

Research on William Todd's ancestry.

From William's death certificate in Michigan we have information that his father was Nathaniel Todd and his mother was a Montgomery. William was said to have come from Belfast, Ireland. Belfast involves both County Down and County Antrim.

WE have almost nothing of the pre-1901 census records. However, by using two of the surviving census substitutes (the Tithe Applotments from the 1830s and the Griffith Land Valuation from the 1860s) as well as vital documents we can triangulate where William may have actually lived.

This research was done at the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland in Belfast (PROM) and the General Registry Office in Dublin.

We find Nathaniel Todds in both of the above named documents in County Antrim. There are three Nathaniel Todds on different townlands in the 1830s but it is possible that one person may have rented more than one property because they are very close in proximity. The 1830 Tithe records show Nathaniel Todds at Walkmill, Coggrey and Skilganaban. See attached map. All of these places are within the radius of the town of Ballyclare.

Furthermore, by looking at a confluence of the Todd and Montgomery names we find that both are found on Coggrey Townland in those documents. On that townland were a number of Todd families.

There were also Montgomerys on nearby Kilbride and Ballylinny townlands.

I also checked the wills at PROM in Belfast. I found a will for a Nathaniel Todd of Coggrey Townland. He died in 1900 at age 58 and in his will he mentions a niece Bridget Montgomery who had been separated from her husband Hugh Wilson on the same townland. If she went back to him she would lose her inheritance. He had no children. He also mentioned sisters Jennett and Mary Jane, and a brother George. His wife was Fanny. (I did not get a copy of the will at the time because it would have cost about \$15 and at that point I could not be sure of his significance.) He lived at Cogry on Coggrey Townland.

I also checked the will of a John Todd of Cagy who died in 1860, He had brothers William, Robert and James Todd. Will probated in 1861.

When I went to Dublin I got a copy of Nathaniel's death certificate and also a 1866 marriage certificate for him. His father was a Nathaniel Todd and it is possible that he was your William's brother. He was married at the 1 St Ballyeaston Presbyterian Church. Its records start in 1813.

Civil registration for marriages began in 1845, births and deaths in 1864. For earlier records we have to check church registers. Most of the marriage registrations do not give the ages of the parties, unless they were minors. Pre-1858 wills were destroyed in the 1922 fire in Dublin. I also found a 1849 marriage of a Nathaniel Todd, son of Nathaniel, He was living on Legaloy Townland and was also married at the 1st Ballyeaston Presbyterian Church. By 1861 there were no Todds on Legaloy but there was a Nathaniel Todd on nearby Skilgafaban which was owned by the same landlord.

I also got a copy of the marriage of Montgomery Todd, son of Thomas, married at the Kilbride Presbyterian Church in 1869. He appears to have been a teacher and lived at Cairncastle.

I did find also an 1868 marriage for a widower Nathaniel Todd, son of Samuel Todd, who lived in Glenwhirry Parish and the marriage took place at the Raloo Presbyterian Church. This was some distance north-east of where the other concentrations of Todds were.

I visited the town of Ballyclare and its large cemetery. I noticed some Todds buried there but did not have time to do a thorough search of that cemetery. See photos attached.

I did not get the vital certificates until the 1 went to Dublin at the end of my trip and I was not able to follow up on information which would have led me to the Ballyeaston Presbyterian Church. I wish that I had more time to go back and follow up these leads but my trip was over.

My thinking is that your people were probably on Coggrey Townland.

Further research suggested which you, we or others might want to conduct at some time:

1. Obtain more vital records for the Todds around Ballyclare.
2. Check records of the Ballyeaston Presbyterian Church
3. Check cemeteries in Ballyclare and surrounding area
4. Check land lease records for Coggrey Townland and others

