

Douglas *Warner* *Carries* *People* - *WARNER*
Dehills *1114* *ARTHUR* *CURRIE*
 215 Raynor Street
 482-2147 *LANE*

present day legal description: lot 182, pt lot 181, pt lot 181A
 Block X Sec 31

I was unable to trace this house back beyond 1892, because our assessment rolls for the earlier years do not cover this section of Victoria West.

assessment information 1892-1905 owner Jane Warner
 improvement appears 1894
 1910 owner Jane Warner
 1914 owner estate of Jane Warner

Willen
Oudshoorn
gave him till notes 2002

Fire Map - 1907 structure shown
 city directory information 1893 Warner, Orlando ship's carpenter, Alston S
 1894 " " res. Catherine St., The
 Arm
 1897, Warner, Andrew Alton St.
 1899, same

385-9269

Victoria Heritage Foundation

From: "Maryanne McGrath" <wf809@victoria.tc.ca>
 To: "Victoria Heritage Foundation" <vicherfdn@telus.net>
 Sent: Monday, May 20, 2002 10:50 AM
 Subject: Re: Finished James Bay

ssie St.
 Alston St.
 ando, bds. 1114

Here is the information for the Arthur Currie Lane house

1114 Arthur Currie Lane

4 Alston St,

1892 Warner, Mrs. Jane 600 -
 1893 Warner, Mrs. Jane 600 900

1916 not listed at 1114 Alston St. Currie= active service.

The information here is confusing it seems Orlando or Andrew Warner resided and was listed in the 1893 Directory, although an assessment on improvements does not appear until 1894. Whether this improvement of 1894 is the present structure is uncertain. The Fire Map of 1907 shows the outline of a building similar in size and location to today's building. It seems that the property passed to Jane Warner as she is listed as the owner. The Currie family may have just rented the house. (Arthur Currie is not shown as a property owner) Jane Warner may have had a room in the house as she appears in the directories from 1909-1912, or they may have been related.

Hallmark Inventory: dates the building to 1914
 the original owner as Lady Lucy Currie

Jennifer Nell Barr

From: "Bruce Mitchell and Jean Rice" <bmittell000@ns.sympatico.ca>
To: "Jennifer Barr" <victoriaheritagefoundation@home.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 30, 2001 12:48 PM
Subject: Arthur Currie House
 Jennifer,

Margaret Nahrain said you were looking for informatio on the Currie house.

I lived there from 1979 to 1981 while the owner, my great-uncle was in a nursing home. I located some research I had done at the archives when I was livingthere. Hope it will be of some help. I can probably come up with a few pictures that are in my parents possession if needed. We may be able to document from the forties to the eighties. I may have given some of my great uncle's photos to Bill Oudshoorn, but I'm not sure.

Athur Currie House, 215 Raynor Ave(formerly 1114 Alston)

The property was purchased before 1892 by Orlando Warner and listed under the name of Jane Warner, his wife. The house was built in 1893 (?) by by Warner at which time it was assessed for tax purposes at \$450. By 1897 it jumped to \$1500. Warner was a ship's carpenter by trade , having built many boats, barges, wharves as well as several houses in the Victoria area.

Warner had several daughters, one of whom married Arthur Currie. The house was a wedding present and the Curries moved in betwen 1900 and 1903. Currie at the time had the rank of Major and was an agent for National Life Insurance, 1212 Broad St. He Later became provincial manager and opened his own firm of Currie and Power. In 1914 war broke out and he went back to active service. Shortly after he was to become Major General Sir Arthur Currie, Leader of the Canadian Forces.

During the years 1917 to 1943, the house changed hands several times. P.J. Sinnott of Thompson and Sons, follwed by L. Swift, Seargent CMSC, followed by N.S. Fraser, an agent for the CNR. Fraser willed the property to Alice Barker, his housekeeper, who sold it to Bernard Taylor (My great-uncle) in July 1943 for the sum of 1943. Mr. Taylor, formerly of Leytonstone, England, moved to Canada in 1911 to homestead in Alberta. The farm failed so he sought employment at Yarrow's in Victoria as he had worked for the firm in the old country. After a few years he returned to Alberta for another attempt at farming. He came back to Yarrow's in the early forties, purchased the house and eventually retired. He passed away in 1981 at the age of 91, his wife Dorcus having predeceased him by several years. The property was sold shortly aferwards.

