



## Upcoming Events

### 2017 Annual General Meeting

The fall 2017 FHABC AGM will take place in the province's interior. Watch this space for details as they are announced.

(Continued from page 5)

for the Geological Survey of Canada, which was later summarized in a series of trade journal articles and newspaper excerpts and interviews.

In his report to the GSC, Shannon provided an overview of British Columbia tree species with commercial potential, their distribution, qualities and uses. He discussed forest land productivity, forest fire history and forest health issues region by region, as well as industries, timber ownership, development prospects, markets for southern interior and coastal timber, and the implications of Panama Canal access to the eastern seaboard markets. He also devoted attention to the perspectives of current (American) investors in B.C. timber, and to the prospects for a coastal pulp industry.

Shannon's extensive exploring and timber business experience enabled him to single-handedly deliver an unprecedented assembly of information – 12 years before the completion of H.N.

Whitford and R.D. Craig's *Forests of British Columbia*. He clearly also had a strong curiosity about natural history, and about past uses and management of the forest by aboriginal peoples.

Shannon's careful measurement of a 358 ft. high 11 ft. 6 in. diameter Douglas-fir while clearing for a new road in Surrey in 1881 is among our earliest "big tree" records.

In a 1908 interview, Shannon commented on the motivation behind his report writing projects: *"I have travelled extensively in the forests of B.C., and have made a special study of the timber of this country for over thirty years. I would be glad to give correct and valuable information to the public for there is no resource in B.C. so exaggerated as timber. It is very hard indeed to get any kind of correct knowledge of what timber we have and how it is situated and I do not wonder that blunders are made."*

Shannon would later write an article on the mineral resources of British Columbia in a similar spirit: *"This province*

*has been my home since I was twenty years old, and if I possess any information that would be beneficial to others and assist in the development of our mines, I should be glad to give it, and should also feel it my duty to do so."*

**Part II of this article will appear in the next issue. It will discuss William Shannon the lumberman, forest policy lobbyist and reformer.**



Vancouver Daily World, March 23, 1907



Spring - Summer Issue

#### More Board Members welcome!

At the AGM Sep 2016, four directors retired and only one joined. Please contact the board if interested.

[info@fhabc.org](mailto:info@fhabc.org)

See more Association news on pages 3 & 8

UBC Research Forest Pg 1,2,3  
ABCFP, + Archival donation P. 4

William Shannon Story P. 5, 8  
Japanese logging camps P.6,7



## How the UBC Research Forests began ..... the Malcolm Knapp Story

By Paul Lawson, RPF, Director, UBC Research Forests



F.M. Knapp lecturing at Cowichan Lake, August 1935 - MKRF archive

#### We want your email address!

Help the FHABC modernize our communications. If you are holding a paper copy of the newsletter, **please update your email address.**

**Even better .... please opt for the online version and invite us to not mail you the black & White print version. Why?** 1. underlined text links you to extra online information on the [website version](#), and 2. the online version is in colour.

Costs to produce physical copies and send them out in the post are rising fast. Even if you still want to receive the B&W paper version, having your email address makes it easier to send out important announcements in between issues.

So, please send us an email at [info@fhabc.org](mailto:info@fhabc.org). and state your preferences for newsletter delivery.

Also use [info@fhabc.org](mailto:info@fhabc.org). to alert us to changes in your contact information.

**Thank you!**

The Fulton Royal Commission on Timber and Forestry in BC published its report in 1910 which was supported with the statement from then Minister of Lands, William R. Ross that "the epoch of reckless devastation.....is drawing to a close".

The Fulton report called on the government to create a Forest Service, and to begin investing in expertise to manage the forest estate through creation of forestry training programs at "the provincial university" which was being established in Vancouver.

One of the recommendations called for the establishment of an "Experimental Park" for demonstration and training in proper forest practices.

Once the logging industry was firmly established in BC, the impact on the land became apparent quickly. The industry carried on the pioneer

preference for exploitation over conservation. Vast areas were cleared of their original forest cover by the 1920's, and the public began to be alarmed by the lack of regrowth and the apparent attitude of industry, that forests were both infinite and a force to be overcome. It looked to many as if their birthright was being plundered by the robber barons of the forest, just as the coal barons of Vancouver Island had done 50 years earlier.

