart Todd

Part of the Kentucky Historical Society's War of 1812 collection includes a coatee worn during the conflict by Charles Stewart Todd.

The son of a U.S. Supreme Court justice, Todd, an attorney, served in the Kentucky militia. He was ultimately promoted to judge advocate, was an aide to Gen. William Henry Harrison, and helped organize troops at the Battle of the Thames. According to author Sherry Jelsma, after the battle "Charles was made deputy inspector general and adjutant general of the Eighth Military District." He ended the war with the rank of colonel and later served as Kentucky Secretary of State, a legislator and as U.S. ambassador to South America and Russia.

According to the artifact record at the Kentucky Historical Society, "This navy blue wool coatee with tails belonged to Charles S. Todd. It has an eight button (brass USA eagle) front, two brass floral pattern buttons at the cuffs and an upright brass bullion embroidered collar. The inner lining is quilted. The tails are lined with wool gabardine accents. There are two buttons on the tail."

Image courtesy of the Kentucky Historical Society.