The address shifted from 1114 Alston to 215 Raynor around 1940 when the access was cut off. The large laurel hedge (is it still there?) which surrouds three sides of the property was planted by Dorcas Taylor in October 1943, whose family estate in Ireland was called Laurelville.

Jennifer Nell Barr

From: "Susan Nickum" <sbnickum@pinc.com>
To: "Jennifer Barr" <victoriaheritagefoundation@home.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 01, 2001 8:12 PM
Subject: Fw: Arthur Currie House

We received this from Bruce today, but I think his "history" was cut off, as it seems to stop in mid-air. I have written him asking about this.....we may hear more soon. Cheers, Susan

----- Original Message -----

From: "Bruce Mitchell and Jean Rice" <bmitchell000@ns.sympatico.ca>
To: <sbnickum@pinc.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 30, 2001 2:34 AM
Subject: Arthur Currie House

> Hi Susan and Margaret,

>

> I located some research I had done at the archives when I was living in
 > Victoria. Hope it will be of some help. I can probably come up with a
 > few pictures that are in my parents possession if needed. We may be
 > able to document from the forties to the eighties. I may have given
 > some of my great uncle's photos to Bill Oudshoorn, but I'm not sure.

>

> We are fine here, enjoying hot summer weather after a loooooong winter.
 > Work is slow right now, so I'm trying to get a few things done around
 > the house. We added on about five years ago and I'm still not finished
 > trim work and odds and ends. The kids are growing, Maggie turns 7 this
 > month and Dan is 4. I hit the big 50 last year! So you bought Bill's
 > house. What is he doing these days?

>

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 > (formerly 1114 Alston)

>

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 > under the name of Jane Warner, his wife. The house was built in 1893
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> access was cut off. The large laurel hedge (is it still there?) which
> surrounds three sides of the property was planted by Dorcas Taylor in
> October 1943, whose family estate in Ireland was called Laurelville.
>

1891

Name	Age	Occupation	Birthplace	Location	Family
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warner, Jane	45	Homemaker	Ireland	Victoria City Yates Street Ward (4 c-2)	129 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warner, Lilian	15	None or Unknown	British Columbia	Victoria City Yates Street Ward (4 c-2)	129 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warner, Orlando	49	Wood Shipwright	Nova Scotia	Victoria City Yates Street Ward (4 c-2)	

Div 19 01 Thursday, July 26, 2001

1901 Censuses

Alston St on the am.

19/03/01 Warner, Jane, f, head, w, 24 May 1845, 55, IRL, to Can: 1852, CE, Own money.

..... Rems: 1900DIR: Warner, Jane, wid Orlando, h. Alston St. RBCR: Warner, Jane, 80 y, 19 Dec 1911 at Victoria, b. IRL. Same plot: Warner, Orlando, 58 y, 7 Oct 1899 at Victoria, b. Pugwash, NS.

19/03/02 Warner, Lucy, f, dau, s, 11 Aug 1878, 22, BC, CE.

19/03/03 Currie, Arthur, m, boarder, s, 8 Dec 1875, 25, ON, CE, Real estate.

..... Rems: MRI: Arthur William Currie mar Lucy Sophia C. Musters, 14 Aug 1901, Victoria. CdnEn: Sir Arthur William Currie (changed from Curry 1887), b. Strathroy, ON, 5 Dec 1875, d. Montreal, 30 Nov 1933.

day. Daily Colonist Oct 8/89

DIED.

WARNER. At his late residence Alston street, Victoria West, on the 7th Inst., Orlando Warner, aged 58 years, and a native of Pugwash, Nova Scotia.

The funeral will take place from the above address at 2 p.m. Monday, the 9th Inst., and at 2:30 from St. Saviour's church.

Friends will please accept this intimation.

the park of that city.

COLONIST. 10 Dec 1899 pgs 5
Borne to the Grave.—The many friends of the late Orlando Warner paid the last tributes of respect to his memory yesterday, when the funeral took place from the family residence on Alton street and from St. Saviour's church. Rev. W. D. Barber officiated there and at the graveside, the pall-bearers being Messrs. Bullen, Bushby, Nesbit, Smith, Ker-mode and Meldram.