The *Haney Gazette* summed all of this up very well on August 21, 1950: "In the old days, landcruising pirates ravaged the treasure chest of evergreens, tearing out the forest giants with snorting donkey engines that swept young growth to destruction, and scattered sparks over the terrain with arsonist skill. In the summer evenings, the old residents



E.A. Marc (standing), F.M. Knapp, J. Marc, A.H. Hutchinson at Katherine Lake 1947 - MKRF archive

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(Continued from page 1)

will tell you, the horizon glowed crimson at a dozen points. Lighted by the fiery death struggle of a forest. Suddenly logging operators came to their senses, the supposedly inexhaustible forests were dwindling rapidly. It was conceivable now that within a generation the forest industry would be a derelict cast off on a plain of slash and smouldering stumps. Something must be done – and quickly.”

One such operator was the Abernethy and Lougheed Logging Company, based out of Haney, BC. Founded in 1905, the firm was financed by the McCormick and Deering families of Chicago (founders of the Deere Corporation) who owned Timber Berth W – originally granted by the Government of Canada to the CPR and located on the north side of the Fraser River. By the early 1920's, A&L was the largest commercial logging company in BC and had built

UBC Students learning to survey 1949 - MKRF archive



a mill and townsite named Allco, just north of Haney in present day Maple Ridge. A&L was visited by pioneer photographer Leonard Frank, who chronicled the feats of forest exploitation on high quality photographs now housed in the



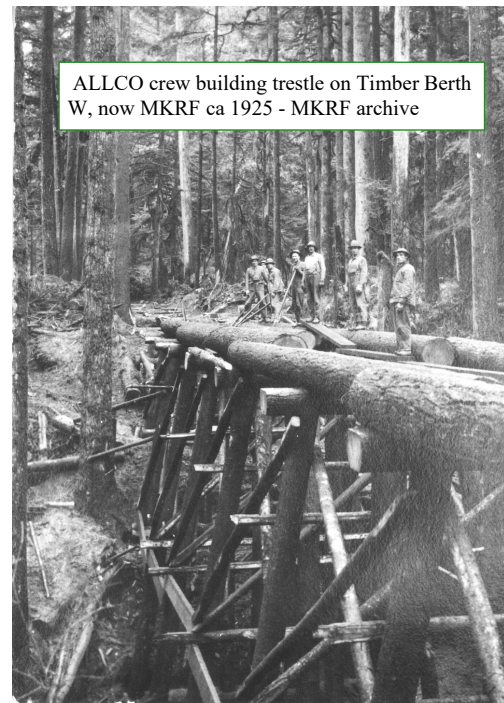
Vancouver Public Library. Another prominent visitor to A&L in 1929 was Winston Churchill, who was at that time Chancellor of the Exchequer. His grand tour of the A&L operation included demonstrations of tree climbing and falling. Churchill remarked later that day that the “devastation of these beautiful trees was sad to see”. A&L's business foundered after the stock market crash of 1929 dried up their financing and their markets. They were insolvent by mid-1930 and were taken over by the Lampert Lumber Company. In 1925 and 1931, fires consumed most of Timber Berth W as well as surrounding areas. The 1931 fire was so intense that it destroyed the logging railway's wooden trestle infrastructure and along with it any chance of restarting A&L's mill and logging. Nelson Lougheed who was by this time Minister of Public Works for BC, was interested in seeing his company's legacy go to some useful purpose, and worked toward dedicating much of the area into what is now Golden Ears Park.

In 1940, the BC Forest Service sent E.H. Garman to conduct a regeneration study on Timber Berth W, after concerns were raised that after massive logging and fires, the forest lands were not being adequately regenerated naturally as had been hoped. Garman concluded that, “comparison of the amount of restocking on the two main burn areas shows that forty-nine percent of the 1925 burn was restocked in ten years, but after a similar period the 1931 burn was less than four percent restocked.” Garman was critical of the progress after ten years and further stated that “77% of the total denuded area of good forest soil (was) still practically idle.” Clearly, left to its own the land was slow to heal. The need for forestry and silviculture was apparent.

