From 1822 until the time of his death in 1851, Richard Todd, his wife and six children lived on the Todd estate at 816 Greenwood Avenue. When fire destroyed the original house in 1910, the family rebuilt a handsome two-story brick structure that was occupied by Todd descendants until the early 1950s. After the death of Emma May Todd Liddell, Richard's great-granddaughter, the house at 816 Greenwood was sold, and eventually demolished to build an apartment complex.

In a 1949 interview in The Atlanta Journal, shortly before her death, Mrs. Liddell said, “My great-grandfather, Richard Todd, came to Georgia from South Carolina in 1822 and bought this land from the Cherokees for $1 an acre.” This claim is unsubstantiated.

The old pioneer Richard rests beside Martha who survived him 44 years, in what once was the family cemetery—a tract in Land Lot 17, just north of Drewry Street, between Barnett Street and Ponce de Leon Place. In the old days, it was called Todd's Graveyard.

The next time you’re on Land Lot 17, think about Richard Todd. You’re walking in pioneer footsteps. 

In her next column, Ann will discuss the historical significance of Todd's Graveyard. — ed.