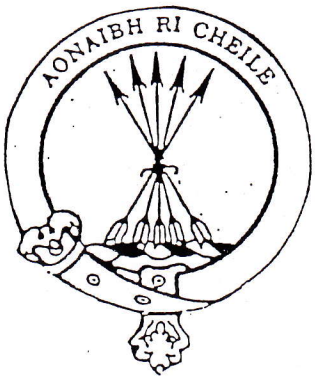

CLAN CAMERON
ONTARIO BRANCH

So… You Want To Trace Your Cameron Roots

SO YOU WANT TO GET STARTED ON YOUR GENEALOGY.....

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Choose, to begin with, the family you know most about. Check with older family members for family bible records, photo albums, diaries - anything that would give you data about your people. Talk to the oldest members of your family, and take notes..... BUT don't always take this information for gospel Check, check and check again for accuracy.

Let:'s take Scotland - bone up on some history telling about the Scots who came to the Americas. In 1713 the sailing ship *The Hector* arrived from Scotland at Pictou, N.S. with 33 families and 25 unmarried men on board. These were the first people from elsewhere to settle the Province of Nova Scotia. Pictou is known as "the birthplace of New Scotland". Many families were Camerons.

The Camerons supported Bonnie Prince Charlie and his Jacobite Rising in 1745. Following the defeat at the Battle of Culloden in 1746, there was a steady stream of emigrants, mainly to the American Thirteen colonies, wanting to escape English rule and have religious freedom. Later, during the period known as the Highland Clearances, (about 1790 to 1820) great numbers of crofters were forced from their homes in order to provide pasturage for sheep. A large proportion of these displaced families emigrated, with many coming to Canada.

There are many pockets of Cameron settlers across Canada. To name a few: Glengarry County in Eastern Ontario and some of the counties adjacent, to the west. There was a large settlement in the Peterborough area. A group of Camerons from Islay arrived in Oro Twp, Simcoe County, in 1832. Thorah Twp in Ontario County and beside it to the east, Eldon Twp. in Victoria County had many Camerons in early days. (Check a book in the library re Eldon Twp by Rae Fleming) Also for Cameron settlers try Bruce and Huron Counties as well as Middlesex and London area. Then go west to Winnipeg for early Scottish settlements, and on to Alberta.

WHERE TO LOOK

You must have facts when you begin your research: a date, a place, the name of at least one parent or spouse. Don't go to one of the facilities listed below hoping to find information about John Cameron who lived in Ontario sometime in the 19th century.

Records prior to 1850 are scarce.

Researching in Ontario

1) Ontario Archives, 77 Grenville St, Toronto (near College and University) tel: 416-327-1600. For census records, birth, marriage and death certificates, Probate Court records, land grants and patents, etc.

Ontario census returns are available on microfilm for each decade between the years 1851-1891. The 1871 Census is indexed by County, and is also available in a number of public libraries throughout the province.

Civil Registration began in 1867-1869, although a few earlier records exist. Birth, marriage and death records are indexed and available on microfilm (NB: Some restrictions apply to viewing birth records) Photocopies may be obtained for a nominal fee.

2) County Archives throughout Ontario for early newspapers, old maps, local history [consult their Tweedsmuir Histories], etc. Many have the 1871 census reels.

3) National Archives, Ottawa, for military records, Loyalist petitions, shipping lists etc. [Note: few shipping lists prior to1850]

4) Church Records
a) Roman Catholic Records are available in different locations, according to Diocese. Toronto Archdiocese Centre, 1155 Yonge St. 416-934-0606. Telephone to ascertain the location of the records you want.
b) United Church Archives 73 Queen's Park Circle. 416-585-4563 . Includes Methodist Church records.
c) Anglican Church Archives 135 Adelaide St:, Toronto 416-363-6021
d) Presbyterian Church Archives, 50 Wynford Dr., Toronto 416-441-1111
e) Baptist Church Archives, McMaster University, Hamilton
f) Salvation Army Museum and Archives, 2130 Bayview Ave. (opposite Sunnybrook Hospital) 416-4811-6096

5) LDS [Mormon} Family History Centres; West: 65 Melbert Rd Etobicoke (west of 427 off Rathburn Rd.) 416-621-4607. East: 24 Ferrand Dr.(Eglinton and Don Mills Rd.) 416-422-5480. A number of towns outside Toronto also have Family History Centres.

