

Researching and Publishing one's Family History



Genealogy Experiences
of
Peter and Brian Cassidy

The Cassidys of Cassidy Lake



www.cassidys.ca/history

Peter Cassidy – pcassidy@cassidys.ca

Brian Cassidy – bpc@unb.ca



Why research your family history?

- Curiosity about one's roots
- Who am I? - We are who we were
- It's interesting and fun
- It provides a "home" for family members in a mobile society
- Meet new family members and friends and renew old acquaintances



What inspired us to begin this project?

- Green Book published in 1949 needed updating
- We had a substantial quantity of new information including family photos and stories
- Began project about 1980 and first publication was 1985




The need to publish

- Forces one to organize materials collected
- Allows contact with other family members in order to expand the knowledge base
- Provides an easy format for others to respond to and to supply additional input
- We believe that both print *and* web publishing are required today



Books published

- First Edition – 1949 – Green Book
 - Title – The Cassidy Family History
 - No ISBN – book unregistered
 - Format 6 x 9
 - 18 families and 98 individuals
 - Oldest date 1797 (birth of William Cassidy who emigrated to Canada in 1819 and moved to Cassidy Lake in 1823)
 - Publication coincided with the renovation and dedication of the Francis Edward Cassidy Memorial Church which was built by Francis Edward in 1883
 - A project by several children of Francis Edward – Clara Ann MacDowell, Robert Allen Cassidy, Frances Jane Cassidy and Matthew Richard Cassidy
- 



Books published

- Second Edition – 1985

- ISBN 0-9692351-0-0
- Format 8-1/2 x 11
- 118 families



- Third Edition – 1990

- ISBN 0-9692351-1-9
- Format 8-1/2 x 11
- 163 families
- Title change – The Cassidys of Cassidy Lake





Books published

- Fourth Edition – 1997
- 200 year milestone
- ISBN 0-9692351-2-7
- Format changed to 7-1/2 x 9-1/4
- Introduced full color printing
- 185 families



Books published

- Fourth Edition Revisions
 - First Revision – 1998
 - 200 families
 - Second Revision – 2000
 - 238 families
 - Oldest date extended to 1762
 - Third Revision – 2002
 - 272 families
 - Book getting too large





Future book publications

- Fifth Edition planned for 2004
- Still debating optimum format
 - Will likely be multiple volumes
- More than 300 families and 1000 individuals
- Key objective is cost effective printing in small quantities i.e. 5-10 at a time
 - Ideal printing is “on demand”
 - Original printings were 100 per run
 - Current printings are 10 per run



Electronic publishing

- Did a version in Adobe PDF
- Worked technically but was hard to maintain
- Too slow for Internet download – users may not have Acrobat plugin
- Works better from CD or DVD
- Not of interest to most users



Web (Internet) publishing

- Became a goal about 1995
- Temporary web site 1996 – www.creators.org
 - Static pages and limited content
- Obtained cassidys.ca domain - Feb 2001
- Began setup of own web server in Nashville, Tennessee – summer 2001
- Web site www.cassidys.ca online – Sept 2001
 - Full genealogy
 - Dynamic pages with Indexed GEDCOM





Researching

- Time consuming but rewarding
- We have discovered other family members involved in “serious” research – exchanging notes is very beneficial for all
- Locate good software for organizing families and photos – Family Tree Maker
- Locate good software for editing photos – Adobe Photoshop



Researching

- Develop a filing system for materials located
- Keep and annotate original materials
- Revisiting old information yields new insights
- Have a plan when visiting a genealogy center or library for what you want to collect or search – e.g. land or census records, or historical or political documents



Searching – Family Members

- There is information out there – people are pack rats
- Contact and interview family members – best way to get *current* information
- Old letters and photos – letters have *stories* and statistical information
- Laptop and portable scanner useful when visiting others for scanning documents and photos



Searching – The Internet

- Search family surname and the word “genealogy”
- Use various search engines – Google, AltaVista, Netscape, Yahoo etc
- Commercial genealogy research sites
- Genealogy databases online – some free, some cost to search
- Mormon Family History Center www.familysearch.org



Searching – New Brunswick Provincial Archives

- <http://archives.gnb.ca>
- Large collection of government and private records
- Maps and Plans
- Photographs
- Architectural drawings
- Sound and moving images
- Genealogy guides by New Brunswick county
- Staff to assist researchers – no fee



