

Genealogy Basics – Finding Catherine Camus, a Missing Relative

By Joe Petrie

INTRODUCTION

Mary A Tobin (my Aunt May) of Glace Bay and Halifax NS was one of my genealogy mentors. She was a genealogist who specialized in researching her parents' families. The material that she had was enormous especially when one knew that Aunt May was blind in one eye and had 5% vision in the other.

She travelled to Amherst, Glace Bay, Newfoundland, and North Sydney. She visited relatives and while there she collected information on our Camus, Dooley, Ormond, and Tobin families. She even collected family tree information on my Dad's ancestors.

She collected an amazing amount of information while visiting relatives. She told me a lot about the families. Years later, Halifax volunteers wrote it and send it to me. The volunteers = started to send me information about 1980.

I added her records to my genealogy database and validated as much I could using on-line databases. After my aunt passed away in 1985, I discovered that my grandmother's sister Catherine Camus was not documented by Aunt May. All I knew was that she immigrated to Massachusetts, lived on Massachusetts' south shore, took care of the children of Tom Brady and eventually married Tom Brady.

It only took me 35 years to find Catherine.

I researched at the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) Library in Boston.

After I retired in 2011, I started using Ancestry Library at Morrill Memorial Library in Norwood MA They had Ancestry Library for use during library hours. (Currently, while the Library is closed because of COVID-19, people with Minuteman Library cards can use the Ancestry Library software 24/7.)

MY SEARCH FOR CATHERINE AND TOM

First, I searched for Catherine Camus born in Cape Breton in 1864 and living in Massachusetts first at NEHGS and later in FamilySearch and in the Ancestry Library all category search. No luck! I need a different approach!

Finally. I searched for Tom Brady living in Massachusetts. I was surprised that there were so many records for gentle men named Tom Brady.

I edited the search criteria to look for Tom Brady in Massachusetts Marriage records. I narrowed it down by using Catherine's Given Name, 1864 Birth Date and Cape Breton Location. (She was born in Little Bras d'Or.) I found her with a Surname of Cames. In Ancestry, Massachusetts Marriages, there is a marriage record for 29 January 1895 in a Catholic Church in Weymouth, Norfolk County, Massachusetts. The marriage record listed Catherine as the daughter of Adolphe Cames and Lucy Butler. (Her parents were Martin Adolph Camus and Lucy Boutilier.)

In researching Tom's records, I found that he was a widower with 2 sons William and Edward James (aka James Edward) when he married Catherine Camus (Cames). Tom's first wife was Catherine McEnroe. They married in 1882. William was born in 1882. Edward James was born in 1884.

I believe that Catherine McEnroe Brady died in 1884. (I can't find a death record.)

I assume that Tom Brady hired her in 1884. They married in January 1885. Catherine died in 1930.

Tom and Catherine Camus had 3 daughters

- Mary Alice born 27 May 1885 who married Edward John McLaughlin in 1915. They had 2 children. (No death record.)
- Helen Catherine born 8 June 1891 who married Charles Mason Burke in 1920.
- Edith born 30 April 1902 who married Milo Patrick Burke in 1919. They had at least 6 children (maybe 7 or 8)

I collected the children's ages from US Federal Censuses for 1930 and 1940.

There are 3 Ancestry Public Member Trees for Catherine Cames (Camus).

Your corrections, comments and suggestions are appreciated. Please Email me at:

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Please note that Friends of Irish Research is the repository for my published genealogy articles in the *Newfoundland Ancestor*; and in *EZINE*, the electronic magazine of the Cape Breton Genealogy and Historical Association. (Please see friendsofirishresearch.org specifically: the Tabs for Publications and Joe's Free Web Sites.) Also, please note that I am the author of the Genealogy Basics Series.

Membership in Ireland Reaching Out (irelandxo.com) is free. It has an Electronic Magazine named XO Chronicles (irelandxo.com/irelandxo/history-and-genealogy). One of the three XO Chronicles Series is XO People. XO People focus on the Irish Diaspora (people who immigrated and never returned permanently). XO People has seven of my XO People articles about ancestors. My relatives are: John Cummings (Thurles Parish, Tipperary, Newfoundland and Lingan, Cape Breton Island); Patrick Tobin (Gowran Parish, Kilkenny and Newfoundland); and Judith Keeffe (Gowran Parish, Kilkenny and Newfoundland). My wife's relatives are; John McGrath (Ballyphilip, Kilcockan, Kockanore, Waterford and Massachusetts); Helena O'Brien (Fermoy, Youghal, Cork, Boston); Peter Connolly (Kilcummin, Galway, Boston) and Mary A (Nee) Connolly (Kilcummin, Galway, Boston).