These centres have a wealth of information. General reference books are available for reading. Sets of micro-fiche records may be requested from Salt Lake City (for a fee)

for examination at the FHC. Scottish Parish and Old Parochial Records are indexed on CD-ROM. You need an appointment to use a fiche reader or a computer.

6) Public Libraries
a) North York Library, 5120 Yonge Street (north of Sheppard; part of North York City Hall) Ontario Genealogical Society collection is on the 6th floor. General reference books are available on open shelves; more specialized books may be requested from the stacks.
b) Central Reference Library - Yonge St at Asquith (just north of Bloor) has a genealogical section [929]
c) Many Ontario public libraries also have genealogical collections and local histories.

7)Guelph University Library has a good collection of Scottish research material to support its Scottish Studies programme.

Researching in other Provinces, States

Consult sources similar to those listed above: libraries, public and church archives. If you are in the area, visit the LDS Library in Salt Lake City, but don't make a special trip unless you are far advanced in your research. Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana, is famous for its genealogical collection.

Researching in Scotland

Much of your preliminary research can be done here at a Family History Centre; don't make a special research trip to Scotland until you have checked all the available resources. You may have difficulty doing further research in Scotland if you don't know where your family once lived.

1) New Register House, Edinburgh, and at Society of Genealogists, London, for births, marriages and deaths after 1855, and Census returns, 1841-1891. Scottish church records are also available at New Register House.
2) Mitchell Library, Glasgow, for records, maps, histories, etc. of the Strathclyde area.
3) Achnacarry Visitors' Centre contains records for the estate, and genealogies submitted by other Camerons.

Genealogy on the Internet

Internet research is not a replacement for the more traditional forms of research (vital statistics, deeds, church and county records, etc.), but an additional source of information.

A word of caution: because most of the information available has not been verified against any official records, it is the responsibility of those who use it to verify its accuracy.

Popular Websites.

a) Roots Web: www.rootsweb.com

They claim to be "the oldest and largest free genealogy site". Their primary purpose is to connect people so that they can help each other and share genealogical research. Although this site has a strictly US flavour, it does provide a great deal of good general information. In addition, it has an Ancestry web site which offers primarily UK database information for sale.

You can search for people using first and last names, parents and spouses, as well as by country and approximate year of birth.

Under the "Rootsweb Surname Listing", you can make contact with other people researching the same surname, or leave your name (and e-mail address) so that others can contact you.

b) Family Search: www.familysearch.org

This is the official internet site of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.[LDS] It allows you to search by surname and by country (province or state). You can search for births, marriages, and deaths. Records available are a compilation from 3 sources - IGI [International Genealogical Index], Ancestral Files, and submitted Pedigree Charts.

c) www. cyndislist.com; www.genealogy.com; www.ancestors.com; www.tartans.com

Primarily for linking with others who are researching your name(s). Note "words of caution" above.

(d) Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid: www.islandnet.com

Contains over 2 million burials from several thousand cemeteries in Ontario (usually the same ones transcribed by OGS)- excludes the larger cemeteries like Mount Pleasant. You can search by surname, cemetery, and by County/Township.Provides basic information only (name and date), and does not provide the lot location or tombstone inscription.

Contains a link called the "Canadian Genealogy and History Links" which in turn links to several hundred sites by Province (generally very specific in their scope). Some examples would include:

- Listings by various archives, libraries and museums

- Key organizations and societies to contact (eg. OGS Branches)
- Birth, marriage, and death listings
- Early Canadian Newspaper Notices
- Cemetery Obituaries -
- 1871 Census of Canada - Ontario
- Land Records
- Toronto/York Directories, County and Township Maps, etc.

e) www.genuki.org.uk The internet source for primary material for UK and Ireland. Fees charged for some materials.

NOW YOU'VE FOUND IT...WHAT DO YOU DO WITH IT?

