

Donald Todd. (b. 1855)

In the early 1870s, Donald Todd established residence on the Battle River at what became known as Todd's Crossing. It is located on the stretch of the Battle River between the modern day cities of Wetaskiwin and Camrose. Donald Todd was born August 4, 1855 at St. Clements, the son of William Todd (born 1823 at York Factory)¹ and Sarah Jane Johnstone. In 1875, he married Suzanne Durand *dit* Dumont at Bear's Hill, Alberta. Her father was Louis Durand; her grandfather was Paul Durand *dit* Dumont; her grandmother was Marie Ahe-Ke-Kah-Na-Ah-Taht a Metisse. Susan's mother was Marie Petit Chasseur.

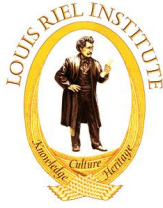
Donald was a self-taught doctor and he ran the mail from Fort Edmonton. Susan and Donald kept a wayside inn for travelers called Todd's Crossing on the well travelled trail over the Battle River between Wetaskiwin and Camrose. During the 1901 Census Suzanne was living in Wetaskiwin and in the 1906 Census she lived with her son Dan and his wife Mary Whitford.

Scrip Application:

DURAND, Suzanne; or DUMONT wife of Donald TODD; #1022; HB child; Address: St. Albert P.O.; Born: Beaver Hills Lake, 1855; Father: Louison DURAN DUMONT (NABESS) (HB); Mother: Marie (HB). I lived in the N.W. Terr. the whole of my life. I lived near Victoria on the 15th July 1870 with my parents. Married: 1875, Bear's Hill, Donald TODD; Children: 3 living: Henriette, Charles, Donald; myself and Donald TODD; one deceased: Emma. Treaty: I am released. I will take a Scrip \$240.00. Susanne DURAND or DUMONT (x); wife of Donald TODD; 26 Jan 1885; French; Louis LOYER (x); Louis Beaupre; \$240 - 47 = \$193 scrip approved. This is to certify that Susanne DURAND a Halfbreed formerly taking as No. 85 (Donald TODD, wife) of Edmonton Stragglers having this day complied with the terms of Section 4 Act 47 Victoria Chap: 27, has ceased to be a Treaty Indian as defined in the said Treaty. C-14938.

¹ William Todd Jr. was born at York Factory, baptized Sept. 7, 1823 at St. John's Cathedral by John West. He was the son of Dr. William Todd¹ and his Metis wife Isabelle Dennett, the daughter of William Dennett and Sophia Ballendine.

In 1841 William joined the Hudson Bay Company as Apprentice Postmaster in Swan River District and worked as Clerk and Postmaster in the Columbia district until 1865 when he became a Free-trader and returned to Red River. He was married on Aug.16, 1849 at St. Andrew's Anglican, Red River Settlement to Sarah Jane Johnstone. They had six children:



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
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1. In 1875, Donald Todd (1855-) is working as a Dominion Land Agent in Manitoba.
2. The Edmonton Bulletin on 23 Sep. 1882 called the Battle River crossing, the Donald Todd crossing. Clearly he had been there a while.
3. The Edmonton Bulletin on 13 Dec. 1884 called Donald Todd a "well known and respected, head of a family, in comfortable circumstances," The Edmonton Bulletin on 25 Oct. 1884 called Donald Todd, "a well known old timer in this region." A 30-year old would not be called an Old timer. The HBC bio. for Donald Todd, baptised in 1839, shows that he was in the Saskatchewan River basin since at least Aug 1856.
6. Donald Todd, of Todd's Crossing, was confined in Ft. Saskatchewan 19 Oct. 1884 as a lunatic. He escaped from custody on 14 Sep 1885. Apr 1886, bones were found on the prairie near Egg Lake south of Victoria settlement. The bones were thought to be either Donald Todd or Jas. Strang.
7. In the 1891 Census, Susan Todd listed herself as married as if she has no idea of her husband's fate. "P.S. I think he died in Oct. 1885."

Note of corrected information from Ken Lang, December 2, 2020