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THE  
TODD FAMILY  
IN AMERICA  
OR  
THE DESCENDANTS  
OF  
CHRISTOPHER TODD

1637--1919

BEING AN EFFORT TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT, AS FULLY  
AS POSSIBLE OF HIS DESCENDANTS.

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## TODD GENEALOGY

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### 1

Christopher Todd<sup>1</sup>, was born at Pontefract, West Riding, Yorkshire, England, baptized Jan. 12, 1617, died April 23, 1686, at New Haven, Conn., married Grace, daughter of Michael Middlebrook, of "Hold Mills" Yorkshire, England.

He was barely twenty years of age, when he and his young bride sailed with Mr. Davenports company on the Hector, probably sometime in April 1637. Two months was perhaps, the average time consumed in sailing from London to Boston in vessels of that day. The Hector arrived in Boston on the 26th of June 1637. The immigrants received a warmer welcome than ordinary. The eminence of "the famous Mr. Davenport" and the opulence of the merchants who accompanied him, gave to this company, in the estimation of the colonists, an unusual value. Most of the company remained in Boston or the vicinity during the following winter, many of them having found employment suitable to their several vocations. Though somewhat scattered, some finding lodgings and employment in one place and some in another, they were still an organized company.

On the 30th of March, the leader of the company and most of the followers embarked at Boston, having formally decided to fix their plantation at "Quinnipiac" on long Island Sound. After a tedious voyage of "about a fortnight they arrived at their desired port."

It was perhaps, a peculiarity of New Haven, that cellars were used for temporary habitations. They were, as the name suggests, partially under ground and perhaps, in most cases on a hill side. On the Sabbath, they worshipped under an oak tree, near the landing place: and Mr. Davenport, in a sermon on Matthew IV, I, "insisted on the temptation of the wilderness, made such observations, and gave such directions and exhortations, as were pertinent to the present condition of his hearers."

The English, soon after their arrival at Quinnipiac, observed a day of extraordinary humiliation, when they formed a social compact, mutually promising "that as in matters that contain the gathering and ordering of a church, so likewise, in all public offices, which concern civil order, as choice of magistrates, and officers making and repealing of laws, dividing allotments of inheritance, and all things of a like nature," they would all of them be ordered by those rules which the scripture holds forth. For more than a year, they had no other civil or ecclesiastical organization for the transaction of business and, if we may judge of that year by the years that followed, there were penalties inflicted on evil-doers; but if any individuals were authorized to act as magistrates, the record of their appointment has not been discovered.

The plantation covenant, like the compact signed in the cabin of the Mayflower, was a provisional arrangement of men, who finding themselves beyond the actual jurisdiction of any earthly government, attempted to govern themselves according to the law of God. The elective franchise was limited to church members.

At first, Christopher Todd seems to have been one of the less prominent of the colonists. He signed the "General Agreement" modestly, with his mark and quietly took his allotment in the "Yorkshire Quarter," and when the meeting house was "dignified," he had his place assigned him, not in one of the honorable "Middle seats," but in "the third seate on the side," though "Sister Tod"—for they worshipped in those days, "the men apart and their wives apart"—was a little more fortunate, had one of the more honorable "Middle seates." It was not long however, before Christopher Todd began to make

There are in this country three distinct families of Yorkshire Todds. One of these sprung from Thomas Todd, who settled in Virginia, whence his descendants have spread into Kentucky.

In 1664 Thomas Todd came from England and settled in Ware Parish, Gloucester Co., Va., bringing with him his wife and one or two children born in England. He was a ship master and died at sea in 1676. His wife was Ann Gorsuch, dau. of Rev. John Gorsuch, Rector of Walkham, Hertfordshire and his wife Anne, dau. of Sir William Lovelace. Their children were Thomas, Christopher, James, William, Philip, Joanna, Anne, Frances and Isabella. One of the descendants of Capt. Thomas Todd, the eldest child, was the distinguished jurist, Thomas Todd of Kentucky, who after filling the highest judicial offices in that State was appointed by President Jefferson one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and held that office from 1807 till his death in 1824. His abilities and character won him the personal friendship of Chief Justice Marshall, and of the foremost men in the country. His eldest son, Charles Scott Todd was graduated at William and Mary College, practiced law in Frankfort, Ky. In the war of 1812 he was appointed Secretary of State of Kentucky by Gov. Madison; he was sent on a confidential mission to Colombia by the United States Government in 1820, and was appointed minister to Russia by President Tyler in 1841. Judge



The second family sprung from John Todd, who came to Charleston, Massachusetts, in 1637, and two years later settled in Rowley, Mass. His antecedents are not yet discovered except that he came from Yorkshire. The Rowley Todds are found in Massachusetts, Vermont and the West and have furnished a general in the Revolutionary army and many men of ability and distinction.

