

**TROUTMAN**  
**A MYTH CORRECTED**

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*We are so constituted that we believe the most incredible things; and once they are engraved Upon the memory, woe to him who would endeavor to erase them.—  
-Goethe*

Most everywhere you look you will find where “Anne Troutman and family in 1853, came to a point in the forks of the Charlotte road and the road running to the Catawba river.” Be it the Town of Troutman’s Website, Tom Troutman’s History of the Troutman Family or the many writers about the Town of Troutman Early History. I was among this group until I found out later that this is a myth that needs corrected.

Several years before the death of my good friend W.D. Troutman Jr. He gave me a number of deeds found in the old Troutman House where he formerly lived. These deeds were in the attic, and are in my possession. The first deed was in August 24, 1856 from Jacob Thomas to Jacob Davidson Troutman (grandson of Jacob the pioneer), for 43 and one quarter acres. . On the same date Jacob Thomas deeded 48 acres to John Sidney Troutman (brother of Jacob Davidson). I only have a copy of this deed. These two tracts of land are side by side. John Sidney’s tract running North from about the middle of the east block on what is now Wagner Street up to about Morgan Street, then East to the creek and then down the creek to where Jacob Troutman’s tract starts. Jacob’s tract takes in what is now Winecoff Street.

John Sidney Troutman keep his tract only two years, selling it to Jacob Davidson

Troutman in 1858 and leaving this part of the country with his young bride. As tradition says "they were in the wagon making business". It must have been a short time.

The census of 1850 shows Anne living in school district #61. In the census of 1860 it shows Anne in what is now Barringer township. It also list Jacob Davidson Troutman as a farmer. In the same household we find Jacob's sister Margaret and her son Augustus.

Anne's husband Jacob Troutman Jr. died in 1831, leaving her to raise five children. In 1846 Jacob Troutman Sr. died. Anne and her family were living on Jacob Troutman's land. On June 1847, the date the Commissioners met "to divide the lands of the heirs of Jacob Troutman Sr. Jacob Sr. in his will practically disinherited his daughter-in-law and his five grandchildren giving them 'two dollars a piece so much for them". At his death he owned 3,128 acres, denying even a homestead for his son's wife and children. After this it became necessary for Anne and her family to move off of Troutman land. This not sitting well with Jacob Jr.'s. widow created some bitterness that lasted a number of years. Not one of Jacob Jr's. family is buried in the Troutman family graveyard. What caused this problem is hard to figure out, as there seems to be no mention of it in any records of the Troutman family, other than one member says: "Anne and family gathered the crops before the others and thus antagonizing Jacob Sr."

So we now find Anne east of Troutman. Augustus Troutman, Anne's grandson, told several people in and around Troutman, that they lived east of Troutman. This would be Barringer township. In a paper William D. Troutman Jr. wrote for his English class he states: 'Uncle Gus Troutman said that he and his uncle lived in the house where W. D. Troutman Sr. was raised a whole winter when it had only one room and with an old

curtain as a partition. They had no door all winter, just an old curtain hanging over the doorway." This is an odd statement. Surely if his uncle was smart enough to make a wagon, he should be smart enough to make a door. This uncle would have to be John Sidney Troutman. And the winter would either be 1856-7 or 1857-8 as Jacob had a house to live in according to the census. I believe this building was the carriage shop. When John Sidney sold his tract to Jacob D., there is no mention of a building on this tract. This doesn't mean that there was not a building there.

On July 2, 1863, Captain Henry Chambers left Statesville on the train for Troutman station. This according to his dairy that he later made into a book. He got off the train and walked to his mother's house down close to the Catawba river. If you notice this says "Troutman station", not Troutman depot, as no depot had yet been built . He returned July 4, 1863 "left mother's at 3 o'clock, had a warm walk, got there (Troutman station) too soon. "Had to wait until 7 o'clock." My point in inserting this is to show that Captain Chambers does not mention anyone being around "Troutman station". In the rest of his book he is very meticulous about naming who was in around where he was. Years back, when a stranger came by your house, if he failed to stop and have a meal, they considered it an insult. Captain Chambers was no doubt in his uniform and anyone seeing him would want to know how the war was going. This being the days the battle of Gettysburg was being fought. He does not mention seeing anyone. Strange for a town that was settled eighty some odd years before.

In conclusion, I believe that Anne Troutman did not come to Troutman until after the war was over in 1865. The only house in Troutman at that time would have been the James Hammond house. This house was probably built in 1853 and it was situated where

the Troutman Drug parking lot is now. Augustus D. Troutman bought this land (50 acres) from Hammond around 1866. He later built a larger house in front of the one mentioned above. Gus and James Hammond were in Pennsylvania in 1863 so there probably was no one in this house when Chambers came thru. The census of September 13, 1860 show Anne Troutman , Jacob Troutman, Margaret and Augustus Troutman living next to Ephraim Scroggs and Moses Richey (Richey). All these people lived in Barringer township, or what later became Barringer township.

Traveling south, just prior to the shopping center across from the fair grounds on the right, is a sign that says: **Troutman settled in 1778**. I am puzzled as to what this means. In 1778 we were in the middle of the war for our Independence. It was also 10 years before Iredell became a county. Settled by who? If this alludes to Jacob Troutman Sr. I find this amazing as he had just turned 11 years old when tradition says he came to this part of the country. If Anne Troutman, his daughter-in-law, had an inkling that the town of Troutman was even remotely linked to him, she would kick all the dirt off of her grave.

Another myth that I think needs corrected is Troutman being called "Hickory Nut Crossing" in early times. I have gone thru several thousand deeds, and no where have I seen this name used. No early historians of Iredell and Rowan mention that name.

Where would the crossing be? A road making a "Y" is not a crossing.

My sources for this paper are the :Iredell County Register of Deeds, W.D. Troutman Jr. The U.S Census and various other notes from the Jacob D. Troutman papers and Captain Henry Chambers Diary.