Searching – NB Provincial Archives – typical county records

- Census records
- Marriage records
- Performance bond records
- Vital statistics
- Customs house administration records
- Land records
- Probate court records
- Teachers petitions and licenses
- Education records



Searching – NB Provincial Archives – typical county records

- Directories
- Newspapers
- County council records
- Court of equity records
- Family and local histories
- New Brunswick Museum vertical files
- Miscellaneous PANB collections
- Church records
- Addresses of other institutions which may have pertinent genealogical and historical records



Searching - Libraries

- Previously published genealogies
- Books about genealogy – general or specific
- Books about political situation faced by our ancestors
- Books about immigration to Canada by various groups of people
- Newspapers – stories and obituaries



Searching – Family History Centres

- Mormon LDS Family History Centre in Salt Lake City – www.familysearch.org
- Regional Family History Centres exist around North America
- NB centres in Saint John and Moncton



Searching – New Leads

- Printed book has provided best lead to new information
- Web site now surpassing the printed book as lead to new information
- More basic research will provide new leads
- Reviewing previously collected information will sometimes yield new leads



What to collect

- Birth, marriage and death statistics
- Photos – people, places and valuable documents
- Film and video tape – grab frames for still photos – 16mm film from 50s family reunions
- Family stories from letters and interviews
- Land records and transactions (deeds and crown grants)
- Maps – current and old
- Newspaper articles - obituaries



What to collect

- Ship manifest information
- Documents that describe how your ancestors came to Canada – political situation, living conditions and lifestyle from that day in Canada and previous country – Cassidys of Cassidy Lake come from Donegal County, Ireland
- Stories are the most valuable and interesting – they add *depth* to the genealogy



Software to organize collected data

- We used Family Tree Maker – based on advice from others
- Many other packages out there – did not do a serious evaluation
- FTM only used to organize data for the web site – Information for printed document maintained independently with Adobe PageMaker



Software to organize collected data

- Recommend a package which allows
 - Photos
 - Narrative for each family
 - Produces GED file
- The way we use FTM, it's photo capability is of no value to us



What is GEDCOM?

- Industry standard format for managing genealogy information
- Most programs support it at some level
- Allows data exchange through an exported GED file – we received data from Teddy Lane this way
- Have to be careful importing from another GED file – better to add new data manually



Preparing for publishing

- First step is to organize data with Family Tree Maker or similar software
- Need system to manage photos
 - Some have several people in them
 - Need to be linked to each individual and family
 - Web allows flexible linking



Preparing for publishing

- Publishing methods
 - Print (book)
 - Web (Internet)
 - CD/DVD
 - Electronic (PDF)



Publishing the print edition – initial considerations

- Choose page layout and book structure
 - See other publications for examples
 - Develop simple family record numbering system
 - Building and maintaining the index is a challenge
- Choose page format
 - Page size, cover and binding type
 - Need a *professional* look
- Apply for ISBN through National Library of Canada
 - National Library requires two copies of book
- Register with Canadian Books in Print (CBIP)



Publishing the print edition – home publishing vs commercial publisher

- Commercial printer ok for black and white
 - Print minimum 100 copies
 - Halftones of pictures are expensive
 - May end up with unused/unsold copies



Publishing the print edition – home publishing vs commercial publisher

- Home publishing
 - Initial setup expensive
 - Need color printer – prefer laser printing
 - Costs about \$1000 for manual cutting and binding tools
 - Publishing software – Adobe PageMaker
 - Can print in small quantities (5-10)
 - Reduce waste
 - Process is slow but inexpensive
 - Two weeks to print 10 copies with color laser
 - Maintaining quality a challenge as printer ages



Publishing the print edition – home publishing software

- Printing from Family Tree Maker
 - Quick and easy
 - 8-1/2 x 11 only
 - Not great for serious publishing
- Recommend publishing software
 - Started with MS Word
 - Switched to Adobe PageMaker for easier placement of graphics



Publishing the print edition – distributing copies

- Two copies to National Library of Canada
- Donate copies to
 - Various libraries
 - Provincial genealogy centers
 - New Brunswick Provincial Archives
 - Mormon Family History Center (plus GED file)



Publishing the web edition – the privacy and security issue

- Persons living may not want their information to be public – privacy issue
- Identity theft is a security concern
- For living persons, remove
 - Photos
 - Dates
 - Detailed history
 - Other biographical information



Publishing the web edition – domain name considerations

- What Internet address will people use to access your site?
- Consider purchasing your own family domain
 - We purchased the cassidys.ca domain
- A more relevant domain name will attract more users



Publishing the web edition – web site options

- Commercial genealogy site
 - You provide the info and they do the work
 - May require information in GEDCOM format
- Rent hosting space from Internet Service Provider
 - Need skills to create web pages
 - Do they allow CGI scripts?