1114 Arthur Currie Lane

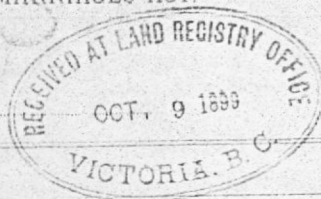
4786

99-09-012786

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES ACT.

SCHEDULE C.—Deaths.

Registration District No. *One*



No.	<i>212/90</i>
Name and surname of deceased.	<i>Orlando Warner</i>
When died.	<i>Oct 7th 1899 at Victoria B.C.</i>
Sex.	<i>Male</i>
Age.	<i>58 years</i>
Rank or profession.	<i>Ship Carpenter</i>
Where born.	<i>Pugwash Nova Scotia</i>
Certified cause of death, and duration of illness.	<i>Morbus cordis</i>
Name of Physician, if any.	<i>Dr F.W. Hall</i>
Signature, description, and residence of informant.	<i>Chas Hayward Undertaker Victoria B.C.</i>
When registered.	<i>9th October 1899</i>
Religious denomination.	<i>Episcopalian</i>
Signature of Registrar.	<i>S. Y. Wootten</i>
Remarks.	

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true extract from the Registrar of Deaths, kept in pursuance of the provisions of the above mentioned Act, for the year 18

As witness my Hand and Seal of Office, at the City of Victoria, Province of British Columbia, this _____ day of _____, 18

Registrar-General.

St. Saviour's church, Victoria West, was the scene of a very pretty wedding at 3.30 this afternoon, when Mr. Arthur W. Currie, for a number of years identified with the teaching staff of the city, but now in partnership with S. Matson in the insurance business, was united in marriage to Miss Charworth Masters, daughter of Mr. W. C. Masters, of Dove House, Ashbourne, Eng., and adopted daughter of Mrs. O. Warner, of Victoria West. The ceremony was performed by Rev. W. D. Barber, rector of the church, in the presence of a large company of friends, of whom both bride and groom has a particularly wide circle in the city.

The church had been very prettily decorated with red and white peas by a contingent of ladies, including Miss Muirhead, Miss Tennant, Miss Haynes and others. The home of Mrs. Warner, where the reception was held, was also decorated.

The bride was attired in cream satin, and wore a bridal veil. She carried a shower bouquet of white carnations and looked extremely pretty in her bridal gown. She was attended by Miss A. Currie, sister of the groom, by Miss M. Haynes and Miss M. Newby. The groom had the support of three of his intimate friends, namely, Dr. Stewart, ship's surgeon of the Empress of Japan; P. S. Lampman and R. F. Rankin. Messrs, J. Saunders and E. Vigor acted as ushers. To Mr. S. Matson devolved the duty of giving the bride away. Miss Mary Boggs was maid of honor.

W. W. Duncan presided at the organ, the bridal party leaving the church to the strain of Loheagrin's "Wedding March."

At the conclusion of the ceremony the wedding party drove to the residence of Mrs. Warner, where a reception will be held from 4.30 until 6.30. The happy couple embark at midnight on the Charmer for Vancouver, whence they will proceed to Toronto, Niagara Falls and Buffalo. The honeymoon, extending over about six weeks, will be spent at these points, and Mr. and Mrs. Currie will return via Detroit and Chicago to this city, taking up their residence in Victoria West.

The groom's present to the bride was a ring set in opals and diamonds, and to the bridesmaids crescent broaches set with pearls.

The array of presents was a particularly fine one, the bride receiving a host of handsome remembrances from her many friends, while the friends of the groom in the Fifth Regiment and in other circles also sent beautiful souvenirs of the event.

1114 Arthur Currie Lane

01-C9-010880

3880

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION ACT

SCHEDULE C.--Marriages.

