

John Todd 1729-1802 and David Todd 1731-1809 of Hunterdon County New Jersey
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The family of John Todd b 1729 and David Todd b 1731 of Hunterdon County New Jersey – their origins and relationship to the Todds of Somerset County, New Jersey - have confused family historians for decades. Fortunately, recent DNA data has revealed aspects of these relationships that could not have otherwise been disclosed.

This data taken together with close investigation of documentary data and family histories clarifies that John and David were brothers who came to New Jersey about 1749. DNA data indicate that John and David are most closely related to various branches of the Todds of County Antrim, Northern Ireland, including the Todd family of Mary Todd Lincoln. David's daughter Jane married in 1782 to John Todd b 1755 who came later from Ireland (possibly in the large immigration that occurred in the 1770s). Conventional DNA analysis indicated that John Todd b 1755 was a close relative to John b 1729 and David b 1731, but recent sophisticated DNA (called Big Y) reveals that John b 1755 was most closely related to other branches of the Todds of County Antrim. Hence he could have been a cousin that lived in the same region of County Antrim as John and David who came to Hunterdon County and hence knew of the cousins that went to America before he was born.

The oldest recorded history of the Hunterdon County Todds was written in the by Isaac Todd (1797-1885), a grandson of David b 1731, between 1880 and 1885. This was compiled from the original manuscript by Carlina Winifred Corson Bogardus b 1876 in 1939.. Isaac claimed that the Todds originated in Longford, Ireland. We have found no documentary data to confirm a County Longford origin for any Todd families; the DNA data suggest a County Antrim origin. However, Isaac stated that David was 18 when he came to America and hence

Though David b 1731 lived his life in Hunterdon County, his brother John b 1729 moved to Somerset County (as documented in tax lists) and David's son-in-law John Todd b 1755 also married and lived his life in Somerset County. This presence of these two branches of the Todds in Somerset County caused some family historians to speculate kinship between these branches and the branches of the Todd family that had come to Somerset County by 1735. DNA reveals the Somerset County Todds (Andrew, Robert, William, James, John) who arrived by 1735 were not kin to the Hunterdon County Todds in modern times.

Below are excerpts from Isaac Todd's book::

p. 129 "Genealogical Fragments and Scraps of History." The Todd Family.
The paternal ancestors of the Rev. Frank TODD were Scotch Irish Presbyterians.
A grandfather of his was one whose name was John TODD. This man spent his days in Longford, Ireland. . . He and two of his wife's sons came together to this country. Their names were: John and David TODD. They probably came in the year 1749. When they

came David TODD was 18 yrs. of age, and John a little older. John mar. and settled in Somerset Co. NJ I think he died in 1802 and had several children. A dau. of his mar. Joseph Coulter. Another dau. mar. Alpheus Coon. Both families settled near Pluckamin, NJ. James, a brother of these ladies, and the son of John TODD settled in Washington Valley, NJ as that was about half way from Princeton to my father's house. James TODD of Washington Valley mar and had several children. A son, David lived at Martinville near Liberty Corners.

Mrs. Pedington who is a sister of this David TODD lived in the same place as John I. TODD, a brother of these owned a farm at or near Somerville on which he lived. After he sold it, he and his wife moved to New Market, Middlesex Co. NJ and lived with their son, Stephen. Mrs. John I. TODD died 21 Nov. 1865 in her 75th year. He did not survive her but a few years. Both belonged to the Dutch Reformed Church. Stephen, with whom his parents lived was wealthy. He died a few months ago, in the year, I think 1874.

Joseph, another son of theirs lived at Paterson. He is a machinist. James, a brother of Joseph was, eleven years ago in a dry-goods store. A dau. of John I. TODD mar. William Sampson and lives in Brooklyn. Two of John I. TODD's sons are Reformed Dutch clergymen, John A. TODD, D.D. of Tarrytown. The other one settled somewhere in the state of New York.

As I already remarked, my grandfather, David TODD, came to America with his brother, John TODD. David TODD mar. Margaret, dau. of John King. They were Scotch Irish and from Ireland. Besides Margaret, they had several children. Their eldest son died of camp fever in the time of the Revolution. They had three other sons whose names were James, John and Thomas. Each of these had a daughter. John's dau. mar. John Crawford. They lived in Somerset Co. NJ Thomas dau. mar. a Mr. Bergen and remained in Somerset Co.

My great-grandfather King had several daus, beside my grandmother Margaret. David TODD died 29 June 1809 in his 78th year. Margaret, his wife, died __?__ [no date given] Their children were:

Robert TODD, my father

John TODD (on headstone: Departed 21 May 1786 in the 23rd year of his life.)

Jane TODD

Mary TODD mar. John McCord

Isabelle TODD

James TODD mar. __?__ (no date) They lived near Germantown, now in Hunterdon Co. NJ Their children were: William P., James, Jacob, Nathan, & Nancy.

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David TODD mar. a Miss Pickle. He inherited his father's farm. He had no children. Through his wife's mismanagement, the farm passed out of the TODD's hands.

Samuel TODD (on his headstone. Departed 30 Marh 1808 in the 23rd year of his life.)