At the same time, the University of British Columbia was

set up in 1915. It was authorized to have a Faculty of Forestry in its original calendar, however Forestry made its debut as a department within the Faculty of Applied Science in 1919. It took another 31 years for Forestry to achieve the status of a full Faculty in 1950.

In 1922, a young forestry graduate from the New York State College of Forestry and the University of Washington, named F. Malcolm Knapp was hired by UBC as an instructor in their new forestry program. At the time, UBC used a small campus forest and farm as a



training site for their students. Knapp recognized that this site would not be adequate in the long term, and he began working on a plan to dedicate a larger area as a Research Forest. He was successful in lobbying the province and in 1941, 3,800 hectares of Timber Berth W, on the western slopes of Mount Blanshard was leased to UBC for 21 years. In 1949, that land was granted to UBC in fee simple, and in 1967 it was enlarged to its present size of 5,200 hectares. During the Great Depression, Professor Knapp was the only instructor in Forestry at UBC and taught every course in the forestry

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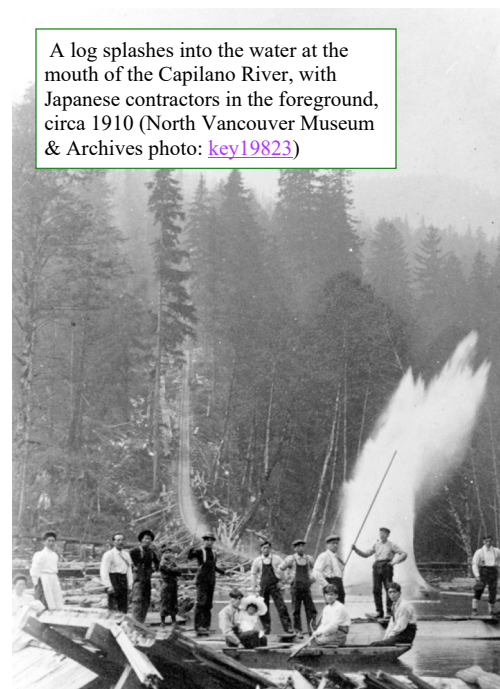
around 1920 but written records of his camps remain elusive. Kagetsu is mostly known for establishing the Deep Bay Logging Company on Vancouver Island in the 1920s, and remained prominent in the forest industry until he too was interned for World War II. [Read more online](#)



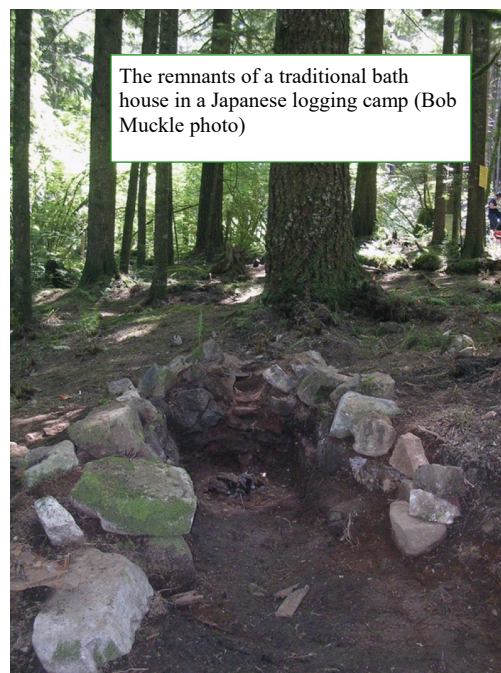
The dig site in the Seymour River valley (Bob Muckle photo)



Japanese men at Rice Lake mill ca1905; boy holding hilt of Japanese sword is Shigeo Kato, son of boss labour contractor Tosaku Kato (North Vancouver Museum & Archives photo [accession 1989-112](#))



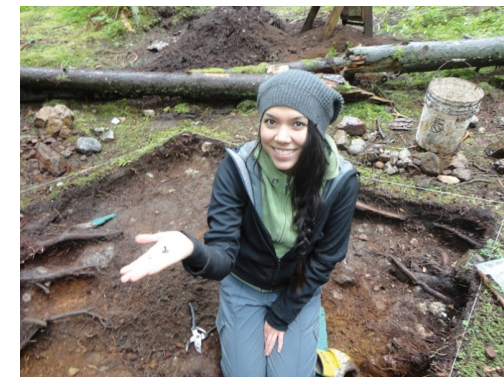
A log splashes into the water at the mouth of the Capilano River, with Japanese contractors in the foreground, circa 1910 (North Vancouver Museum & Archives photo: [key19823](#))