Registration District of _____



BRIDEGROOM.	No.	233
	His name.	Arthur William Currie
	Age.	Twenty-five
	Residence when married.	Victoria B.C.
	Place of birth.	Napperton Ontario
	Condition (Bachelor or Widower.)	Bachelor
	Rank or profession.	Life insurance agent
BRIDE.	Names of parents.	W. & Jane Currie and Patterson
	Her name.	Lucy Sophia Chaworth Munster
	Age.	Twenty-five
	Residence when married.	Victoria B.C.
	Place of birth.	Comox B.C.
	Spinster or widow.	Spinster
	Names of parents.	William Chaworth Munster Lucy Sophia Munster
Names of witnesses.	Chas. Stewart, R. Rankin, Mabel Newby, Mabel Currie, Mary Hoop	
Residence of witnesses.	Empress of Japan B.C. City of Victoria B.C.	
Date of marriage.	August 14 th 1901	
Religious denomination of bridegroom.	Church of England	
Religious denomination of bride.	Church of England	
By whom married.	W. S. Barber	
By licence or by banns.	Banns (proclaimed three successive Sundays in St. Saviour's Church)	
Place of marriage, church, residence, &c.	St. Saviour's Church	

THE BRITISH FREE PRESS
Lady Lucy Currie, wife of Canada's "civilian" general and Commander-in-Chief in the First World War was born in Comox June 28, 1876

Lady Lucy Currie, wife of Canada's "civilian" general and Commander-in-Chief in the First World War was born in Comox. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chaworth Munster, arrived in 1862 and took up land in the Upper Settlement. Mrs. Munster was filled with the pioneer spirit of helpfulness. She took ill while nursing a young mother, James Robb and a friend made a record trip to Nanaimo by canoe in 14 hours for medicine. The trip was unsuccessful. Mrs. Munster died, leaving a daughter two weeks old. The infant was cared for by Mrs. Carwithen along with her daughter Jessie. She later went to Victoria where she met and married the famous soldier.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be the correct record of the marriage of Arthur William Currie and Lucy Sophia Chaworth Munster made in pursuance of the above mentioned Act.

Dated the fourteenth day of August, A.D. 1901

Signature of Clergyman, Minister or Registrar: W. S. Barber
Pastor S. Saviour's

N. B.—Reports of marriages celebrated are to be delivered, or forwarded by registered post prepaid, to the District Registrar on the last day of March, June, September and December, in each year.

by (son)
Hughes

duction to a Miss Hayes and that before returning to Comox he had been told by his father in England to take a look at his Newfoundland property and that is how he, my father, came to be there. It turned out that his letter of introduction was not for my mother and I don't think he ever delivered it to the original, but the two young people became friends and had many walks together, in the course of which he told her of his plans to make a home in the Comox Valley on the Pacific coast.

The time was near when his ship was leaving for the long voyage to the Pacific and as an 'adieu' to his beloved, my father left a poem to be delivered to my mother. On his way to the dockyard at St. John's, my father met a friend, another Englishman, who knew all about the love affair, so he played matchmaker and made it his business to see that my father missed the boat. He returned to town and the upshot was that they were married and finally left the wharf at St. John's as Mr. and Mrs. Terry Carwithen with the bride's people weeping on the wharf, as well they might—she in the care of a comparative stranger on a long journey to the then little known Pacific. They arrived in Comox in 1874 to the shack in the wilderness that my father had pre-empted in 1862 when he first arrived. My mother often told us how the Indians would peep at her through the windows to see what a white woman looked like. They were painted, with rings in their noses, and she was very scared and on one occasion ran away from the house to my father where he was working in the fields, but she soon became friends with them.

My mother and father lived very happily together as was told in his diary, which unfortunately was lost when the old house was burnt down. My father died at 52 and my mother had to bring us all up alone, under many hardships. She was gentle, kind and unselfish and we all loved her very much."

But life in the new world of the Comox Valley had its tragedies as well as its romances. The death of the gentle wife of Chaworth Musters was one that the early settlers remember too well.