Nancy TODD

Martha TODD, she died at 21 yrs. of age. She had mar. J. Betson (?) went to Ohio.

Jane, dau. of David TODD and his wife, mar. John TODD, was from Ireland. He served in the War of the Revolution. The sons of John TODD and his wife, Jane, were:

David TODD (He moved out West)

John TODD

Thomas Jefferson TODD, a blacksmith lived at Peapack, NJ. His son also lives there.

William TODD (Lived at Stanhope, Sussex Co., NJ

The daughters of John TODD and his wife [Jane (Todd) Todd] were:

Betsy TODD mar. Cornelius Vanness

Nancy TODD mar. John Vanness & lived at Peapack.

Mary TODD died young.

Here are copies of select pages from the same book:

A TODD FAMILY OF NEW JERSEY.

Sometime before 1762 two brothers, John and David, sons of John Todd, emigrated to America. Though they were of the Scottish race, they came from Longford, Ireland.

The one whose name was David Todd was my grandfather. He settled in New Germantown, New Jersey.

He married Margaret, daughter of John King, whose parents were also from Ireland but were of the Scottish race.

My name in full is Isaac Todd. My father's name was Robert Todd.

My mother's maiden name was Eunice Moore. She was the daughter of Stephen Moore.

I was born December the 2nd 1797 in New Vernon, which is near Morristown, Morris Co., New Jersey.

As I have already remarked, my grandfather, DAVID TODD came to America with his brother JOHN TODD.

DAVID TODD married MARGARET, daughter of JOHN KING.

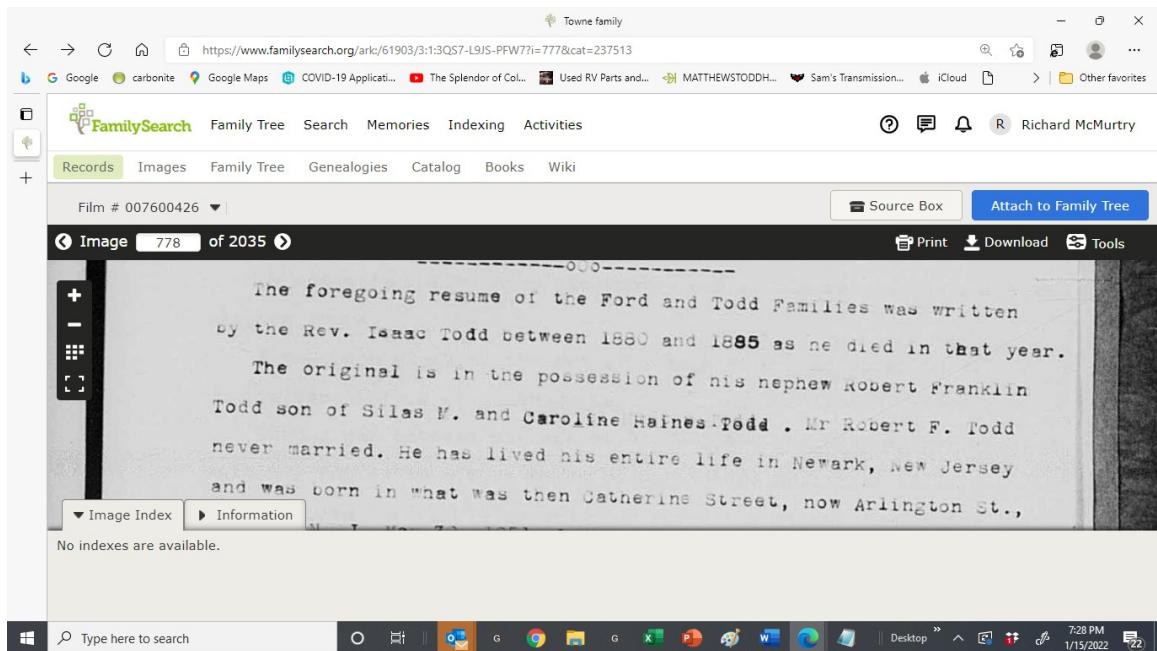
JOHN KING and his wife, were Scotch Irish. They were from Ireland. They had beside MARGARET several children. Their oldest son died of camp fever in the time of the War of the Revolution. They had three other sons whose names were JAMES, JOHN and THOMAS. Each of these had a daughter. John's daughter married John Crawford. They moved from Somerset Co.

Thomas's daughter married Mr Bergen and remained in Somerset Co.

My great grandfather KING had several daughters beside my grandmother, MARGARET. Their eldest daughter married William McClean. They moved to some place near Albany, New York. His daughter Mary, born? Mary, married John Linn and went to Virginia. His daughter married John Adams and moved to a place near Albany, New York.

His daughter MARGARET as I have already remarked married my grandfather, DAVID TODD.

The name TODD is Highland Scotch word the meaning of which is "FOX".



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The Isaac Todd above who compiled the foregoing records was the Presbyterian Minister and he was the father of the Frank Todd who is mentioned in the beginning of the Todd genealogy. His name was Francis Todd but called Frank.

This was given to me by Mr Robert F. Todd