The third family sprung from Christopher Todd, who was one of the original settlers of the New Haven colony, in Connecticut, in 1639. He came from Pontefract, West Riding, Yorkshire.

Extracts from the register of the Parish Church,  
Pontefract, West Riding, Yorkshire, England.

1592, Sept., the 24 dai Wyll Todd and Isabell Rogerson  
were married.

1593, June the 29 dai Wyll ye sone of Wyll Todd was  
baptized.

1594, October the 18 dai John ye sone of Wyll Todd was  
baptized.

1593, Julie the 22 dai John Warde and Isabell Bruster  
were married.

1596, November ye 29 dai, Katherine ye daughter of  
John Ward was baptized.

1614, May the 22 dai Willm Todde and Katherine Ward  
were married.

1614, October the 15 day Mary the daughter of Wm.  
Todde was baptized.

1617, January the 12th day Xrofor the sone of Willm  
Todde was baptized.

1617, May the 8th day Willm Todd was buried.

#### EXTRACTS FROM AN OLD FAMILY RECORD

Mr. William Todd was born in Pontefract, in York,  
in Great Britian and had two children, Christopher and  
Mary, and was killed in a sort of duel.

Mr. Michael Middlebrook lived at Hold Mills, who  
had five children, Matthew, Michael, Mary, Hester and  
Grace. Mr. Edward Wigglesworth married Hester, and  
the above named Christopher Todd married Grace.

From these documents it appears that William Todd  
and Isabel Rogerson married Sept. 24, 1592, had two  
sons, William, who was baptized June 29th 1593, and  
John, who was baptized Oct. 18, 1594.

William Todd 2nd, married Katherine Ward May 22, 1614, and had two children, Mary, baptized Oct. 14th 1614, and Christopher, baptized Jan. 12, 1617, and was killed in York, England, in a duel less than four months after the birth of his son Christopher, having been buried May 8th 1617.

John Todd who was baptized Oct. 18, 1594, was born at Pontefract, York County, England, and married in 1620, Alice Clayton of Bradford, York County, England, where their son John was born and who married in 1643, Susanna Hunt who was born at Bradford, County of York, in 1621. He emigrated to America, settling first in Charlestown, Mass. and shortly afterwards went to Rowley, Mass. where he became a prominent citizen. He was elected as a representative from that town to the General Court. They had the following children, viz.:

John b. 1655; left descendants

Please note that in one location John E. Todd states that the relationship between the Rowley MA and the New Haven CT family is unknown but in another location he claims cousinhood and asserts a specific lineage connection between the two families.

DNA testing of two descendants of both families shows that the two families are not related. It would be interesting to get a Big Y test from the Rowley MA family to see how far back in pre-genealogical, i.e. ancient or even prehistoric times, the connection between the two families lies.

Here is some additional information about the John Todd of Rowley MA. Note the statement about the gravestone that cited a Yorkshire origin being erected in 1948 – hence of uncertain validity.

## Accused of Being a Cheating Knave – John Todd

B. about 1620 in England

M. before 1649 in (probably) Rowley, Massachusetts

Wife: Susannah

D. 14 Feb 1690 in Rowley, Massachusetts

John Todd earned a reputation in his community for being shrewd in his business dealings, and sometimes rubbing people the wrong way. He came from an unknown place in England, born in about 1620; his family is a mystery. John's gravestone identifies his birthplace as Yorkshire, but it was placed by a descendant in 1948, and no documentation confirms that fact.