Publishing the web edition – web site options

- Build your own
 - Need hardware and software skills
 - May need limited programming skills – Perl
 - Need ISP that offers static IP address – greater cost
 - What operating system?
 - We chose Linux for a reliable server class operating system at low cost – initially Mandrake and now Red Hat
 - We operate two servers for redundancy (production and backup)
 - Linux non-trivial to setup, manage and install applications
 - We are grateful to UNB ITS staff for technical assistance



Publishing the web edition – static or dynamic web pages (HTML)

- Static – create and update HTML manually
 - Very labor intensive
 - No search capability
 - Used for our temporary web site
- Dynamic – generate HTML on-the-fly
 - Keep data in a database
 - Generate database from GED file
 - Write programs (CGI scripts) to search the database and display results dynamically
 - Requires less server disk space
 - Easy to manage



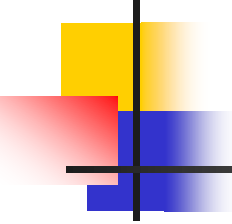
Publishing the web edition – Indexed GEDCOM system

- Set of Perl scripts for search and display of genealogy database information
- Scripts may be modified for one's unique requirements – must know Perl
- Database built from standard GEDCOM file
- Fast access with optional index
- HTML web pages generated on-the-fly
- Every surname index



Publishing the web edition – Indexed GEDCOM system

- Access logging
- Generates pedigree and descendency charts
- Photos may be included
- Module for removal of information for living persons
- www.rootsweb.com/~gumby/igm.html
- Free!



Publishing the web edition – enhancing the web site

- Recent additions to www.cassidys.ca
 - Current events and news
 - Registered users section
 - Discussion forum
- Future plans
 - Guestbook
 - Audio and video clips



Publishing the web edition – registered users

- No charge to register
- Family members only who agree to privacy statement
- Access to full genealogy
- Download PDF files for family units



Managing photographs

- Digitize with scanning software
- Keep originals at high resolution
 - Most of our originals are TIFF format
- Reduce resolution for printing
- Lower resolution for web site
 - Thumbnail and full size versions
- Use Adobe Photoshop or similar to edit, annotate, scale and sharpen photos



Collaborating with others

- Since Peter lives in Nashville and Brian lives in Fredericton, we needed an efficient way for communication and transfer of information
- Email
- Transfer files with FTP
- Online chat (ICQ, Microsoft Messenger etc)
- Video conferencing (Microsoft NetMeeting)
- Courier valuable documents
- Discovered webcam along the way
 - www.surveyorcorp.com (webcam32)



Charts

- Pedigree – looking back in time for a given individual
- Descendency (Lineal) – looking forward in time for a given individual
- Works on web only – not practical for printed edition
- Use software that allows dynamically generating charts – FTM and Indexed GEDCOM



Sample Pedigree Chart



Sample Lineal Chart



System maintenance

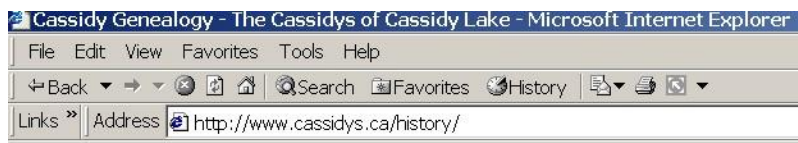
- Keeping it all up to date and in sync is a big challenge
- The process is complex with 4 versions
 - Family Tree Maker
 - Print
 - Web Public
 - Web Registered Members
- Backup is critical – we archive on CD



Web site tour



www.cassidys.ca/history



A Cassidy Family Genealogy

The Cassidys of Cassidy Lake

New Brunswick, Canada

Public Section

Family History

Genealogy

Members Section

Full Genealogy

Downloads

Register for Access

About this Genealogy

NEWS - NEWS - NEWS



8/24/03 A **Members Section** has been added to the website that includes the full biographical information we have on members of the Cassidy family. To access this section you must be a family member and agree to protect the privacy of persons still living.