Chaworth Musters, son of Lady Chaworth and "Squire" Musters arrived in the Comox Valley with the first tide of settlers in 1862. He and his young wife settled on 160 acres on the prairie of the Comox Valley about two miles north of Courtenay. Here they lived for fifteen years. Their house was the only sawn lumber house in the district, they could afford it, none of the other settlers could. The Musters also bought the property owned by McCutcheon, who lived on it only long enough to give his name to it, McCutcheon Point, the height at the mouth of the Courtenay River on the east

bank. Mrs. Musters was a woman of sterling character and the pioneer type though she had been gently reared with plenty of servants to wait on her. She was one of the few white women in the district at the time and she was noted for her willingness to help others. She used to ride a little gray pony called "Kangaroo", later sold to Terry Carwithen, and his daughter Jessie who rode her.

Mrs. Musters became ill while nursing a young mother: there were no doctors nearer than Nanaimo and they were reluctant to make the tedious journey for a child birth, so the young English-woman acted as midwife.

When it was known that Mrs. Musters was dangerously ill, James Robb and one other made a quick trip to Nanaimo and back in a canoe in fourteen days. They arrived back dog tired, with medicine prescribed by the Nanaimo doctor who said that he could not be spared from his other patients at home in order to take the trip; but it was too late, Mrs. Musters died when her last child was only two weeks old. The baby was adopted by Mrs. Carwithen, who brought her up along with her own daughter, Jessie. Later on the Musters child was taken to Victoria where she was adopted by Mrs. Warner, and the girl, Lucy, grew up in that household. She there met and was wooed by young Arthur Currie, then making a living out of real estate. When he was knighted for his services as leader of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the First World War, she became Lady Currie and inherited the McCutcheon property.

A sister, Gertrude, became Mrs. Gordon of New Zealand. She told of seeing an elk at the door of their home at Comox, and of seeing a cougar shot just outside their house. Other members of the family returned to England.

To return to Terry Carwithen and his letters to his friend in England. Stranded in Victoria, which then consisted of only a few houses, they took passage on a small steamer to the Stikine River, but hearing of a rich valley Komuckway (Comox), they turned back and eventually in the fall of 1862 found their way to the rolling prairie country they found there, and liked it so much that Terry took up 160 acres with the Tsolum River flowing through it and Harry Blaksley an adjoining section. They had plenty to do and some interesting visitors, one of them a bishop. He turned out to be Bishop Hills, who took up glebe land at a dollar an acre. On it was built the first log church and later the vicarage, and when the Rev. J. X. Willemar came over from Port Alberni, it was the first place he lived in. He made a sketch of it, a copy of which, executed by Mr. Charles Forrest, now hangs in St. Andrew's church.

A Sense of Humour

Mary Woods, a pioneer resident of Grantham, north of Comox, had a marvellous sense of humour. It helped her in those early days to see the funny side of many a happening that otherwise would have created frustration and disappointment.

She had an outgoing personality, liked people and thrived on having her pioneer neighbours drop in to visit and stay to sing and dance the hours away, no matter how much work it entailed.

When she was in her twilight years she would look back to gay times in the Woods' home and remember incidents that surrounded them. Like the Saturday night when she was bathing one of the children in a wooden tub in the middle of the kitchen floor. Her husband Tom came in and said, "There's a light at the gate . . . the gang is coming up the lane." The youngster got a hit-and-miss rub-down, the tub disappeared on the double and soon there was much merrymaking in the big house. With fiddler Jack Baird providing toe-tapping music for the others to do-sie-do and allemand-right or left.

Those parties usually lasted until four in the morning. Food was always served before "the gang" left for their homes, where they would immediately start another day's work on their farms.

In her later years, one of Mrs. Woods' favourite stories was of the time she started out for Cumberland in a howling sou'easter.⁶⁷ She sold her produce there, bought a new stove and visited with friends before starting for home. By then the night was dark and stormy; there was no light to show the road and she had to depend on the homing instinct of her horse. Suddenly the animal swerved. The storm had uprooted a tree across the road. Two wheels went over the bank and off clattered the new stove. It was nearly midnight before she managed to get home, where a nine-year-old daughter had kept the fires going while the others slept. Next day the stove was salvaged, with only an oven hinge broken, and that was soon tied together with a piece of wire.

Eventually Tom Woods ordered a trotter and a democrat from Victoria and that gave his wife still another story to "tickle the funny-bone".