The remnants of a traditional bath house in a Japanese logging camp (Bob Muckle photo)



Japanese ceramics recovered from the logging camp (Bob Muckle photo)



Capilano University student Amanda Vick displays a gaming piece unearthed from the dig site (Bob Muckle photo)



Woman on right is Ayano Ikeda, mother of the three children, L to R Teruko, Yoshie and Hatsue Ikeda; Mrs. Hideyo Kato, maternal aunt of the children, at left; location is probably Cedars Ltd. mill, Lynn Creek. The women were married to contract camp bosses. (North Vancouver Museum & Archives photo [Accession 1998-010](#))





# Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Japanese Camps in the Seymour Valley

By Bob Muckle, Archaeologist at Capilano University in North Vancouver

*Editors note: On April 1, the 75th anniversary of internment of 20,000 Japanese-Canadians during the Second World War, the province officially commemorated the former logging camp as one of 56 sites across B.C. with significance to British Columbians of Japanese descent. The site was nominated for the distinction by article author Bob Muckle, Capilano University professor who led the excavation of the site.*

That Japanese were active in the early 20th century forest industry in British Columbia, working both as loggers and workers in mills, is well-known - supported by historical research, oral history, and observations of Japanese bottles and dishes scattered on the floors of the forests where they once worked and lived.

I've been directing the first archaeology project in the province that has systematically been studying some of the remains left behind in Japanese logging camps. The work is being done in the Seymour Valley in North Vancouver. So far, we have discovered three logging camps from the early 20th century that show evidence of Japanese. One site was probably a multi-ethnic camp, of which Japanese were only one subset of workers. The two other camps were probably occupied solely by Japanese. None of the sites had any standing structures, but excavations have revealed more than 1,000 artifacts including dishes and bottles of Japanese origin.

One of the solely Japanese camps, on the east side of the river, was laid out in a way that wouldn't surprise many. Excavations revealed the location of a bunkhouse, a kitchen area, trash dump, and a workshop. There were few personal items or other kinds of material with value, leading to the conclusion that this camp was abandoned in the early 1920s when most commercial logging in the area ceased.

The other Japanese camp, on the west side of the river, is particularly interesting and unique. It had many of the same kinds of Japanese dishes and bottles as at the eastern Japanese camp, but the layout was different.



A Capilano University student excavates what is believed to be a Shinto shrine (Bob Muckle photo)



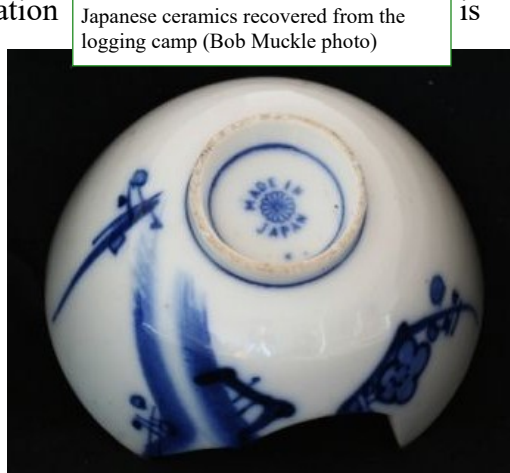
Archaeological dig crew at work, Seymour Valley (Bob Muckle photo) archive

Excavations at this west-side camp revealed the locations of about a dozen cabins, where each logger was probably living with his wife and perhaps children. Excavations also revealed evidence of a communal bathhouse, a garden, wood-lined water reservoir, outhouse, and what appears to be gazebo-like structure or shrine.

Excavation at this west-side camp also revealed more personal items and other goods of perceived value than could reasonably be expected from a camp that was abandoned in a normal way. It appears some items of especially high value, such as an expensive cooking stove, were deliberately hidden. Other artifacts suggest much clothing was left behind, as well as work boots, clocks, lanterns, and luxury items such as a ceramic foot-warmer.

