

“TAD was a merry, warm-blooded, kindly little boy, perfectly lawless,” wrote Lincoln’s secretary, John Hay. “He ran continually in and out of his father’s cabinet [room] interrupting his gravest labors and conversations with his bright, rapid speech—for he had an impediment which made his articulation almost unintelligible. . . . He would perch upon his father’s knee, and sometimes even on his shoulder, while the most weighty conferences were going on . . . dropping to sleep at last on the floor when the President would pick him up and carry him tenderly to bed.”



Ostendorf collection

TAD LINCOLN in a soldier’s uniform, a rare vignette photograph, previously unpublished.



Ostendorf collection



National Archives

*Left:* TAD as a Zouave (1861) holding a miniature rifle at port arms. Tad presented a carte-de-visite of this photograph to his neighborhood friend, Julia Taft. *Right:* Tad poses for Brady in 1865.