Keeping Records

Keep track of the documents/materials you have consulted on each trip to a research facility, with the date, and the result of your search. A series of sheets that can be kept in a notebook works well. [See enclosed sample]

Record the source of each piece of information you find. Don't keep information on scraps of paper which can be lost; you might use a single sheet on which to record the information, its source, the date you found/received it, and comments. [Note that most research facilities require you to write in pencil; you may need to transcribe much of your information]

Decide on a way of organizing your facts and records so that they can easily be located. A filing system by family name and/or place is a good way to begin.

Many are now using one of the many computer programs on the market. If you are planning to purchase one, check that it supports GEDCOM, which ensures compatibility for exchange of information with other programs. If possible before you purchase, talk to others about the programs they are using.

Charting

Enclosed are examples of forms which are widely used:

The Pedigree Chart records your direct line backwards.

Begin with yourself as #1, add your dates and a spouse if applicable.
#2 is your father and #3 is your mother
#4 is your paternal grandfather and #5 his wife, your grandmother
6 is your maternal grandfather, # 7 his wife, your grandmother.

Father's name is always on top, mother's below. Remember that we always look up to father.

The Family Group Sheet is a record of each couple and their children. You can alter it to suit your needs, such as adding a column for children's spouses. A computer program will generate this type of chart for you.

....AND FINALLY

Add photographs, letters, wedding and birth announcements, family anecdotes, photocopied newspaper clippings, maps, etc. to enhance your collection of records and charts. Include some written description about the family and family members, and where and how they lived.

Organize everything in a notebook; add an index to the names that appear.....you now have your family history. Have copies made to share with members of your family, and donate a copy to the Ontario Genealogical Society for their Family History collection.

PEDIGREE CHART

Chart No. ___

Number 1 on this chart is the same as no. ___ on chart no. ___

1
BORN:
PLACE:
MARR:
PLACE:
DIED:
PLACE:

Spouse

2
BORN:
PLACE:
MARR:
PLACE:
DIED:
PLACE:

3
BORN:
PLACE:
DIED:
PLACE:

4
BORN:
PLACE:
MARR:
PLACE:
DIED:
PLACE:

5
BORN:
PLACE:
DIED:
PLACE:

6
BORN:
PLACE:
MARR:
PLACE:
DIED:
PLACE:

7
BORN:
PLACE:
DIED:
PLACE:

8
BORN: ___
PLACE:
MARR:
PLACE:
DIED:
PLACE:

9
BORN: ___
PLACE:
DIED:
PLACE:

10
BORN: ___
PLACE:
MARR:
PLACE:
DIED:
PLACE:

11
BORN: ___
PLACE:
DIED:
PLACE:

12
BORN: ___
PLACE:
MARR:
PLACE:
DIED:
PLACE:

13
BORN: ___
PLACE:
DIED:
PLACE:

14
BORN: ___
PLACE:
MARR:
PLACE:
DIED:
PLACE:

15
BORN: ___
PLACE:
DIED:
PLACE:

Name and address of submitter:

Phone:

RESEARCH LOG

Ancestor's Name(s): Researcher's Name:

Location of Search	Description of Source	Date of Search	Results

Husband:

Born: in:
Married: in:
Died: in:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

Wife:

Born: in:
Died: in:
Father:
Mother:
Other Spouses:

	CHILDREN	
1	Name:	
	Born:	in:
	Married:	in:
	Died:	in:
	Spouse:	
2	Name:	
	Born:	in:
	Married:	in:
	Died:	in:
	Spouse:	
3	Name:	
	Born:	in:
	Married:	in:
	Died:	in:
	Spouse:	
4	Name:	
	Born:	in:
	Married:	in:
	Died:	in:
	Spouse:	
5	Name:	
	Born:	in:
	Married:	in:
	Died:	in:
	Spouse:	
6	Name:	
	Born:	in:
	Married:	in:
	Died:	in:
	Spouse:	
7	Name:	
	Born:	in:
	Married:	in:
	Died:	in:
	Spouse:	
8	Name:	
	Born:	in:
	Married:	in:
	Died:	in:
	Spouse:	