

NEWS RELEASE

October 09, 2026
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stratford-Perth Archives Hosting Free Upcoming Workshop About Researching First World War Service Records

STRATFORD, ON - Just in time for Remembrance Day, Stratford-Perth Archives is inviting the public to attend a free workshop from author and historian Eric Edwards about decoding First World War service records. Participants will learn more about how to uncover more information about ancestors, both soldiers and nurses, who served in the First World War.

Two sessions of the workshop will be hosted at the Stratford-Perth Archives, located at 4273 Line 34, Stratford. Attendees can choose one of two dates:

- Saturday, October 17 from 2:00pm – 4:00pm
- Saturday, October 24 from 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Eric will work with participants to find and gain access to the digital copy of their ancestors' service files, provide instruction on how to interpret the information found in the files, and expert insight on how to find even more information using both online and other resources.

Seats are limited, so interested participants are encouraged to reserve a spot early. Register for free by emailing archives@perthcounty.ca or call (519) 271-0531 x 259. The registration deadline is **Wednesday, October 14 at 4:00pm.**

About the Speaker – Eric Edwards:

In 2009, Eric's journey of discovery about the men who served in the 18th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force began. His connection to this battalion was his paternal grandfather, William "Billie" Dewar, who had the "distinction" of being the first soldier of the 18th Battalion to be wounded in action. Since then he has documented and researched the lives of the men of the 18th and has found the process of documenting the lives of the members of this unit a gateway to discovering a wide range of social history about the people's lives in Canada's past. This passion is expressed through his blog and Facebook Group about the 18th Battalion: <https://18thbattalioncef.blog/author/phugoid/>

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Media Contact:

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Stratford-Perth Archives
Presents:

DECODING WWI SERVICE FILES

Workshop presented by author
and historian Eric Edwards.



Saturday, 17 October, 2026

or

Saturday, 24 October, 2026



2:00 - 4:00 PM



Stratford-Perth Archives
4273 Line 34 RR 5,
Stratford, ON



Perth County
Cultivating Opportunity

110088n CEF
ATTESTATION PAPER.
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Original
No. 727584
Folio.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.
(ANSWERS)

1. What is your name? Harold Alexander Swanley
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? Stratford, Can. Ont. Perth Co. Ont. Can.
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? John Swanley, father
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? Stratford, Can. Ont. Perth Co. Ont. Can.
5. What is the date of your birth? July 20, 1895
6. What is your Trade or Calling? Farmer
7. Are you married? No
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? And inoculated. Yes
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? No
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? Yes
If so, state particulars of former Service. 3 years 28th Perth Bgt
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? Yes
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the }
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? }

Harold Alexander Swanley (Signature of Man.)
Ed. [illegible] (Signature of Witness.)

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Harold Alexander Swanley, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing

Space is limited.
Register for free:

(519) 271-0531 x 259
archives@perthcounty.ca