Her first trip with the new outfit was again to Cumberland and with her young son

Charles accompanying her. She set off in gay good humour and with more than a little pride. After selling her produce she bought a 200 pound sack of flour, 100 pounds of sugar, some other groceries, and a piece of oilcloth for her kitchen table. It was a wet day so she spread this last purchase over the rest of the supplies before she started on the thirteen mile journey home.

At the foot of Mission Hill in the Comox Valley, the horse balked. Urged by Mary it went on at a very slow pace. Three miles later it collapsed and died.

Mrs. Woods stepped down from the democrat, went into a farmhouse near by, borrowed a lantern and with her son walked the rest of the way over a trail where wild animals often prowled.

It was in 1888, at Nanaimo, that Mary Nash of Tenby, Wales, married Thomas Charles Woods of Croydon, England, and went with him to the Grantham farm "where the sun at first was seldom seen because of the deep, dark forest."

A year later the Woods moved into Comox where Tom started a livery stable. In five years he'd had enough of that and they were back on the farm. This time it was not long until they had a sawn lumber house with a big living room and kitchen, large enough for the parties and social gatherings they both loved.

Housework was not easy in those days but Mary Woods didn't seem to mind. Bare floors had to be continually scrubbed; water had to be carried from the well; there was butter to make, bread to bake and sewing and mending to do.

The Woods children all had their share of chores. At an early age they learned to milk as many as six cows before going to school. They sawed logs, cut kindling and both boys and girls learned to ride and drive the horses. When Navy ships were in Comox Bay, the children often delivered vegetables to them. These youngsters also had the responsibility of keeping the kitchen garden free of weeds . . . and they often got up at dawn during the growing season to pick a hundred pounds of peas before the heat of the day.⁶⁸

Farm produce was sold in Comox as well as in Cumberland, where Mary Woods made weekly all-day trips, the year 'round. In both instances the wagon or cart was loaded with home-made butter, eggs and vegetables.

In 1908 the Woods moved with their eight children to a place at Sandwick, nearer Courtenay. Eighteen years later Mr. and Mrs. Woods retired to a home on the dyke, leaving the work of that farm to a son, Bob.

Mrs. Woods died in 1932 and her husband ten years later, in 1942.

Bob Woods died in April, 1954, and the Sandwick acreage was then subdivided for building sites.



A doctor was unknown in the Comox Valley when the first pioneers settled there. The nearest one was in Nanaimo and to get aid from him it was necessary to make a long canoe

1164
Arthur
William
Currie

journey, there and back. This meant that the few women who came with their husbands to the new land were called upon on many occasions to care for the sick, bring children into the world and to ease the last hours before death.

Among these women was Mrs. Chaworth Musters, a woman of outstanding character who was noted for her willingness to help anyone in trouble and at any time. She would ride about the valley on these errands of mercy on a grey pony named Kangaroo and it became almost as well loved as the woman herself.

William Chaworth Musters, born in England, the son of Lady Chaworth and Squire Musters, came with his bride to the Comox Valley with the first settlers in 1862. He pre-empted 160 acres of prairie land in the upper settlement and they lived there for nearly fifteen years.

The Musters had the first sawn lumber house in the valley when others were still living in log cabins. They also had a team of horses for ploughing when oxen were still in use. Despite this apparent affluence in a pioneer settlement and the easily discernible fact that life in England had been very different for them, they adapted quickly and made many friends.

Shortly before the birth of their fifth child Mrs. Musters was called to act as midwife for two other expectant mothers. One of these women had child-birth fever and died. While nursing her, Mrs. Musters became ill. She gave birth to her baby, a girl, but could not regain her strength. The fever took hold and she sank rapidly. When it became known that she was gravely sick, James Robb, first man to settle at Comox, and one of his field hands, volunteered to make a dash by canoe to Nanaimo for the doctor. They made it in fourteen hours, only to find the doctor would not accompany them as he said he could not leave his patients there. He did send medicine, but it was too late.

Mrs. Musters was only 31 when she died, leaving five children, including the two-weeks old baby.

The young father then decided to return to England with the four eldest, leaving the baby, Lucy Sophia, in the care of Reginald and Margaret Carwithen whose eldest daughter Jessie was one of the infants Mrs. Musters had helped bring into the world just before she died.

