



ANOTHER TIME... ANOTHER PLACE



VIRGINIA - HIGHLAND'S NOTED LANDMARK

A notable aspect of Atlanta and the surrounding neighborhoods has been the rapid growth and progress. However with this growth many visual features, landmarks, and reminders of the history of the city have been lost.

One such landmark that our residents are attempting to maintain is the family cemetery of Richard Copeland Todd (1792-1852) located in a wooded lot on the south side of Ponce de Leon Terrace. Richard Todd and his wife, Martha, early pioneers of this area, are buried at this site--their graves marked by an inscribed granite log.

Richard Todd came from Chester, S.C. to what was then DeKalb County in 1822. It was during that year that he purchased a land lot of 202 1/2 acres for \$100 from William Zachry, a soldier in the War of 1812. The present day boundaries of what was the Todd's farm are Adair Ave. on the North; North Ave. on the South; Barnett St. on the East; and what was known as the Atlanta Baseball Corporations's property on the West. The Todd farm contained such valuable real estate as the Sears-Roebuck operation.

Todd built his home at what is now 816 Greenwood Ave. The original structure, one of the oldest landmarks of Atlanta, was destroyed by fire on Oct. 31, 1910. The home had served the Todd family for nearly 90 years, and John C. Todd, occupant at the time of the fire, replaced the home with a 2-story brick residence.

Todd was buried in the family cemetery, located to the rear of the home, in 1852. Martha was placed beside him at her death 44 years later. The cemetery area was deeded to the city of Atlanta and accepted by the council in 1932. The city agreed to convert the area to a park and preserve the cemetery.

There is the possibility that Richard Todd influenced his sister, Sarah Todd Ivy, and her husband Hardy to settle in what is now the near downtown of Atlanta. Todd's influence or not, Ivy's establishment of a home made his name a distinction in the history of Atlanta.

Richard Todd is only a part of the vast history of the Virginia-Highland neighborhood, and whatever reminder of his role in the development of the area needs to be preserved. The cemetery area on the south side of Ponce de Leon Terrace is only one fourteenth of an acre in size, but its value is immeasurable. This historic site has been neglected and needs the attention of the community.

HELP PRESERVE A LITTLE HISTORY by cleaning up the Todd grave sites on the morning of Sunday, May 25--the day of the Virginia-Highland Flea Market.

--Craig Strain

(Resource material: Atlanta and Its Environs, Vol. I,II,III. Garrett)

Editor's note: Craig Strain will be researching several points of history of Virginia-Highland for future articles in Another Time, Another Place. He needs your help. See page 3 for his questions.