8/21/03 The church at Cassidy Lake was full for the 120th anniversary service on Aug. 17. A highlight was the baptism by Rev. Bob Johnson of Lillian Mary Para, 7th generation descendant of William and Jane Cassidy.

8/4/03 Dianne Cassidy Foshey has provided more details on the descendants of William Septimus Cassidy.

7/8/03 The annual church service at Cassidy Lake is scheduled for 2:00 pm on Sunday, August 17. As usual, there will be a picnic following the service.


Family History section

The Cassidys of Cassidy Lake - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites History Print

Links » Address <http://www.cassidys.ca/history/pages/historyfrset.html> Go



Home

Family History

Homestead


Church

Cemetery

Locating Cassidy Lake

Family History

This genealogical record is about the Cassidy family who emigrated from Ireland to Canada in 1819 and settled in southern New Brunswick. Efforts to record the family members began in 1949, coincident with the dedication of the family church built on the homestead property. Over the years, the record has expanded to the current compilation.




Map of Canada

The Cassidy Family in Canada

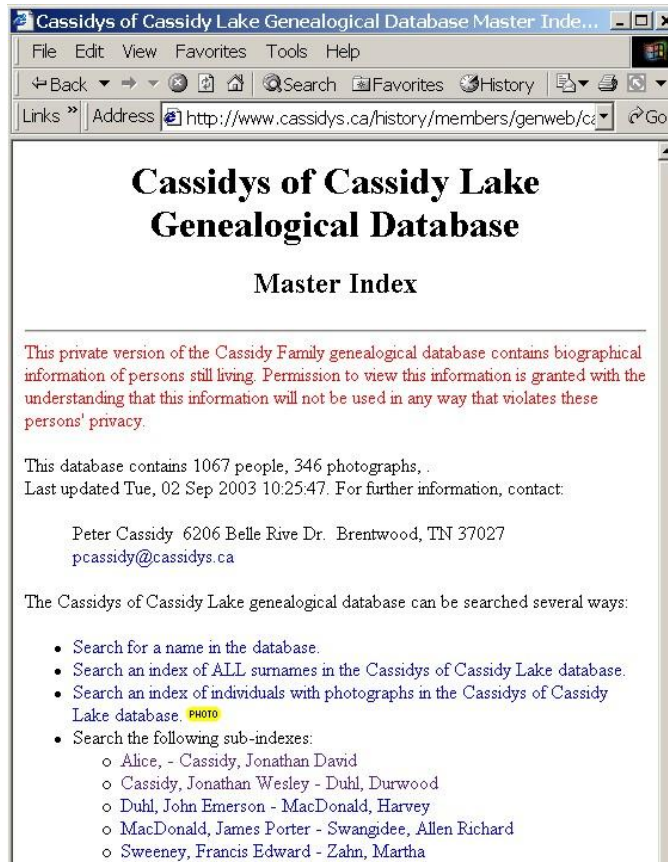
The Cassidy family (of this genealogy) in Canada begins with William Cassidy who was from The Port, County Donegal, Ireland. William emigrated to Canada, arriving at Saint John, New Brunswick on September 1, 1819.

As a result of the American Revolutionary War, loyalists to England were leaving the United States for Canada in large numbers. Many came to Saint John, New Brunswick in the period from 1781-1783. They were important in the development of the newly created Province of New Brunswick that had separated from Nova Scotia in 1784. Most inhabitants lived near waterways, from which they derived their livelihood. The inland areas were just waiting to be filled by energetic and resourceful people.



