

## Rowan County North Carolina Todd Families' Lands

The Todd family that settled on Little Dutchman Creek (Samuel d 1759, son Nathan) and on Grants Creek (John Todd b 1724) are thought to be kin who lived in Lancaster Co PA in 1742 and came to Rowan Co by 1759. The Todd family that settled on various creeks on the east side of the Yadkin River were descended from Joseph Todd d 1699 Philadelphia and came from Northampton County PA by 1772. Note that Elizabeth Todd who married Andrew McLain in 1775 was more likely from the Grants Creek Todds rather than the Jersey Settlement Todds because her husband lived much closer to the Grants Creek Todds than to the Baptist Todds north of the Yadkin..

Little Dutchman Creek where Samuel Todd and his son Nathan Todd from Lancaster Co PA settled in the 1750s.

Jersey Baptist Church which the Todds from Northampton Co PA attended.

Swearing Creek where Benjamin Todd got a 525 ac grant in 1784 and sold in 1796.

Caleb Todd bought in 1786 and sold in 1795 150 ac (while in Wilkes Co, GA) on Tom's Creek.

Cathey's Creek where Andrew McLain lived who married Elizabeth Todd in 1775.

Grants Creek where John Todd from Lancaster Co PA settled in the 1750s and where Joseph McLain, Andrew's brother lived.

Abraham Lewis' 1786 grant on Crow Creek was adjacent to Benjamin Todd (presumably his 525 ac Swearing Creek lands) and to Caleb Todd whose land extended between Abbot's Creek and Crow's Cr (Caleb sold 400 aces 1797).

Thomas b 1727 bought 260 ac East Side of Yadkin and his sons sold it in 1789 along with the 100 ac Joseph bought in 1786.

Thomas, Benjamin and Peter had land on Lick Creek which they sold 1789, 1790, 1796.

Peter Todd b 1756 owned land on Abbots Creek 400 ac.

Rowan County  
North Carolina  
1780

Compiled from USGS 1:100,000 maps Boone, Hickory, Salisbury, & Winston Salem quadrangles. Stream names are those used by Richard A. Enochs in his book *Rowan County, NC, Vacant Land Entries, 1778-1789* published in 1988.

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## The Todds of Rowan County

There were three clusters of Todds in Rowan County in 1785 – for two of which there is some evidence they were kin to each other.

The two groups of Todds shown in indigo on the map were shown by DNA samples from proven descendants of John Todd 1724-1798 of Grants Creek and possible descendant of Nathan Todd b abt 1737 son of Samuel died 1759 of Little Dutchman Creek to match the Todds who lived in Hanover Township, Lancaster County PA in 1742.

The Todds shown in red who settled on the East Side of the Yadkin near the confluences with four creeks – Swearing, Crow, Abbotts, Lick – namely, Thomas b 1717-1727, Benjamin Todd b 1721-1731, and Caleb b 1734-1744 – came from Northampton County PA to Rowan Co NC between 1769 and 1772 and were descended from Joseph Todd of Eling, Southamptonshire England who came to Philadelphia in 1698 and died there in 1699.

### Todds of the East Side of the Yadkin

When the Todds arrived in Rowan County, the land office had been closed since the death of Lord Granville in 1763. Thomas Todd was lucky enough to buy land from someone who had acquired title before 1763. But the other Todds just squatted on the lands they settled while waiting for the land office to reopen. When the land office opened in 1778 as an activity of the newly formed State of North Carolina, a flood of settlers lined up to make land entries for the land they had been living on, some for as many as 15 years. The Todds were among them.

Thomas Todd b 1717-1727 bought 260 acres in 1772 on the East Side of the Yadkin River near Crow's Creek and died in 1777. The land he willed to his sons along with 100 adjoining acres entered by his son Joseph in 1778 and obtained by grant in 1784 were sold (including the dwelling house of Joseph Todd and Thomas Todd) by the two sons (Thomas and Joseph) in 1789, in preparation for their migration to Madison County Kentucky by 1792.

Benjamin Todd b abt 1721-1731 made a land entry in February 1778 for 525 acres on Swearing Creek, presumably about a mile or so south of the Jersey Church, near the head of Crow Creek. He obtained this land by grant in 1784 and sold it in 1796, just before following his nephews to Madison County along with most of his family. In August 1778, Simon Davis, John Gardner and Robert Barkley, entered 150 acres on Cabbin Creek that was reportedly sold by the Sheriff to Benjamin Todd. This latter may have been the 150 acres reported as being on Lick Creek for which Benjamin obtained a grant in 1786 and sold it 1789.

Caleb Todd b 1734-1744, in March 1778, entered 400 acres between Crow's Creek and Abbott's Creek adjacent to Benjamin Todd. He died in 1795. The land he entered is probably that for which his son obtained a grant in Feb 1797 and sold a month later. Caleb also entered 320 acres on Cross Creek adjacent to Mr. Sloan in 1778, but the fate of this land is unknown. His sons Caleb b 1758-1763, Joshua b 1769 and John b 1773 all made the migration to Madison County about the same time.

