



# Street Stories

## Plumridge Avenue

GPS: [49.1407239,-122.3056194](https://www.google.com/maps/place/49.1407239,-122.3056194)



*In 1891 while he and his wife, Florence were visiting an acquaintance in Mission, James was immediately attracted to the community. He recalled in 1946: "I was very much impressed with its steady growth and excellent opportunities for a young, ambitious man.....Deciding to stay in Mission, I bought two lots on the corner of Grand Avenue and Main Street." (FVR:1946-12-12)*

*Mission Community Archives Image 0003-MCA174-001*

James Plumridge was a highly respected member of the community

Born in Buckinghamshire, England in 1861, he left school at 13 to start a lifetime of work. "We were only ordinary working people," he reminisced. I was naturally more educated to working for a living."

Plumridge's first job was in a chair factory. At the age of 21, James migrated to Canada with "the sole purpose of becoming a farmer in Manitoba." (FVR:1946-12-12) He settled in Port Arthur, Ontario, where he stayed for three years and ended up working in a bakery.

In 1886, he married Florence Mackenrot, with whom he would have eight children. Attracted by opportunities out west, Plumridge settled in Mission in 1891. Here he set up his own bakery and in time had a flourishing business. He bought and developed land in Mission, building, all told, 11 houses and three business places. In 1903, he was appointed Mission's postmaster – a job he would hold for 42 years.

Plumridge made time for two passions: travel and the community service. In 1933, he took a six-month leave of absence and travelled

the world. The Community Archives houses a diary of this memorable trip which included stops in Japan and China and travelling through the Suez Canal.

He was a school trustee for eight years, one of the first elected officials to govern the Village of Mission, and a long-standing member of both the Board of Trade and the Masonic Order. In 1912, a book of B.C. biographies said Plumridge belongs "to that enterprising class of citizens who, while engaged in attaining personal success, contribute toward the general welfare of the community."

In 1946 - the same year he and Florence celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.— James retired as postmaster at the age of 84! He was succeeded in the job by his son, Arthur. However, James did not retire from all his passions. Up until his death in 1949, he remained active in the Masonic Lodge, serving as their treasurer.

Street Stories is provided by the Mission Community Archives, which is operated by the Mission Historical Society. If you have any further information on the Plumridge family, please call us at 604-820-2621.

*By David Buss; edited with additions by Val Billesberger*