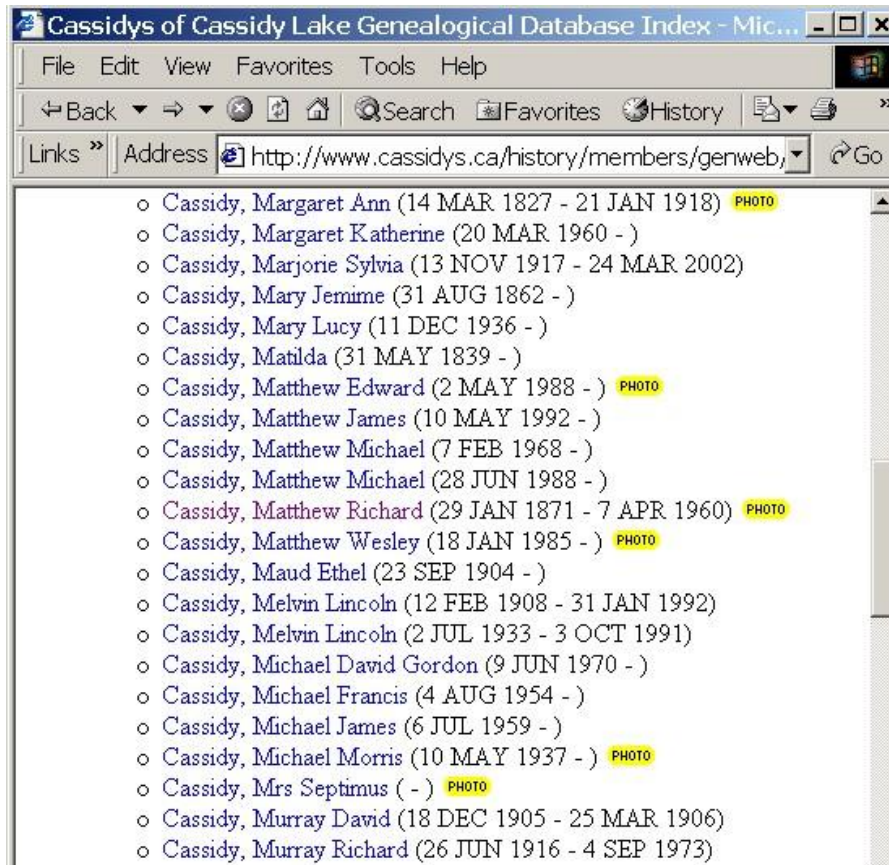
Map of Ireland

Accessing the genealogical database via Indexed GEDCOM



Display sub-index

Cassidy, Jonathan Wesley...



Display family record for Matthew Richard Cassidy (top of page)


Cassidys of Cassidy Lake Genealogical Database - M...

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Search Favorites History

Links Address http://www.cassidys.ca/cgi-bin/members/ Go

Matthew Richard Cassidy



- *Sex:* M
- *Born:* 29 JAN 1871
- *Died:* 7 APR 1960
- *Reference:* 54
- *Notes:*

Matthew's Uncle Richard asked him to come to Boston, Mass. There, he delivered milk by horse and wagon to the Piper home where he met Roberta. Matthew eventually went to work in Roberta's father's carpenter shop.

Matthew moved his family to Norton, N.B. from Boston in 1907. One year later he bought a farm on Cassidy Lake. Around 1925 he moved back to Norton.

Display family record for Matthew Richard Cassidy (bottom of page)

Spouse: Roberta Raymond Piper, **b.** 16 JUN 1876, **d.** 17 FEB 1941

[PHOTO](#)

- *Married:* 4 JUL 1897 in Boston, Mass.

Children:

1. Clara Louise Cassidy, **b.** 21 JAN 1898 in Boston, Mass., **d.** 18 OCT 1978 [PHOTO](#)
2. Clarence Edward Cassidy, **b.** 26 JUN 1899 in Boston, Mass., **d.** 16 JUL 1994 in Norton, N.B. [PHOTO](#)
3. Ralph Matthew Cassidy, **b.** 15 APR 1902 in Boston, Mass., **d.** JUL 1904
4. Allen Robert Cassidy, **b.** 3 APR 1903 in Boston, Mass., **d.** 16 APR 1981 [PHOTO](#)
5. Ruth Evelyn Cassidy, **b.** 17 JUL 1905 in Brookline, Mass., **d.** 8 DEC 1972 in Saint John, N.B. [PHOTO](#)
6. George Wesley Cassidy, **b.** 23 NOV 1911 in Cassidy Lake, N.B., **d.** 13 MAY 1982 [PHOTO](#)
7. Murray Richard Cassidy, **b.** 26 JUN 1916 in Cassidy Lake, N.B., **d.** 4 SEP 1973 in Sussex, N.B.

Show Pedigree Chart (Tree form)	Show Pedigree Chart (Text form)
Show Descendency Chart (Tree form)	Show Descendency Chart (Text form)
Extract GEDCOM	Add a Link
Master Index	Surname Index
Search	Home Page

Pedigree Chart – text form

Cassidys of Cassidy Lake Genealogical Database - Ancestor...

