

Edward Fair Corkill



Edward Fair Corkill, Roll Number 503 in the 1910 Membership Register of Union Lodge No.9 was a, 22year old, student at Queen's University living in Napanee. He

Initiated with Union Lodge No.9 December 15, 1915 and was Passed the 14th of January, 1916. He was not Raised to a Master Mason.

According to the 1911 Census, I find him with his family living in Mount Forest in Wellington North, South Western Ontario. I know you are asking "How did he get to Napanee?" This is what I unearthed by further delving into this question. His father was listed in that 1911 Census as Edward J. Corkill. I found him again in the 1901 Census in Sarnia,

Lambton West enumerated as a widower, born the 20th of September, 1860, occupation Teacher with a son Edward F. who was born the 16th of February, 1893. I went back one step more to the 1891 Census and found Edward J. in the town of Windsor thirty five years of age and a high school teacher. This piqued my interest even more and found him in the 1881 Census residing in Loughborough Township with his mother, Elizabeth age 63 from Ireland and three older siblings. There, initially, is nothing in the Censuses prior to that. However, these children were all born in Ontario, supposedly. To continue on with Edward J., he Affiliated with Union Lodge No.9 November 3rd, 1916 Roll Number 520 as a Master Mason Initiated in Albion Lodge No. 200 according to our Register. However, there is no such lodge. But there is a St. Alban's Lodge No. 200 located in Mount Forest which was warranted in 1868 according to Grand Proceedings of 1917. He listed his occupation as Teacher but according to a newspaper article about Edward Fair it states his father Edward J. was Principal of Napanee District Collegiate Institute in 1916. There is also a letter dated 1929 having a letterhead for Lennox and Addington County indicating he was the Inspector of Public Schools. He lived on Centre Street according to the 1919 Bell Telephone Book on the South

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Fredericksburgh Heritage website. He was also a member of Mount Sinai Chapter No. 44 according to the 1919 Minute Book. Edward J. died September 1st, 1955 at 94 years of age.

Now back to Edward Fair Corkill. His Attestation Papers Number 304504 (*Regimental Number*) signed November 1st, 1915 state he was born in Sarnia, Lambton County. He was a second year Theological student at Queen's University, Single and was in the Queen's OTC. His height was 6' 1" with a weight of 171.5 pounds, girth 41.5 inches and an expansion of 4.5 inches, fair complexion, blue eyes, brown hair and a mole on his right shoulder. He was in the 46th Queen's Battery and was transferred to the 11th Artillery Brigade, Battalion 6 of the Canadian Forces Artillery with the rank of Gunner. He arrived in England on the 14th of February, 1916 aboard the S. S. Metagama which was built in Glasgow, Scotland in 1914 becoming part of the Canadian Pacific fleet. She was the sister ship of the S. S. Missanabie. By 1930 she was no longer in service after 151 trips and broken up in 1934.

Edward embarked for France on the 14th of July, 1916 landing at Havre. They appointed him, in the field, to Acting Bombardier on July 30th, 1916. *A Bombardier is a Royal Artillery Corporal which has existed since the 16th Century in Artillery Regiments.* Edward was killed in France or Belgium on the 9th of November, 1916 and buried in Adanac Military Cemetery, Somme, France. "The Battery to which he belonged was in a position in the vicinity of Martinpuich. The enemy had been shelling the position intermittently throughout the day. About 4:30p.m. when the men were serving supper in the dugouts, a shell detonated on the roof and exploded inside the dugout which Edward was in, instantly killing him." *Canadian Great War Project*

He was one of the 151 Queen's Graduates, Alumni, Undergraduates and Staff that were killed while on Active Military Service 1914-1918. His photograph hangs in Memorial Hall, Queen's University.

We cherish his memory in our hearts.
*When God forgets to send the dawn
And birds no longer wing.
We'll cease remembering.*
Amy Ratz 1943
Weese Scrapbook

Prepared by Allan Hamilton Historian, Union Lodge No.9