

Family History Newsletter



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The Family History group supports members in researching their family history research. They meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library.

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Using Estate Files on FamilySearch

by Annette Fulford

During our research project on the Edge families of Maple Ridge/Langley I had the chance to use different records found at <https://familysearch.org/>

While looking for a death record for Samuel Edge at the BC Archives I searched their vital events index and found no record for him. I decided to use their advanced search function in the archives database at <http://search-bcarchives.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/> and found a file for Samuel Edge in the New Westminster Supreme Court probate/estate files in 1898. I copied down the information about his file which included the folio number 457.

Next, I went looking for estate files. It was while doing research on another family previously that I located the British Columbia Estate Files 1859-1949 <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2014768>. These records are not indexed yet but you are able to browse the files for information.

I viewed the BC estate file records and found a link to the New Westminster records. I clicked on the link to the Supreme Court files and it listed an estate file index from 1859-1949 with the same detailed information as the BC Archives as well as links to the actual records.

Next, I went looking for the estate file for Samuel Edge. I clicked on the link for the estate files from

1898-1903 which included file (folio) numbers 444-630. I was looking for folio number 457. I found that each file had a handwritten file number on it starting with the letter P. I searched the files until I found a number close to 457.

I was able to advance the pages by placing a page number in the box at the top left hand corner of the screen which shows how many pages are in these files. Then I scrolled through the records like you would use a microfilm reader until I found the one for Samuel. His file started at image 1002 of 3341 pages for this set of files.

The record confirmed I had the correct person named Samuel Edge based on the page which listed his next of kin. He died on December 3, 1898 at Cascade City, BC without a will so his son Elias took on the roll of executor and planned to pay his father's debts and distribute any money left to surviving family members. It also confirmed the information we found on the death of Samuel's wife in 1887. Had we not located this record, we may not have known when or where he died because his death was not registered in BC. After locating this information, a newspaper article was also found about his death in the local newspaper for the area.

Please note that while the records are listed to 1949 not all districts have files up to 1949. For New Westminster the files only go to 1927.

And if you have family who died in Saskatchewan or Manitoba you can search the fully indexed probate records also available at *FamilySearch*: Saskatchewan Probate Estate Files, 1887-1931 or Manitoba Probate Records 1871-1930.

Mocavo and Findmypast are coming together

www.mocavo.com

Mocavo will be coming together with its sister site, Findmypast. This will create a single experience for their US customers in a move that aims to deliver a more focused, efficient and comprehensive service to US family historians.

Online Resources

New At Ancestry

www.ancestry.ca

- Alberta, Canada, Homestead Records, 1870-1930
- Someone mentioned this with their article.

Alberta Homestead Records

https://archive.org/details/alberta_homestead&tab=collection

abgensoc.ca/homestead/index.htm

Irish Records

<http://www.swilson.info/>

A collection of family and general history resources for Dublin and Ireland: maps, townland database, parish links, directories and more. Free.

Swedish Records

www.myheritage.com

46 million household examination records spanning 1895-1942.

Alabama Mosaic

www.alabamamosaic.org

Digitized records from archives and libraries: oral histories, naturalization records, Civil War diaries, and more.

Arizona Memory Project

azmemory.azlibrary.gov

The Arizona Memory Project provides access to the wealth of primary sources in Arizona archives, museums, libraries, and other cultural institutions.

Iowa Heritage Digital Collections

www.iowaheritage.org

Civil War diaries, county atlases, biographies and high school yearbooks.

Family History Events

Abbotsford Family History Day

www.abbotsfordfamilyhistory.com

- A day of speakers. 30535 Blueridge Drive, Abbotsford, BC, Saturday. May 14, 2016, 8:00am to 3:30pm. Fee: Free.

BC Genealogical Society

www.bcqs.ca

- **Digging Deeper in Ireland and Scotland** with Chris Paton, Sat. April 30, 2016; 10:00am to 4:30pm. Fee: \$50.00.
- **AGM**, Wednesday, March 9, 2016; 6:30pm – 10:00pm.

Cloverdale Library

www.surreylibraries.ca

- **Genealogy Road Show**, with the BCGS, Sat Feb 20, 2016, 1:00pm – 4:00pm. Fee: free.
- **Collection Orientations**, Saturdays, Mar 5, Apr 2; 10:00-10:50am. Fee: Free. Pre-registration recommended.

Kelowna and District Genealogical Society

www.kdgs.ca

- **Scottish Family History** with Christine Woodcock, Sunday,

April 10, 2016, 9:00am to 4:15pm. Fee: \$55.

- **Harvest Your Family Tree**, September 24–26, 2016. Details TBA.

Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission

www.mapleridge.ca/128/Community-Heritage-Commission

- **History Is: Choosing Criteria to Determine Heritage Merit**, with the Maurice Guibord, Wed Feb 17, 2016, 7:00pm. Please register. Fee: free.
- **2016 Heritage Awards**, Thurs Feb 18, 2016, 7:00pm. Please RSVP. Fee: free.

Maple Ridge Historical Society

<http://mapleridgemuseum.org/>

- **Maple Ridge Cemetery Walking Tour**, Saturday Feb 20, 2016, 11:00am. Fee: free.

Qualicum Beach Family History Society

www.qbfhs.ca

- **Unlocking The Past International Genealogy Conference**, with Colleen Fitzpatrick and Chris Paton, Parksville, BC, Saturday, April 22–23, 2016, 7:45am – 4:00pm. Fee: \$85.

Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society

<http://stillygen.org/index.php>

- **2016 Northwest Genealogy Conference: Family Secrets Uncovered – Lost History Found**, August 17-20 Arlington WA.

Maple Ridge Family History Group, Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library. Share the results of your New Year's family history research resolutions.