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites History Print

Links » Address http://www.cassidys.ca/cgi-bin/members/igmped Go

Ancestors of Matthew Richard Cassidy

Number of generations: 6 Redraw

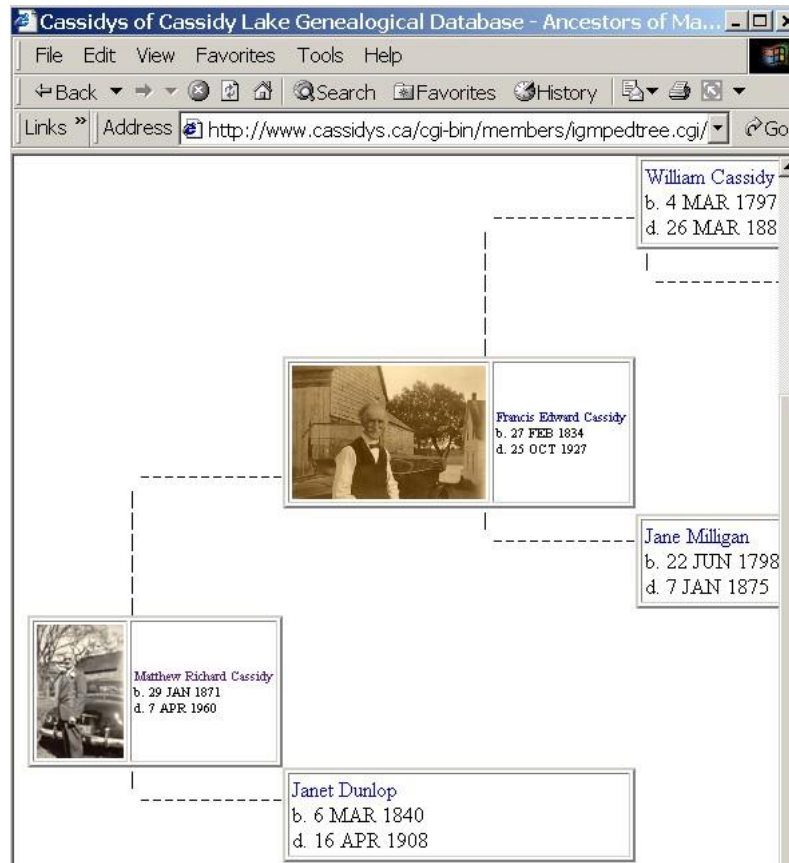
```

      /--Andrew Cassidy  b. 1762 d. 21 JUL 1846
     /--William Cassidy  b. 4 MAR 1797 d. 26 MAR 1886
    |      \-- Margaret  b. 1774 d. 1855
   /--Francis Edward Cassidy  b. 27 FEB 1834 d. 25 OCT 1927
  |      \--Jane Milligan  b. 22 JUN 1798 d. 7 JAN 1875
Matthew Richard Cassidy  b. 29 JAN 1871 d. 7 APR 1960
      \--Janet Dunlop  b. 6 MAR 1840 d. 16 APR 1908

```

Show tree version of this chart	
Show Descendancy Chart (Tree form)	Show Descendancy Chart (Text form)
Extract GEDCOM	Add a Link
Master Index	Surname Index
Search	Home Page

Pedigree Chart – tree form with photos (partial display)



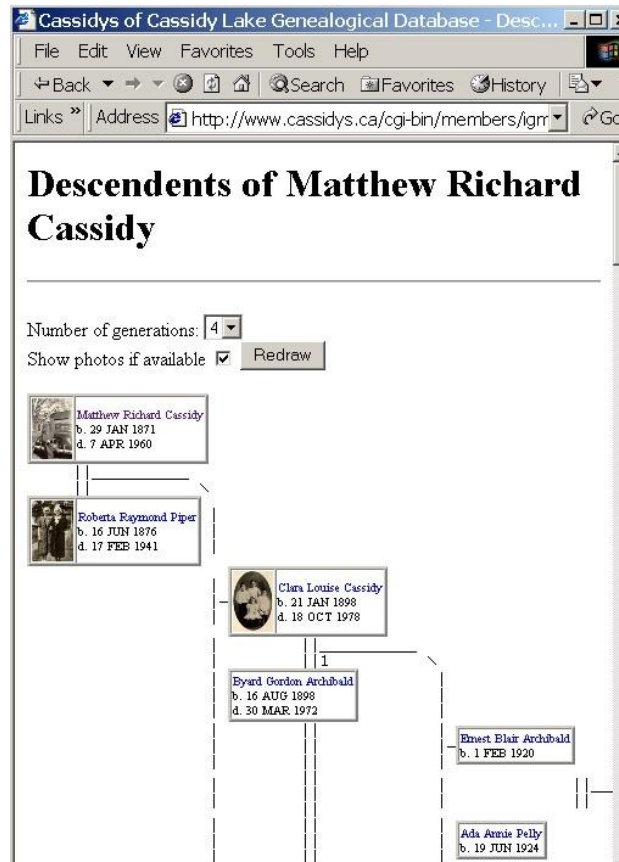
Descendancy Chart – text form (partial display)

