

Ontario and Quebec's Irish Pioneers: Farmers, Labourers and Lumberjacks

10:00 am to 11:30 am

The Chamber, Ben Franklin Place 101 CentrepoinTE Drive, Ottawa, Ontario

Using wide-ranging sources, **Lucille Campey** describes the communities established by the Irish in Ontario and Quebec during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. She reveals the considerable pioneering achievements of the Irish, while debunking the victim-ridden interpretations of more recent times.

The Irish were early birds. They arrived in mid-Canada long before the English and became assimilated in the wider population much sooner. They had left their homeland to achieve a better standard of living and be part of a more egalitarian society and were phenomenally successful. By 1871 they were the largest immigrant group in Ontario and, in Quebec, outnumbered the combined total of Scottish and English immigrants. They founded many communities and had an immense impact on the economic development of both provinces.

The ships that brought them are also discussed and an overview is provided of the events in Ireland and Canada that shaped this immigration saga.

About the speaker

Ottawa-born **Lucille Campey** began her career in Canada as a scientist, obtaining an honours degree in chemistry from Ottawa University. Following her marriage to Geoff, she moved to England and later acquired a Masters degree from Leeds University on medieval history. Having worked for the British Conservative Party, she became a Special Advisor to a Cabinet Minister in John's Major's government. This provided her with an understanding of the inner workings of government which she uses in her immigration studies.

After obtaining a doctorate at Aberdeen University on Scottish emigration to Canada, she wrote eight books on the Scots. She went on to write three on the English and two on the Irish, all published by Dundurn. A third book on the Irish is due out in 2020. In 2016 she was awarded the British Association for Canadian Studies Prix du Quebec. Lucille and Geoff live near Salisbury in Wiltshire.