

Family History Newsletter



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The Family History group supports members in researching their family history research. Members have ancestors from around the globe.

They meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library.

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The Evolution of a Citizen

by Alberta McNamara & Gina Leigh

The Maple Ridge Family History Group was requested by the Maple Ridge Historical Society to form a research team to search for answers to the following questions:

- What can be found about Edmund Pope before he came to Maple Ridge?
- What is the relationship with St. John the Divine Anglican Church and the Pope Family?

The Maple Ridge Museum and Community Archives provided information currently held on the Edmund Pope family to launch the project.

Research for such a project begins with developing a rough outline of the family tree involved. Census records add to the frame to flesh out the tree and locations. From this point, other records are brought in such as newspapers, voter's lists, council minutes and more to add dimension. Once the main records have been collected, they are scrutinized for the accuracy and discrepancies.

By this time, a basic idea of what pieces of information are relevant to the initial questions has been discovered, and what holes in the story there are. While the final product is taking shape, other members continue to search for information which might enhance the story. When the final product is in draft shape, research work is suspended.

The outcome after many hours of research has resulted in capturing much of the Cornwall, England family history, the family's Maple Ridge years, an insight into the family's connection to St. John the Divine Anglican Church and much more on Edmund Pope and the many positions he held during his employment with the District of Maple Ridge.



Edmund Pope arrived in Canada in 1887 from Cornwall, England. He made his way to Maple Ridge to join his older sister, Mary Jane and her husband, John Henry Laity. Edmund's wife Eleanor arrived in 1889 with their daughter, Edith. The family eventually settled on acreage on River Road, just east of St. John the Divine Anglican Church. Their son, John Arnold was born in 1891.

Community involvement was inevitable, considering Edmund Pope's employment with the District of Maple Ridge. Although he held many positions with the District until age 70, the most notable was Maple Ridge's first police constable.

This information as well as any additional information will be presented to the Maple Ridge Museum and Archives, including citations of the resources found. They can be contacted at www.mapleridgemuseum.org.

This is the second community history project undertaken by the Maple Ridge Family History Group. In 2015/16 a team researched the early families of William Frederick Edge and Samuel Edge. Information gathered for that project was presented in 2016 and is filed with the Maple Ridge Museum and Archives.

Maple Ridge Council Minutes

by Sandra Ayres

www.mapleridge.ca

Hurray! The 1931–1938 Council Minutes are now available for viewing in the City of Maple Ridge website! This means that all council minutes, which are stored in the city's archives, from the beginning of the District of Maple Ridge in 1874 all the way to 1951 are now accessible as well as the Bylaw book from 1874–1913. While it is not a blockbuster in reading, it does give a unique view of the development of many of the governmental institutions progressions, from policing, to public health, to roadways. This new addition will be especially interesting as Reeve Mussallem was dealing with social welfare as the depression dragged on and the development of the road system. He drafted a few interesting letters to the Provincial government.

History books are good for demonstrating how events affected the mass population but council minutes give better examples of how the smaller communities were affected.

Word of warning, the first few books are not typewritten and there are gaps up to 1891. You can view them by going to www.mapleridge.ca. On the home page, click on "Living Here", then go down to "History and Heritage". Portals to the Council Minute books are found under the Historic records box on the right side of the page.

Heritage Week

The City of Maple Ridge, the Community Heritage Commission and the Maple Ridge Historical Society

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

- **Downtown Walking Tour**, Sunday, Feb 12 at 1:00pm. 224th Street entrance to Memorial Peace Park. Fee: By donation.
- **Maple Ridge Cemetery Walking Tour**, Monday, Feb 13 at 1:00pm. Maple Trees at entrance to the Cemetery. Fee: By donation.
- **History Is...Conversation Evening, "Taking Your Story to Print"**, Wednesday, Feb 15 at 7:00pm, Maple Ridge Library. Fee: Free.
- **The 2017 Heritage Awards**, Thursday, Feb 16 at 7:00pm St. Andrew's Heritage Church Hall, 22279 – 116 Avenue, Maple Ridge. Fee: Free RSVP appreciated.
- **Oral History Workshop**, Saturday, Feb 18 10:00am to 1:00pm, Blaney Room, Maple Ridge City Hall, Pre-register, Fee: \$20.

To RSVP and to pre-register call: Lisa Zosiak 604-467-7383
Email: lzosiak@mapleridge.ca

Family History Events

Abbotsford Family History Centre

www.abbotsfordfamilyhistory.com

- **Abbotsford Family History Day**, Saturday, April 28, 2017, 8:30am – 3:30pm. 30635 Blueridge Drive Fee: Free.

Cloverdale Library

www.surreylibraries.ca

- **Orientations**, Saturdays, 10:00-10:50 am, March 4, Pre-registration recommended. Fee: free.
- **Family History Fridays**, March 3, 2:30 pm, Drop in. Join us to share and explore different topics in family history. Fee: Free.

Ladner Genealogy Club

www.fvrl.bc.ca

- Thursday, February 16, 2017, 11:00am – 12:30pm, Ladner Pioneer Library

Ontario Genealogical Society

<https://conference2017.ogs.ca/>

- **Webinar: What's New in Genealogy** with Kathryn Lake Hogan, March 2, 2017, 4:00pm.
- **Our Canada – Your Family: Building a Nation**, June 16-18, 2017, Ottawa, Algonquin College.

Surrey Family History Centre

<http://abbygs.ca/index.html>

- **Descendancy** with Jeannie Vance, Monday Feb 20, 2017, 10:00am– noon or Wednesday Feb 22, 2017, 7:00pm– 9:00 pm. Registration required; only 12 spots. Register at: surreyfhc@gmail.com

Victoria Family History

<http://victoriafhc.org/index.html>

- **Celebrating Families across Generations**, March 10–11, 2017, Victoria, 701 Mann Avenue College.

Maple Ridge Family History Group, Wednesday, February 1, 2017, 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library.