

## Armstrong Family History

by Mary Helen Hatch,  
transcribed from Tape by Susan Lake

### TAPE 1 SIDE 1

I have read and reread the few pages of information from my mother, **Mildred Armstrong Mackenzie's** file to try to put together an easily understood history of our Armstrong antecedents, **Samuel and Marry Armstrong** and family who came to Canada from Ireland about 1846 or shortly thereafter. I don't have all the facts but I do have some anecdotes and a mystery or two.

First a couple of jokes. Mother often repeated a family story that our branch of the Armstrong's were sheep thieves. One time they were outflanked by the English and rather than hang, they built rafts and went to Northern Ireland. My father, who was Highland Scotland descent added that these lowlanders took one look at the English women and stole the sheep. This always got a good laugh. Another story mother used to repeat referred to an Irishman who came across a couple of men fighting in the street and asked if this was a private fight or could anyone join in. That got a laugh too.

Now to get down to my task. I have a page about 7 3/4 " by 4 1/2 " that looks as though it is from an important book, quite thick paper now quite yellow and brown, ragged on the two short ends. There are three very precise folds lengthways in this paper which I have straightened out and I have now laid that sheet of paper flat all the time. There is writing on both sides and I will give you the information one side at a time. At the top of one page is the writing in black ink, very good writing, thin nib, **Samuel and Marry Armstrong**, both of Ballahulago, in the County of Fermanagh were married the 12th of March 1829. Then it lists the birthdays of six children: **Isabella**, born Dec. 26, 1831; **Abraham** born Dec. 25, 1833; **Marryann**, born July 5, 1836; **Samuel** Dec. 12, 1838; **Eliza** born Feb. 14, 1841; **William** born Oct. 24, 1843. On one end perpendicular to this writing is this information: Marry Armstrong, their mother, died June 29, 1846. And at the other end in the same direction (perpendicular) is the date July 30, 1848, it appears to be all the same handwriting. The other side has black ink with the name Samuel Armstrong at the top then in green ink but taking all the space and it says: "Isabella Armstrong's book received a