

Getting to the Heart of the Matter: Museum Collection Update

Karen Dearlove, Curator

With the content for the new museum exhibits taking shape, the process of deciding what artifacts to keep in the museum collection and to exhibit in the new museum, and which objects to deaccession, is continuing with renewed focus. NVMA Curator Karen Dearlove, with help from Reference Historian Daien Ide, and Young Canada Works interns Madisen Hvidberg and Christy Brain, have been working through the museum collection of over 15,000 artifacts. During the past year, over 2,200 objects were deaccessioned (i.e. formally removed from the Museum's collection), with many transferred to new homes in other museum collections across British Columbia. In the coming year, the collection will be further reduced by another 2,500 objects and we will start to move the remaining collection to new and higher quality storage facilities.

Several things are considered when deciding whether to keep or deaccession an object. These include the connection of the object to North Vancouver, whether it is unique in the collection, the condition of the object, and most importantly how the object could be used to illustrate

stories or themes in the new museum exhibits. Objects that are redundant, damaged, missing parts or components, or with no known connection to North Vancouver people and stories are recommended for deaccessioning.

Examples of objects that have been recently deaccessioned include: generic household items like telephones, cameras, record players, and radios; redundant sets of tools such



1986.6.2 Compass used on a vessel from the Charles H. Cates and Sons tugboats.

as axes, saws, hammers, mallets, and planes; as well as many fragmentary objects in poor condition.

Artifacts in good condition and with local significance are retained. Through this process a clearer picture is emerging of the unique and significant artifacts in the NVMA collection and how they can be used to tell North Vancouver's story in the new museum's exhibits. The artifacts illustrated here have been retained in the collection as they provide us with a direct and compelling link to our past. They come from Charles H. Cates and Sons, the tugboat company that contributed so much to the development of waterfront industries in North Vancouver. In 1992 the company was purchased by the Washington Group whose Seaspan tugs now ply the waters of Burrard Inlet.



1986.6.3 Wooden pattern for a propeller blade from the Charles H. Cates and Sons company.



1993.7.1 Name plate from the Charles H. Cates company.

The Barkers of Lynn Valley

by Sharon Proctor



Modern view of the Fromme Block (the side facing Mountain Highway), overlaid with a black & white photo of the first Barker store (circa 1913). *Conor McCarthy & NVMA 12464*

The Fromme Block (Lynn Valley Road & Mountain Highway) is all that remains of Lynn Valley’s original business centre. Built in 1912, it has been beautifully restored and has a TD Canada Trust on the street-level. Years ago its street-level space hosted two “Barker” stores – at different times! “Barker” was Francis Major John (Jack) Barker, who’d come here from England in 1905.

He launched his first store in 1909, on the corner of Lynn Valley and Ross Roads. Called Lynn Valley General Store, it sold groceries, feed, school supplies, and other items. When his brother George arrived from England in 1911, George became the Store’s bookkeeper. The business moved to the Fromme Block in 1912. Soon after, the Lynn Valley post office moved into the Store, and Jack became postmaster, George assistant postmaster.

In 1913 the two built a house on Doran Road and welcomed their widowed aunt Rose Esdaile to Lynn Valley. She moved in and kept house for them. All three were volunteers in the local community: Jack belonged to the group that built “Institute Hall” in 1908 and ran



Crawley & Barker in the Fromme Block (the side facing Lynn Valley Road), 1937. NVMA 4993

They opened “Crawley & Barker” in the Fromme Block, a hardware/real estate business

it as a site for meetings and performances. He was also active in St. Clement’s Church, and helped organize and manage the annual Lynn Valley Music Festival. George sang in the St. Clement’s choir, Rose played the Church organ, and both helped organize a Lynn Valley choral society.



The Barker brothers, George (18) and Jack (23), pose with a canine friend in front of a player-piano, 1912. George died in 1987. NVMA 12419

During World War One Jack joined the Canadian military and headed overseas in early 1916, leaving George to run the Store and post office. While overseas, Jack contracted tuberculosis. He spent part of 1918 in the Epsom Convalescent Camp (Surrey, England). Once back home, he resigned as postmaster in 1919, sold the Store, and became a patient at the Tranquille Sanatorium, near Kamloops (January-July 1920). The next several years saw him working as a painter/decorator, George as an accountant/manager, and both still living with their aunt on Doran Road.

In 1927 Jack formed a partnership with Thomas Crawley, another volunteer who’d helped develop and manage Institute Hall. They opened “Crawley & Barker” in the Fromme Block, a hardware/real estate business. As for brother George, he married and moved to West Vancouver. When Crawley retired in the mid-1940s, Crawley & Barker became “Barker.” Jack ran it in the Fromme Block until his death in 1974.

Sources: City Directories; 1921 Canada Census; “Early Days in Lynn Valley,” book by Walter Draycott, 2000 edition; “Vancouver Daily World”; Death Certificates; ships’ passenger lists; North Vancouver Archives’ photo notes.



The Barker home (1367 Doran Road), 1914. Jack lived here until his death, remaining even after Rose died in 1957. The house no longer exists. NVMA 12437

A Century Ago: Private Schools

by Sharon Proctor

"A Century Ago" is one of several Express stories about North Vancouver in the years 1916-1918, a time of farms, ranches, wooden sidewalks, lumber mills, shipyards, heroin in drug stores, alcohol prohibition, and World War 1.