Later, Lucy Musters was adopted into the Warner family of Victoria. There she grew up and married the nephew of her foster mother, Arthur William Currie. When he was knighted for his work as leader of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces in the First World War she became Lady Currie.

⁶⁷Going to Cumberland, via Royston, in early days was a major undertaking. To cross Millard's Creek, people had to wait for low tide and drive their horses along the beach.

⁶⁸The Woods children walked several miles to school. Later, the eldest daughter rode a bicycle to Cumberland on three consecutive days to write high school entrance examinations. The eldest son graduated from Guelph Agricultural College.

Small But Mighty

Margaret Williams was small and petite. She measured only five feet, one inch in height . . . yet she had the courage of a giant and she never backed away from anything.

"You don't run away!" she would say to her daughters when obstacles faced them on the acreage Charles Williams took up some miles north of Comox and which was later to be known as Williams Beach.

Her way was to face such obstacles and overcome them by sheer determination and effort. This she succeeded in doing from her first days in the Vancouver Island wilderness and through all the years in which that wilderness was being tamed.

Stories about her are many. One tells of a day when her husband was away and the children were going fishing. Suddenly daughter Letitia noticed the top part of the pioneer home was afire. Margaret Williams picked up a hammer and hatchet, climbed to the attic where the fire was burning in the outside walls and knocked out all the wooden panels that were smouldering. The youngsters down below in the yard kept pointing to danger spots. She chopped and hammered until the fire was out and nothing left but some charred holes around the top part of the house.

On another occasion a cow that had been out in the woods found its way back to the ranch with its calf. Both were half starved. Williams was off clearing bush and Margaret decided to get both cow and calf into the barn. To do so she had to prop open a gate, grab the cow by the horns, twist its head sharply to keep it under control and with that leverage, push and guide it into the stall. The calf followed. Then she calmly shut the gate and proceeded to feed the half-wild animals.

On still another occasion when Williams was out fishing she decided to let the cows out to feed. When the bull refused to follow and stood snorting defiance, she took a two-by-four and lambasted him until he turned tail and ran.

Once when Williams shot a bear he belatedly discovered it had three tiny cubs hidden in a hollow log, so he took off his shirt, tied the cubs in it and brought them home. When he dropped the whimpering, furry mass on the kitchen floor it was Margaret who decided they should be kept alive. She took on the hourly bottle feeding along with her other chores, until

mid 1990s article from Times-Colonist - /sorry about no date
or Province

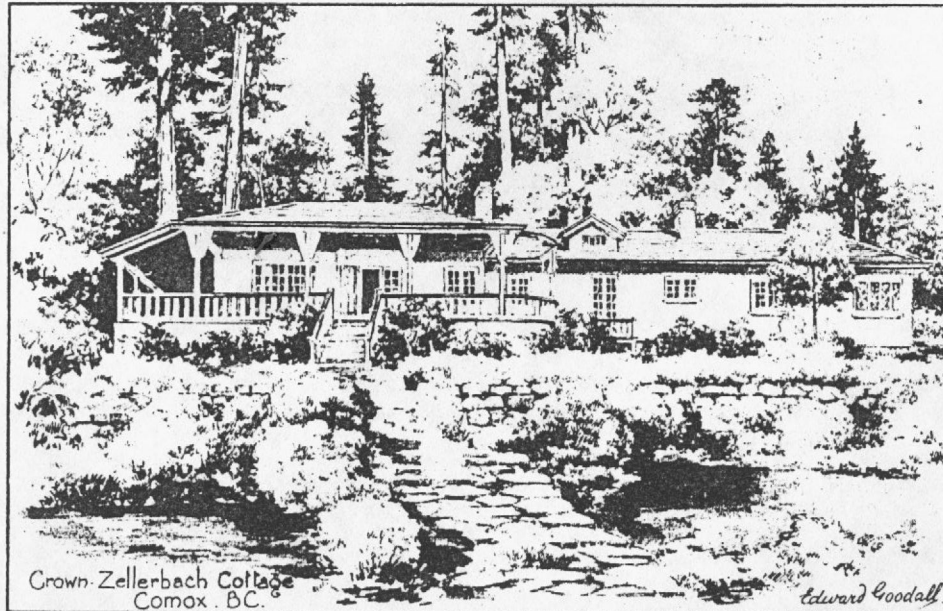
Comox jewel centre of attention

By Hope Spencer

THE FATE of a six acre stand of virgin rainforest — "The Stanley Park of Comox" — hangs in the balance as politicians, citizens and developers debate over a proposed housing development.