One explanation is that after most logging in the area ceased about 1920, some Japanese continued to occupy the camp, using the cabins for residences while they walked out of the forest to work elsewhere. They may have lived there until their forced removal for WW II internment. Since Japanese were permitted to take very little, this would explain the preponderance of personal and household items left at the camp.

It is likely that at least one, and perhaps both of these solely Japanese camps, were established by Eichiki Kagetsu, who is known to have established logging operations in the Seymour Valley for at least a few years



Japanese ceramics recovered from the logging camp (Bob Muckle photo)

## Membership: New or lapsed member?

\$15.00 annually, or three years for \$40.00

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program. Knapp, or “Pappy” as he became known, saw the need for a dedicated site for young forestry students to learn, similar to a teaching hospital or laboratory for science students. He also foresaw the need for a residential facility where those students could stay during their “Field Schools”. His vision was shared by people like Walter C. Koerner, the founder of Alaska Pine



Loon Lake cookhouse under construction, March 24, 1948 - MKRF

Corporation, and H.R. MacMillan – both captains of industry at that time. The BC Lumbermen's Association donated \$120,000 toward the construction of a camp and cabins at Loon Lake which would serve as a center for this outdoor laboratory.

Work began on construction in 1947, with the goal of opening the camp in 1949. Students stayed in tents for the first couple of years until all of the cabins could be completed. A sawmill was set up on the site, a horse logger was engaged to clear the site and thin the surrounding forests and the cabins were constructed by a cabin builder who had previously finished cabins at Banff National Park.

The camp opened officially in 1950 with 48 beds for students and a staff house that housed up to 24. There was no electricity, telephones, or running water when the camp first opened. A wood fired boiler was used to warm water pumped out of the lake so that the students could have hot showers each day. As utilities and amenities were added, the camp improved and became a favourite

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**Submissions?: email to [info@fhabc.org](mailto:info@fhabc.org)**

destination for local school children and adult groups. It was to be used by over 5000 forestry students in its first 50 years.

Pappy Knapp stayed on at UBC until his retirement in 1963, and remained active as an emeritus professor until his passing in 1989 at the age of 91. He was instrumental in the creation of the profession of forestry in BC, serving as the first registrar of the Association of BC Professional Foresters from 1947 until 1972.

What was known as the UBC Research Forest, was renamed the UBC Malcolm Knapp Research Forest in 1987, in recognition of the role that Professor Knapp played in the dedication of this facility. An old-growth reserve that was set aside from harvesting just south of Loon Lake was dedicated as the Malcolm Knapp Reserve in 1967 by the UBC Board of Governors, in recognition of his work to conserve and enhance the forest that he cherished. His legacy lives on today as nearly 1000 research projects have been installed at the forest, along with nearly 30,000 annual visitors to the Knapp Forest, and over 20,000 visitor-days of guests annually at Loon Lake Camp.

Today, the [Malcolm Knapp Research Forest](#)\* is one of two UBC Research Forests – the other being the [Alex Fraser Research Forest](#)\* near Williams Lake, and one of five Research Forests operated by universities and community colleges in BC. All of them operate as self-funded facilities dedicated to learning about forests and nature. Thousands of foresters, technologists and forest workers have been trained at these facilities, and thousands of research projects have been installed on their ground. The very persistence and determination that saw Professor Knapp through the Great Depression was rewarded by this legacy of undeniable success.



\* Web links for online internet readers



# Association of BC Forest Professionals

## February 2017 meeting in Prince George by David Brownstein

Continuing with tradition, we had a booth in the tradeshow area at the recent ABCFP meeting in Prince George (Feb 22nd to 24th). I was happy to encounter longstanding members in person, as well as meet new people who share our enthusiasm for forest history.



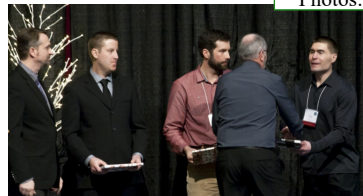
Prince George member Mark Clark kindly brought some interesting material for display at the booth. Mark also presented the FHABC book prizes at the Thursday inductees luncheon. Prizes go to the top achieving candidates on their professional exams, who secure the honour of being class valedictorians. This year there were three worthy winners, rather than the usual two. Julius Huhs was the highest achieving RFT in 2009, and this year he repeated that success on his RPF exam. Since he had already acted as valedictorian, he stepped aside, and we heard from Joel McLay (RFT) and Riley Kelly (RPF). Congratulations to these three, and we hope that you enjoy your book prizes.