Descendents of Matthew Richard Cassidy

Number of generations:

```
1 Matthew Richard Cassidy b. 29 JAN 1871 d. 7 APR 1960
+ Roberta Raymond Piper b. 16 JUN 1876 d. 17 FEB 1941
2 Clara Louise Cassidy b. 21 JAN 1898 d. 18 OCT 1978
+ Byard Gordon Archibald b. 16 AUG 1898 d. 30 MAR 1972
3 Ernest Blair Archibald b. 1 FEB 1920
+ Ada Annie Pelly b. 19 JUN 1924
4 Marion Louise Archibald b. 12 APR 1945 d. DEC 1949
4 George Ottie Archibald b. 4 MAY 1946
4 Nina Dian Archibald b. 12 SEP 1947=>
4 Sandra Marie Archibald b. 30 JUN 1948=>
4 Richard Ernest Archibald b. 1 AUG 1949
4 Lillian Geraldine Archibald b. 12 JAN 1953=>
4 Sharon Lynn Archibald b. 21 AUG 1962
3 Marion Louise Archibald b. 22 APR 1921
+ Roy O'Brien b. 13 AUG 1915 d. 19 JAN
4 Dayna Cheryl O'Brien b. 25 MAY 1943=>
4 Michael Charles O'Brien b. 16 APR 1950
+ Gerry McCully
3 Donald Reid Archibald b. 4 SEP 1922
+ Dorothy Catherine Blakney
4 Wendy Patricia Archibald b. 28 APR 1952
4 Ricci Charles Archibald b. 17 JUN 1956
3 Sandra Elizabeth Archibald b. 15 NOV 1939
+ Blair Lounsbury
4 Crista Ann Lounsbury b. 3 JUN 1964
+ Sam McPhee b. 15 NOV 1939
4 Darren Bruce McPhee b. 2 MAR 1975
4 Jennifer Elizabeth McPhee b. 18 MAY 1977
+ William Pollock
2 Clarence Edward Cassidy b. 26 JUN 1899 d. 16 JUL 1994
2 Ralph Matthew Cassidy b. 15 APR 1902 d. JUL 1904
2 Allen Robert Cassidy b. 3 APR 1903 d. 16 APR 1981
```

Descendancy Chart – tree form with photos (partial display)





Surname Index (partial display)

Cassidys of Cassidy Lake Genealogical Database

Surname Index

For further information, contact:

Peter Cassidy 6206 Belle Rive Dr. Brentwood, TN 37027
pcassidy@cassidys.ca

The Cassidys of Cassidy Lake genealogical database can be searched several ways:

- Return to the Master Index
- Search for a name in the database.
- Search an index of individuals with photographs in the Cassidys of Cassidy Lake database. [PHOTO](#)
- View individuals with the following surnames:
ALICE[1], ALLEN[1], AMANDA[1], AMOS[1],
AMUNDSON[3], ARASIM[1], ARCHIBALD[14],
ARMSTRONG[7], ARNOLD[1], ASTILLA[1], ATKINSON
[3]
BARKER[3], BARTER[1], BARTLEY[2], BEERS[1],
BERGIN[3], BERT[1], BLACKMAN[1], BLAKNEY[1],
BOAR[3], BOLTON[2], BONNIE[1], BOUCHARD[1],
BOWEN[1], BOYD[3], BRADLEY[7], BRASIER[5], BRIM
[5], BRITT[1], BRODERICK[5], BROWN[10], BROWNING
[3], BUCK[1]
CAMPBELL[1], CARR[3], CARSON[2], CARTER[1],
CASSIDY-MCDOWELL[2], CASSIDY[295], CATTERAL



THE END

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The Cassidys of Cassidy Lake

New Brunswick, Canada

