

George Cosby, Loyalist - Family Background

Immediate Family Background:

Chadwick's "*Ontarian Families*"¹ says:

"The first in Canada was George Cosby, who settled in Pelham, Co. Welland. His residence was burned down and all family papers and records destroyed, and he himself dying very shortly after that occurrence, the particulars of the family history during the latter part of the 18th century were lost. It has, however, always been believed by the family that George Cosby was the eldest male representative of Gov. William Cosby,² and it may therefore be presumed that he was the son of Capt. William Cosby. It is said that at the close of the Revolutionary War he went to Ireland with his father, but subsequently came to Canada. He m. Mary McGregor, of Stirling, Scotland and had issue, viz: John, m. Sarah Morgan, and had issue (besides a son, Murray, who m. but d.s.p.m., and daus. who d. unm.), viz.

Alfred Morgan, b. 11th Sept. 1840, of Toronto m. Clara Agnes Worts.

Alfred Morgan Cosby is the grandson of Loyalist George Cosby and probably would have learned this information from his father, John Cosby. On Alfred's marriage license to Clara Worts, his mother is listed as "Susan" (not Sarah Morgan as stated above). On his sister's³ death certificate (Cordelia Catherine Cosby), her mother's name is listed as Susan Hamm.

While Chadwick's entry presumes the parentage of Loyalist George Cosby, the information about his ancestral family is correct.

The Ancestral Family:

Stradbally Hall is the ancestral home of the Cosbys in Ireland⁴. Located in Queen's County (known as Laois since 1922), it has been and remains a private residence since 1558 when Queen Mary granted it to Francis Cosby. Francis Cosby married Mary Seymour, the daughter of Lord Protector, Edward Seymour, 1st Duke of Somerset. His sister, Jane Seymour was the third wife of Henry VIII. His nephew (of whom he was Lord Protector, was Edward VII who died at age 17 and was succeeded by his half-sister, Elizabeth – Queen Elizabeth I.

Through Mary Seymour and Francis Cosby, the Irish Cosby family are directly descended from Edward Plantagenet (Edward III).

Revolutionary War – Family Connections:

The grandson of Governor William Cosby (Governor NY / NJ 1732-1736) married the granddaughter of Admiral Sir Peter Warren. Peter Warren is the uncle who sent William Johnson to the Mohawk Valley to oversee his lands in New York. These families, the Cosbys, Warrens and Johnsons are related to each other in Ireland, New York and England, before, during and after the War.

There is no proof, to date, of the parentage of George Cosby, Loyalist.

¹ "Ontarian Families Genealogies of United Empire Loyalist and other Pioneer Families of Upper Canada" by Edward Marion Chadwick, Vol. I, Mika Silk Screening Limited, Belleville, Ontario 1972.

² "There are a few persons of the name now living in New York.

³ Cordelia's death place is listed as Lot 20, Concession 1 (part of grandfather's UE land grant). It was then known as Pelham Union and the original schoolhouse built there still stands as a private residence.

⁴ Birthplace of Governor William Cosby.