Benjamin's sons also made land entries in 1778.

- Benjamin Todd entered 200 acres on Lick Creek in December 1778, for which he got a grant in 1786 and sold it in 1796.

- Peter Todd made a land entry the same week for 400 acres on Abbots Creek and 150 acres on Lick Creek. However, Peter never obtained a grant for the land and hence there was no sale of land recorded for Peter when he left the county.
- Thomas Todd obtained a grant in 1787 for 150 acres on Lick Creek that had been “made over” to him based on an entry made by Simon Davis, John Gardner and Robert Barkley in August 1778. He sold this in 1790.
- Caleb made an entry in December 1778 to 150 acres in the Forks of Tom’s Creek which he obtained by grant in 1786 and sold in 1795 while in Wilkes County Georgia.

Benjamin Todd bought from George Riley 200 ac on Second Creek of Uwaharrie River (south of Tom’s Creek) in 1792 and sold it in 1795. Both Second Creek and Tom’s Creek flow easterly towards the Uwaharrie River.

#### Todds of Grants Creek and Little Dutchman Creek

(Not completed)

#### Sorting Out the Two Todd Families

Previous family historians thought the Elizabeth Todd who married Andrew McClain was from the Yadkin River area Todds, but close examination of the records shows that she was most likely related to the Grant’s Creek Todds.

**Elizabeth Todd** married 10-May-1775 **Andrew McClain**. John Todd, Bondsman.

Andrew McLain owned land on James, Cathey’s and Giant Creeks (Deed Book 8, p 57, 279 358). Cathey’s Creek (present Kerr Creek) lay only 5 miles from John Todd’s land on Grants Creek but was 25 miles from the Swearing Creek lands of Benjamin Todd of the Northampton Co PA family. Further, John Todd’s will of 1796 directs the sale of “two tracts of land, known by the name of McClaine's Place, granted to me by patent bearing date of 25-Oct-1786, containing two hundred and thirteen acres.” John’s widow was buried at a church on Cathey’s Creek. Joseph McLane, Andrew’s brother, owned land on Grants Creek.

The tax lists of 1778/1779 also show that the only John Todd in the county lived in the Grant’s Creek area, not the Swearing /Crow /Abbotts / Lick Creek area

1779	Todd, Caleb	Capt Mooris’ p 60
1779	Tod, Caleb	Capt Mooris p 62
1779	Tod, Joseph	Cap Mooris, “in turst” p 61
1779	Tod, Thomas	Capt Mooris’ p 61
1779	Todd, Benjamin	PCapt Mooris’ p61
1779	Todd, Elizabeth	Capt Mooris’ p 64
1779	Todd, Peter	Capt Mooris’ p 64
1779	Todd, John	Capt Willlsons p 37
1779	Todd John Sen	Capt Willlsons p 38

1779	Todd Nathan	Capt Nichols p46
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There are also two road maintenance records that suggest a geographic connection between Andrew McLain and John Todd. The road in question ran from Frohock's Mill (which lay just west of Salisbury and close to Grant's Creek) to James Dobbins' Ford on Second Creek, about 10 miles. The first record is dated in the late 1780s and the second record must have been prior to 1794 when Thomas Frohock died and possibly prior to 1790 since Andrew McClain is not in the census in 1790.

1. P/112 4:426, 04-Aug-1784, James Todd pays 50/for bastardy. P/112 5:201, 06-Feb-1789, Overseers apptd., James Todd for James Dobbins on new road. P/112 5:227, 08-May-1789, Overseers of the Roads apptd., James Todd from Thos. Frohock's Mill to James Dobbins Ford on 2nd Creek with the following hands: Thomas Frohock, Dr. Newnan, Andrew Christy, Peter Pinxton, Jacob Link, Richd. Geo., Hugh and Henry Robison, John and Hugh Dobbins, Edward Howard, Thomas Green, and Ralph Hinds.
2. P/163 5:75, Jury to lay out road from James Dobbins' Ford on Second Creek by Hugh Dobbins and John Todd Jr.'s to join the road leading from Frohock Mill to Second Creek Bridge: Hugh and John Dobbins, Sr. and Jr., Benj. Robinson, Alexr. Dobbins, Sr., Wm. Cowin, John and James Todd, **Andw. McClaine**, Thos. Frohock with Robt Venens, Overseer. Piece of road from Colo. Francis Locke's plantation to said James Dobbins' Ford on Second Creek to be discontinued.

The only contradictory fact is that John Todd's 1798 will does not mention a daughter Elizabeth. Unless Andrew and Elizabeth were deceased without issue, this is hard to explain.

However there is no evidence to link Andrew McLain to the Jersey Settlement area; so we leave Elizabeth as likely kin to the John Todd family of Grants Creek.