

Family History Newsletter



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Land Records at FamilySearch

by Annette Fulford

In a recent video by *FamilySearch* it says that approximately 70% of their records online are not indexed but are still available to view. Treat the non-indexed records like you would a microfilm at the library and search them. There is a treasure trove of information waiting for you.

During the Edge Family Project I had the chance to peruse some of these records. There are four different sets of records regarding land in BC available at *FamilySearch*. I wanted to see if any of the Edge family had land grants in the records available online.

I decided to try my luck with the British Columbia, Dominion Land Branch Records, 1885-1949, online at <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2060124?collectionNameFilter=false>. There are a wide variety of files associated with these records but no clear instructions on how to use them. I thought I would check the *Land Files Indexed to Personal Names, series 1* files to see if any Edge family members are listed. I found some on page 104 of 403.

It listed a number of family members including George Frederick, Samuel and Samuel Ephraim Edge in the index. I printed off the page and set out to see if I could locate files for them. The index page includes the following information: Surname, Given name: Edge, Samuel; File #8989; Vol.; GSU Film number (Mormon church) 2242896; and BCARS (BC Archives) film number B14631 (if you use these records at the BC Archives).

I checked for Samuel Edge by file number 8989 first in the Land Files. I clicked on the records and it gave me a long list of files I could search in. I chose the number range 8896-9087 and began looking for his record. The first file 8896 started on page 25 (of 3027 pages). I

advanced the film mid-way through the film to find the file I was looking for. There are a lot of numbers associated with these records so look for the cover page titled BC Lands. The cover page is from the Department of the Interior and it will show the file number near the top of the page, and it will give the legal land description for the property under the subject heading.

I found the Samuel Edge land file on page 1493 of the 3027 pages. The file contained 8 pages and it included his homestead number for the property. After I downloaded the pages onto my computer I went looking for info Homestead No. 267.

Next, I searched the *Homestead Grant Registers, vol 1-3* and found detailed information about Samuel's grant in the index on page 61. It listed the following information: [Homestead] Number, Date of Application, Date of First Occupancy, Date of Expiry of Terms, Date of Grant, Register: Folio/Liber, Name (of applicant), Land description: Section, Part of Section, Township, Range, Meridan, Area, plus details on how much was paid for the land.

I decided to search for his file in the Application for Patents (box 395-402, no 361-526). This is where I located the GSU film number 2243725, which corresponds to the Mormon Church film number I found with Samuel's entry in the index for Land Files Indexed to Personal Names. However, these records are much more detailed to use. I found his file by scrolling the film page by page.

Samuel Edge's file was on page 131 of 3618 pages; there are four pages: two pages are filled out by him regarding his use of the property and two pages are sworn statements about him living and working on the property by members of the community, which I believe to be his neighbours. I also found several entries where he provided sworn statements to his neighbours in their files as well.

In Memoriam

Maureen McCormick passed away suddenly August 7, 2016. Her daughter Megra let us know that she really enjoyed being a part of the Maple Ridge group and getting to know all of you. She will be missed. Condolences have been sent to her daughter Megara. There will not be a memorial at Maureen's request.

Online Resources

Historic Maps

www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/

University of Texas at Austin has begun to digitize its historical maps. The Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection is a general collection of more than 250,000 maps covering all areas of the world. More than 250,000 maps are online, representing less than 30% of the collection. Most of the images are JPEG images within 300kb, some are quite large. Maps are presented as they were originally published. Digitization is ongoing.

Le Havre Departing Passenger Lists

http://recherche.archivesdepartementales76.net/?id=recherche_qui_dee_maritime

This collection is not simply of departing passenger lists for all vessels leaving Le Havre. It is the surviving shipping documentation for vessels registered at Le Havre and held by the Departmental Archives. The categories are:

- **Registres matricules des gens de mer** — 1751-1950. These are highly detailed crew lists, often with copies of birth registrations. There are

alphabetic indices at the end of each volume.

- **Rôles des bâtiments de commerce** — 1751-1816 - These are the papers required of each merchant vessel, listing stores, cargo, crew and passengers. Included in this category are *the matricules des bateaux de plaisance* - 1850-1906, the crew and passenger lists for pleasure craft.
- **Matricules des bâtiments de commerce** — 1741-1929 - Filed on the vessel's return to port, this gives the same information as the rôle, but will show any changes or alterations that may have occurred during the voyage.
- **Répertoires d'armement et de désarmement des bâtiments de commerce** — these are essentially finding aids, the lists that give the numbers, dates and names of ships necessary to find them in the relevant documents above.

Family History Events

Cloverdale Library

www.surreylibraries.ca

- **Orientations**, Saturdays, 10:00-10:50 am, Sept 10, Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 3, Pre-registration recommended. Fee: free.
- **Start Searching Your Family History: A Beginners Workshop in 5 Lessons** with Brenda L. Smith, Thursdays 5:30 – 8:30 pm. Sept 15 & 29, Oct 13 & 27, Nov 10. Fee: \$100.
- **Introduction to Family History at Cloverdale Library** with Jamie Brown, Saturday, Sept 17, 2016, 1:30 – 3:00pm. Fee: free.
- **How to Store and Share Your Family Tree: Options**, with Jeannie Vance, Saturday, Sept 24, 2016, 1:30 – 3:00pm. Fee \$10

- **Brick Walls 3: Sharing Strategies on Tough Genealogy Problems** with M. Diane Rogers, Brenda L. Smith, and Peter Whitlock, plus guest speaker Laurie Cooke. Co-sponsored with the BC Genealogical Society (BCGS), Saturday, October 29, 1:00 – 5:00 pm, Charge: \$20 (includes food). Additional charge of \$10 for one-on-one meeting with an expert.

Finding Your Roots Seminar

www.findingyourroots.ca

- **Family History Seminar** with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, schedule and instructors on website. 6270 - 126 St Surrey, Saturday, Oct 15, 2016. Fee: Free. Sack-Lunch: \$5.

Kelowna and District Genealogical Society

www.kdqs.ca

- **Harvest Your Family Tree**, bi-annual conference, features 33 workshops and 10 speakers from Canada, UK, and US. September 23–25, 2016. Fee: \$95 for Saturday.

Vancouver Public Library

www.vpl.ca/programs/

- **Searching the Past: Locating History and Memory**, September 21, 2016, 6:00 – 8:30 pm, Champlain Heights Branch Library. Free.

The Family History group supports members in researching their family history research. Members have ancestors from around the globe. Email: mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com

Maple Ridge Family History Group, Wednesday, Oct 5, 2016, 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library.