

THE GENN FAMILY OF CANADA
A Family History

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A Family History
Researched and Compiled by David Genn
And his Cousins

A Statement of the Findings to Date
May 2012

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BACKWORD

The Genn family of Canada are all descended from Diogo Maddison Genn. There are about sixty of us, spanning six generations. Diogo Genn was born in Brazil in 1844, a British subject, having an English father and a Portuguese mother. Diogo never saw Canada.

Diogo Genn's father, James Maddison Genn, was from Falmouth, Cornwall, England, the family having been established there for four generations. Diogo's great-grandfather, William Genn had arrived in Falmouth from the colony of Maryland, British America, about 1780.

William Genn's father, James Genn, and his uncle, Thomas Genn had established in Maryland about 1750, having moved across Chesapeake Bay from the colony of Virginia. William Genn's great-grandfather, also named James Genn, had emigrated from England to Virginia sometime after 1660.

From here the trail is less well defined. The strongest evidence suggests that our English roots are in Yorkshire. Pursuing this theory, Chapter 3 on Yorkshire begins with a Robert Gene, in the parish of Wath, near Sheffield, West Yorkshire, in the year 1323.

It has long been suggested that the name *Genn* has its origin in the French name of *Genne* or *de Genne*. While there is no hard evidence, so far, to support this, we have taken the liberty to explore this possibility in Chapter 2.

Before picking up on the details, we will first discuss the *Genn* name, its distribution around the world, its earlier spellings, and some theories on its origin.

Kenneth Reginald Genn, father of the author of this work, provided the foundation for this study. Kenneth had a keen interest in the history of his family and, over time, questioned his parents, cousins and uncle and aunt regarding what they knew or could remember. Kenneth Genn saved their letters, documents and photographs, files and memorabilia and these have been invaluable in guiding the research that went into preparing this document. Given that Kenneth's "Uncle Tony" wrote for him, "*Genn Family Tree*" in 1955, we see that this study is now in its fiftieth year. Uncle Tony's story is recounted in Chapter 7.

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