

Remember Me: David O. Dodd

Born: November 10, 1846, Lavaca County, Texas

Employment: Civilian telegraph operator for Confederate army and later for the United States army

Died: January 8, 1864

Age when died: 17

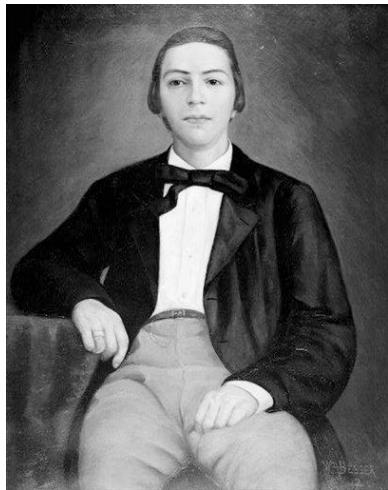
David's final journey to Little Rock

“... on the 31st of December, [he] was arrested about twenty miles from Little Rock. On his person were found . . . letters, and a blank book, containing telegraphic characters, indicating . . . the strength and position of the garrison of Little Rock, a pass from a rebel officer to go in and out of their lines. His trial . . . lasted four days, and every opportunity was afforded to give him a chance to prove his innocence.

[Before] his trial . . . he plead not guilty. But yesterday morning confessed that he was sent by General Fagan to obtain information—that he desired to visit Little Rock, and that Fagan would not allow him a pass, except upon that condition. He was a promising young man misguided, and sacrificed to treason. It is a pity—and should be a warning to others.

There may be those who think that Dodd's youth should have excused him. It is true that it makes it the more to be regretted, but the responsibility rests with those who engaged him for such service. . .”

- *National Democrat* [Little Rock], January 16, 1864



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Dodd's last letter to his family five hours before his execution

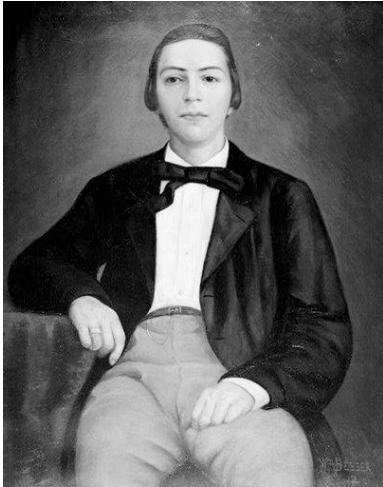
Military Prison, Little Rock.

Jan. 8th, 10 o'clock, a.m., 1864.

My Dear Parents and Sisters: I was arrested as a Spy and tried, and was sentenced to be hung to-day at 3 o'clock. The time is fast approaching, but thank God I am prepared to die. I expect to meet you all in Heaven. Do not weep for me, for I will be better off in Heaven. I will soon be out of this world of sorrow and trouble. I would like to see you all before I die, but let God's will be done, not ours. I pray to God to give you strength to bear your troubles while in this world. I hope God will receive you in Heaven—there I will meet you.

Mother, I know it will be hard for you to give up your only son, but you must remember that it is God's will. Good bye, God will give you strength to bear your troubles. I pray that we may meet in Heaven. Good bye; God will bless you all.

*Your son and brother,
David O. Dodd*



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Newspaper accounts of David O. Dodd's execution

"A boy named David O. Dodd, aged seventeen, was executed, as a spy, at Little Rock, Ark., on the 9th inst. Secret dispatches to Gen. Fagan, rebel, and private letters to rebels in Fagan's army, were found secreted on his person

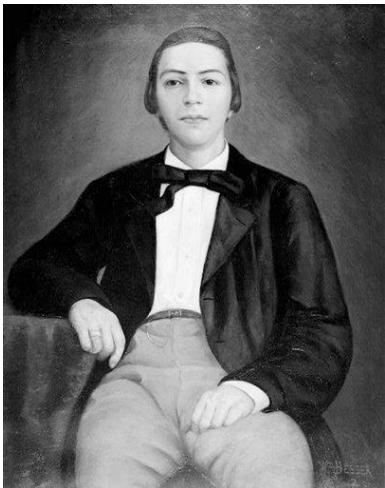
- *Daily Times* [Leavenworth, KS], January 28, 1864

"...The sentence was executed yesterday, at 3½ o'clock, P.M., in front of St. Johns' College, in the presence of six thousand persons.

...The young man had received his education in those college walls . . . It seemed indeed a strange destiny that brought him there to expiate the highest crime known to military law.

...The death struggle lasted but a few moments, and all was over."

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Efforts to memorialize David O. Dodd

"Detained by enemy cavalry who found a notebook in his possession filled with troops dispositions detailed in Morse code, David Owen Dodd was arrested and charged as a spy. On January 5, 1864, he was convicted and sentenced to death by hanging. Despite his youth, David Owen Dodd met his fate in the calm conviction of duty done, leaving to his countrymen an extraordinary example of personal sacrifice."

- *Citation, Confederate Medal of Honor, 1984*

"My suggestion for the first work of improvement is to have a memorial window to David O. Dodd . . . a hero of the highest type – a boy of seventeen giving his young life upon the scaffold rather than betray a trust . . . What a noble example for future generations. The hero of the battlefield cannot be compared to this brave boy, whose name should be inscribed upon the roll of fame."

- *Mrs. Orlando Halliburton, President, 1908 Annual Convention, Arkansas Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy*