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CAHILL

April 2, 1982

xDorothy A. Wilson  
RFD Box 170A,  
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Winterport, ME  
04496, U.S.A.

Dear M/S Wilson:

Thank you for your letter of 6th Jan. 1982 regarding your ancestors.

Our family-name records are linked primarily with fishing activity and related services. There were Cahills in Newfoundland throughout most of the 18th century, largely in the area of St. John's, Harbor Grace and Placentia. Your letter suggests, however, that John Cahill (and Patrick Holmes) did not arrive in Newfoundland until 1812. This would eliminate some of the early Cahill data.

1817: A John Cahill helped suppress a riot in Carbonear, Conception Bay in Jan. 1817.

1833: John Cahill, Conception Bay, sued John Bransfield for £ 12/- at No. District Court, Harbor Grace.

1833: John Cahill (same) sued John Butler, executor of Owen Hamilton estate for £10/7s. at North District Court.

1846: 26th Aug. Newfoundlander, John Cahill of St. John's bringing in lumber from Miramichi, New Brunswick on the "Unicorn".

1803: at St. John's, John Cahill (Co. Tipperary) and Joanna (Fitzgerald) Cahill had son John

1881: 6th Mar., at St. John's, Mr. John Cahill died, 76 yrs., native of Littleton, Ballybeg, Co. Tipperary, in Newfoundland over 40 yrs."

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1875: 27th Apr., Royal Gazette, Michael Cahill died at St. John's, 84 yrs., native of Co. Waterford, Ire. (b. 1791)

1886: 21st Dec., Royal Gazette, Joseph Cahill died, native of bally Garry, Co. Tipperary

1829: Dec., Edward Cahill, Late of the Grange, Co. Carlow, died- Torbay (near St. John's) farmer.

1817: 26th Aug., Hr. Grace Court, Michael Cahill sued John Holmes for £ 3/10/6 d, amt. due him for hay sold to Holmes.

1886: 17th Nov. Nfld Times, Mr. Nicholas Cahill died (Nov. 13), native of New Ross, Ire.

The above gives you some indication of where early 19th Cahills came from; Tipperary, Waterford, Carlow, New Ross. The most likely brother of your John Cahill would seem to be the entry (above) for Michael Cahill, native of Waterford, born 1791. We have no way of substantiating this however.

The name Cahill- pronounced Ca'll here as in Cal-ifornia - is well represented in Newfoundland today. Like most North American names it is represented at all levels of society- some quite prominent.

Our records indicate the Holmes families here were almost exclusively from the Devon/Dorset area of Westcountry, England. There may have been Anglo-or Scots-Irish Holmes here however. Interestingly, we have one entry for a Patrick Holmes:

1817: Patrick Holmes, Captain of the "Mary", 69 tons, registered in Newfoundland. Ship registration later possibly transferred to Dartmouth, Devon. We know nothing more about him. By the information you have given us he would have been 28 at that time (1817). Some Irish Protestant families used the christian name, Patrick, during that period and after. It would have been unusual, however, for a sailing captain to switch careers to join a military regiment, unless land ownership was his primary objective and military service or militia owties assisted him in that end.

I enclose an invoice for the amt. of \$45.00 to cover 3 hours research. We hope we have been of some help to you.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Matthews,  
Chairman,  
MARITIME HISTORY