

**Saturday, March 13, 2021**

**Canada's Irish Pioneers: Their Story**

10:30 am to 11:45 am

Online webinar

As pioneers, the Irish bestrode Canada. They were the largest immigrant group during Canada's formative years. They dug its canals, built its roads, chopped down its trees and established many of its early farming communities. They were ambitious, self-funded people with big dreams who were desperate to escape from the poverty in their homeland. And yet, despite their great pioneering successes, some politically motivated people continue to depict them as sad and helpless exiles. **Lucille Campey** debunks this negative imagery by revealing the facts underlying their immigration saga. She demonstrates how the Irish were able to fund their own sea crossings, find out about the availability of prime locations and make tremendous strides as pioneers. She concludes that Canada's Irish pioneers deserve our admiration and gratitude - not our pity.

**About the speaker**

**Lucille Helen Campey** was born in Ottawa and moved to England following her marriage to Geoff. Having trained as a scientist, she later entered the world of politics, when she became an adviser to a cabinet minister during the John Major years. An ongoing love of history led her into another world around twenty years ago. Having obtained a PhD on Scottish immigration to Canada from the University of Aberdeen, she went on to write fourteen books on British Isle immigration to Canada. Her latest book, "Canada's Irish Pioneers," was published in September 2020.