The Comox Hill site which contains Filberg House was once the site of an Indian village. From this encampment natives watched for marauding bands from as far away as the Queen Charlotte Islands. Evidence of village life, or middens, have been found on the site in recent years. And the original Indian trail still exists along the waterfront.

The property was pre-empted as part of a 99-acre parcel by John McCutcheon in 1872 and he sold to neighboring farmer William Chaworth-Musters a few years later and remained in the family for 57 years although Chaworth-Musters returned to England with five of his children after his wife died in childbirth. Doctors didn't think the baby, Lucy Sophia, would live but she hung on and at 25 married First World War general Sir Arthur Currie who persuaded her to sell the six acres on Comox Hill to one of the daughters of coal baron and former premier James Dunsmuir. Elinor hired the same men



Crown-Zellerbach Cottage
Comox, B.C.

Edward Goodall pencil sketch of Filberg House

Elinor Dunsmuir's mansion has an illustrious history.

who built Hatley Castle to build her a mansion amid the trees overlooking Comox Bay in 1929. Care was taken to situate the house so as not to disturb the site's magnificent firs, some of which were saplings when the Magna Carta was signed.

After Elinor Dunsmuir died the house and property were sold to Mrs. Ross

Palmer, a family friend. She added a limosine that had been used during a Royal tour to the garage and a bomb shelter in the basement (it was wartime).

The house and grounds continued to have the best of care for the next few years when it was owned in succession by a retired British colonel, a former

Shanghai police commissioner and then lumber baron Robert Filberg.

Filberg bought the property on behalf of his Comox Logging and Railway Co. and when it became part of the Crown Zellerbach, CEO Robert Rogers and his wife used the house to host distinguished guests from around the world. After Rogers moved on to become British Columbia's lieutenant governor and Fletcher Challenge bought out Crown Zellerbach, the New Zealand-based logging conglomerate had the property rezoned and applied to build condos on the site.

That prompted concerned citizens to form the Comox Hill Preservation Society and flood Comox council with letters of protest, jam a town hall meeting, eventually elect their president to council and get the new council to side with their point of view. The Comox Hill Preservation Society now boasts 500 members. Unfortunately, the group and council haven't found enough money to buy the site outright, but council is prepared to contribute \$200,000 and is looking into a possible land swap.

Final reports aren't yet in for archeology, land stability, traffic and sewage feasibility studies but the future of Comox Hill — a natural jewel — looks brighter now than it did 12 months ago.

1114 Arthur Currie Lane

11-09-125435

9438

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION ACT.

SCHEDULE B.—Deaths.

Registration District of *Victoria B.C.*

DEC 19 1911

No.

**TIMES 1911-12-19
DIED. p. 20**

WARNER—On Tuesday, the 19th inst., at her home, 1114 Alston street, Victoria West, Mrs. Jane Warner, widow of the late Orlando Warner, and dearly beloved mother of Mrs. A. W. Currie. The funeral will take place on Friday, the 22nd, and will be private.

Jane Warner.

569

Dec 19th. 1911.

1114 Alston St Victoria B.C.

female

Age.

not known definitely about 80.

Rank or profession.

Widow of late Orlando Warner

Where born.

Ireland

Certified cause of death, and duration of illness.

Paralysis

6 mos

723

Name of Physician, if any.

Dr. R. L. Fraser

Signature, description and residence of informant.

*C. W. Currie, son-in-law
1114 Alston St Victoria.*

When registered.

Dec. 19-1911

Religious denomination.

Episcopalian

Signature of Registrar.

C. J. Fagan

REMARKS.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be the correct Record of the death of made in pursuance of the provisions of the above-mentioned Act.

AS WITNESS my Hand at

this

day of

Province of British Columbia,

, A. D. 19

Registrar.