House at 214 West 6th, 1920s. Once used by Lynn College and North Vancouver School for Girls, it's now a City Heritage home. NVMA 6008

Our private schools of a hundred years ago were always located within a few blocks of Lonsdale. Each was founded by a teacher, and each started out in a private home. Like other such schools of the era, they were based on the British model of private education. They emphasized education, morals, conduct, and self-discipline. Only one erected a purpose-built campus. The rest continued to use houses, though they often moved from one house to another. Looking back, one can't help thinking times must have been uncertain for their students and teachers!



The house at 464 East 12th (seen here in 1981) once hosted North Vancouver College and Mabyn College. It was demolished years ago. NVMA 4912

The private school with the campus was Chesterfield School for Boys (3371 Chesterfield). Founded in 1908, its first location was the home of its founder, Albert Scriven (1352 Lonsdale).

It moved in 1911 to its new campus, with its two large buildings, playgrounds, and other amenities. Later, in 1916, another school merged with Chesterfield. It was Wykham School, whose founder joined Chesterfield's faculty. Wykham, a boys school, started in 1913 as "Lynn College." First, it was in an Ottawa Gardens house (214 West

6th). Then, in 1914 it became "Wykham School" and moved to East 15th (160 East 15th). And in 1915 we find it in Chesterfield's vacated house (1352 Lonsdale). Years later Wykham founder Reginald Bates purchased Chesterfield School and took charge! Chesterfield closed in 1942. It was during World War Two, and too many of its male teachers were enlisting in the Military.

When Wykham left the Ottawa Gardens house, North Vancouver School for Girls moved in. A boarding and day school, it was founded in 1909 and spent its early years on Lonsdale (1700 block). It stayed in Ottawa Gardens for some two years, then moved to East 12th near St. Andrews. It was back on Lonsdale (1901 Lonsdale) in 1920. There it stayed until it shut down in 1927.

Wykham, a boys school, started in 1913 as "Lynn College"

Another boys' school was North Vancouver College. In 1916 it was holding classes in one house (1612 Lonsdale), while boarding its students in another (464 East 12th). In 1917, however,

it was gone – and another boys' school was occupying the house where the former had boarded students. The "new" school was Mabyn College, which had moved here from Vancouver (1200 Comox). It operated on East 12th for two years, then closed. Turns out Mabyn's principal, John Shearer, had also been actively involved with North Vancouver College.

Sources: Dick Lazenby newspaper notes; City Directories; Growing Up in British Columbia, book by Jean Barman (1984); "North Shore Press"; "The Chilliwack Progress"; "Vancouver Daily World"; Fire Insurance Maps.



"Holly Lodge" at 1901 Lonsdale, 1950s. This once was the final home of North Vancouver School for Girls. Before it was a school, it was a temporary hospital (see Express, September 2017). NVMA 11811



Behind the boy is a house at 1612 Lonsdale, circa 1936. This is where North Vancouver College held its classes for a year. NVMA 3768

North Vancouver's Museum & Archives exists to engage, strengthen and inspire our community and its visitors by exploring history, connecting people and sharing ideas.

Our website:
nvma.ca

Walter Draycott's Great War Chronicle
GreatWarChronicle.ca

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Janet Turner, Archivist



Personal Stories Illuminate Community Histories

In the French language, the same word is used for “story” and “history”: *l’histoire*. We at NVMA hold this linguistic fact out to our community and encourage you to reflect on your own story in the context of North Vancouver’s history. Great people

and dramatic events mark out the paths of history. But what was their impact on the local environment and people of the time?

The archives recently acquired a photograph of “Project #3” wartime housing under construction at the intersection of Winch Ave. and McNaughton Crescent. In unrelated research in our holdings, we came across a memoir by Anne Silva of her first impression of these projects.

Her words convey the fresh immediacy of her experience, and add layers of meaning to the photograph.

Memoirs, as the word suggests, are retrospective – flashes from memory the writer wants to capture before they fade. Although they can be lengthy, like Walter Draycott’s “The Immigrant”, most in the Archives’ holdings are a few pages: memories of the journey to North Vancouver; a few words to explain a photograph that is not, by itself, worth a thousand words; a record of building a home; recollections of walking from the waterfront, up Grouse Mountain along Mosquito Creek.

Most of the memoirs in our holdings belong to those now dead. We would like to preserve those flashes from memory of the living. What stands out in your memories of life in North Vancouver? Write it down and share it with us! A few pages may be enough to illuminate a moment no one else knows about.

April 13, 1944 War-time Housing Anne Silva
We went up Third Street Hill and at Queensbury we entered War-time Housing territory. What a shock — seeing all those War-time Houses! They were very small and very numerous; one on each fifty foot lot and sometimes as many as twenty-six to the block.

Excerpt from memoir of Anne Silva re: wartime housing
NVMA Item 647



War-time Housing Project #3, [1942], looking West from the intersection of Winch Ave. and McNaughton Cr. (since covered by Capilano Mall) NVMA 16304

Local resident receives national award

Congratulations to Daniel Francis, recipient of the 2017 Pierre Berton Award for bringing Canadian history to a wider audience. An NVMA volunteer and former Commissioner, Francis wrote last year’s history of the District of North Vancouver, “Where Mountains Meet the Sea”, which won the BC Historical Federation competition for the year’s best community history publication.

He is the author of 30 books reflecting the diversity of Canada’s history. The award for popular media will be presented in Ottawa by the Governor General.

