

Martha 1802 - 1896  
and  
Richard - 1792 - 1853  
Todd were N. Todd Liddell's  
great grand mother and grandfather -

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Here son John Copeland Todd married Emma Mae Todd and her son Heyward Todd Liddell  
married Berie Sue Chastice Liddell - the son  
married Ramona Gray Liddell - their son is Heyward Todd Liddell III  
(great - great - great Grandson)



DWIGHT ROSS JR./Staff

**AT GRAVE:** Historian Franklin Garrett, Gail Novak show log marker of Richard Todd, believed to be Atlanta's first white settler.

# Bickering ends cleanup of settler's grave site

By Karen Harris  
Staff Writer

A homemade sign poked out of the weeds on Ponce de Leon Terrace's only wooded lot and its Magic Marker message beckoned to passers-by: "Todd Park and Graveyard - Welcome."

But looming overhead, nailed to the trees, were two store-bought signs that warned: "No Trespassing."

This was how the media and neighboring residents were greeted when they arrived Sunday at what was billed as a cleanup of the one-acre, poison ivy bed where Richard Copeland Todd, believed to be the city of Atlanta's first white settler, is buried.

After Atlanta historian Franklin Garrett gave a brief history of the graveyard, the event - put on by the Virginia-Highland Civic Association - turned into a bickering affair with the owner of the property asking the half-dozen or so people who showed to kindly leave.

The landowner, Decatur attorney Sam Dickson, says the property is private. He said he plans to put a Victorian house on the lot without disturbing the unknown number of

grave sites which, according to Garrett, occupy only about one-fourteenth of the land.

But the civic association says the property is public. They say they hope to save and maintain the historical spot.

"We are here to assert our rights as neighbors to use this land as a park," said Carl Hartramph, an attorney and member of the civic association. "And we are recognizing the historical nature of this property and honoring those who are buried here as the city's first settlers."

Countered Dickson, "If this is a park, where are the swings? Where are the picnic tables? No one uses this as a park. There's just a handful of people who don't want me to put my house here."

Members of the civic association conceded that the path to Todd's grave had to be cut through the weedy thicket hours before the cleanup was to begin.

Gail Novak, secretary of the civic association, said the group is contacting descendants of the Todd family to enlist their help in the fight to stave off construction.

Both sides said legal action may be needed to resolve the conflict.