The earliest record of John was in Rowley, Massachusetts, a Puritan settlement north

of Ipswich and Salem. The town had been first settled in 1638 and John doesn't seem to be among the original settlers. Instead, he first turned up on January 10, 1644 when he was granted some swampland in a northeast section. He paid £3 to the town for the lot under the condition that would use it as the location for a tavern. John was also allotted four and a quarter acres of upland. Over the years, he was involved in many land transactions that added to his property.

John was married during the late 1640s to a woman named Susannah; there's no record of their marriage or Susannah's maiden name, but this likely happened in Rowley. All ten of their children were born in Rowley between 1649 and 1672, with three of them dying as infants.

During most of John's time in Rowley, he operated a tavern. Places that served alcohol in colonial New England were regulated by each town, approving licenses each year. Strict rules applied regarding hours they could be open and who they could serve; for instance, it was illegal to sell alcohol to an Indian. John was recorded as having been issued a license in March 1652, and for many years after that up to at least 1686. One description in 1666 colorfully says he could "sell wine by the gallon and liquors by the quart." John also served Rowley as a town marshal, appointed in November 1654, and as a constable in 1662 and 1663. In 1667, he was chosen as one of the five Rowley selectmen, a position of serving on the town's council. And John frequently served on juries in the court at Ipswich.

John seemed to be involved in an unusual amount of lawsuits during his life. Court was held in Ipswich four times a year, and his name was on many cases from the 1650s to the 1680s. The first mention in court records happened at Salem in December 1648 when he was "fined for taking false oath, and to be discredited in court for one year, unless the court sees cause to reverse it." In most of the other cases where John was mentioned, the disputes involved clarifying who rightly owned a piece of land. He often produced deeds or testified about verbal agreements to prove ownership of property he bought or sold. In those days, land deeds were frequently vague which caused disagreements, but the number of times John was in court suggested a pattern of his behavior.

In 1667, an attorney, John Godfrey, sued him for non-payment of either his services or some other sort of transaction. John then filed a slander lawsuit against Godfrey in October 1668. One witness quoted Godfrey as saying that John was a "cheating knave," and another man testified he heard the attorney use the phrase "deceitful fellow" against John. The jury ruled in favor of John, but this is followed by a note that the court "did not accept this verdict."

By the 1680s, John was less involved in litigation and seemed to mainly focus on running his tavern. In 1686, his name appeared as Rowley's representative to the Massachusetts General Court, but this also may have been his son by the same name. John's life seems to have come to an abrupt end when he wrote his will on February 13, 1690 and died the following day. The will was proved on March 25th. John's wife



Susannah survived him and passed away in 1710.

**Children:**

1. Mehitabel Todd — B. 10 Jan 1649, Rowley, Massachusetts; D. young
2. John Todd — B. Feb 1655, Rowley, Massachusetts; D. Feb 1655, Rowley, Massachusetts
3. Ruth Todd — B. 11 Feb 1657, Rowley, Massachusetts; D. after Oct 1699; M. Samuel Hunt (1657-?), 1 May 1678, Ipswich, Massachusetts
4. Mary Todd — B. 10 Jun 1659, Rowley, Massachusetts; D. 1724; M. John Ellithrope
5. John Todd — B. 1661, Rowley, Massachusetts; D. 21 Feb 1741, Rowley, Massachusetts; M. (1) Elizabeth Brocklebank; (2) Jemimah Nelson
6. Susannah Todd — B. 5 Sep 1664, Rowley, Massachusetts; D. 25 Nov 1664, Rowley, Massachusetts
7. Thomas Todd — B. 3 Dec 1665, Rowley, Massachusetts; D. before 1690, Acadia, New France
8. Timothy Todd — B. 2 May 1668, Rowley, Massachusetts; D. 1691, Acadia, New France
9. Samuel Todd — B. 9 Jul 1670, Rowley, Massachusetts; D. 20 Nov 1743, Rowley, Massachusetts; M. (1) Priscilla Carrell (?-1725), 26 Apr 1694, Rowley, Massachusetts; (2) Sarah (~1677-1758)
10. James Todd — B. 8 Feb 1672, Rowley, Massachusetts; D. 17 Jun 1734, Rowley, Massachusetts; M. Mary Hopkinson (1669-1749)

**Sources:**

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