Many thanks to Mark Clark for his eloquent, inspirational words, reminding inductees and all present about the importance of forest history.

[ABCFP on the web](#)



Photos: Chuck Nisbet



Also from David Brownstein:

### Archival Donation

Ralph Shaw of North Vancouver has donated some of his late father's material to UBC Rare Books and Special Collections. Ralph Sr. started work for MacMillan Export in 1928 and finished his career in 1962 as President and Vice

Chairman.

The new donation of archival material includes MB Annual reports, photographs and company memos and correspondence.

Please get in touch if you know of items with historical value in danger of being thrown out. The FHABC is always happy to help facilitate archival donations.

Squamish Forestry Centre volunteers sorting donated books and documents for the Stan Chester Library archive



# William Shannon – “The Best Timber Expert in the Country”

By Eric Andersen

A 1907 advertisement introduces Martin & Shannon Real Estate: “Farm and Timber Lands a Specialty ... Wm. Shannon is considered the best timber expert in the country, having had years of experience as an estimator, and those interested have found his estimates to be absolutely correct. Anyone desiring information on timber in British Columbia should consult Mr. Shannon first.”

William Shannon, 1864\_City of Vancouver Archives [AM336-S2](#)



William Shannon (1841-1928) is remembered in about a dozen place names around the province. He also receives mention in numerous local histories (Barkerville, Revelstoke, Okanagan, Chilliwack, Cloverdale, Lulu Island, South Vancouver, Squamish and Graham Island) – as an entrepreneur, or explorer, or pioneer, for his community service, or as a historian.

The Vancouver real estate office run by William Shannon with three successive partners – J.Z. Hall, Charles McLachlan and George Martin – was for over two decades an unrivalled authority and source of information about the hinterland of British Columbia – for settlers, for investors, and also for government agencies.

“Probably no other man in British Columbia has a wider and more correct knowledge of the various resources of the province than he, as he has travelled extensively in all parts of the country”, claims a July 9, 1910 feature article on Shannon’s firm in the *B.C. Saturday Sunset*.

Yet, this status that his contemporaries accorded him is largely forgotten today.

The achievements and contributions of William Shannon are in three main fields: agriculture, timber and mining. This article will introduce his importance to the development of the forest industry.

### PIONEER ENTREPRENEUR AND EXPLORER

Shannon was born in County Sligo in Ireland in 1841. The family settled in Ontario in 1845. He arrived in British Columbia during the Gold Rush period, landing at New Westminster June 1st, 1863 via California.

During his first few years in B.C., Shannon made his living as a road contractor, miner, and operating a trading post and then a packing business. From 1868 to 1887 he established himself as a successful

To all readers!

We welcome articles, event and project reports of interest to the BC Forest History community for future editions of the newsletter.

General feedback is welcome too!

Please Email submissions or enquiries to: [info@fhabc.org](mailto:info@fhabc.org)

farmer at Chilliwack and later at Cloverdale, being a pioneer, with his brothers, of both of these districts.

By 1866, Shannon had explored the valleys of the mainland south coast, the Kootenays and Okanagan, and north into the Peace River country.

In 1886 he made an extensive exploration of the Chilcotin, the lakes district to the north and down the Skeena River. Another extended exploration of the central and northern interior was undertaken in 1897. In 1901, at the age of 60, Shannon explored the coastline from Dean Channel to Kitimat; and in 1906 he spent several months exploring Graham Island and Moresby, visiting also settlements of the Alaskan panhandle.

With twenty years of close experience with Fraser Valley farming conditions and a unique acquaintance with the B.C. hinterland, Shannon occupied a strong niche when he established his real estate business in the City of Vancouver in 1887.

William Shannon was principle author of the Shannon & McLachlan firm’s pamphlet, *British Columbia and Its Resources*, published in 1889, with 10,000 copies printed in Britain.

### SURVEY OF B.C. FOREST RESOURCES

During 1905-06, William Shannon produced a comprehensive overview of British Columbia’s forest resources, in a map illustrated report

(Continued on page 8)