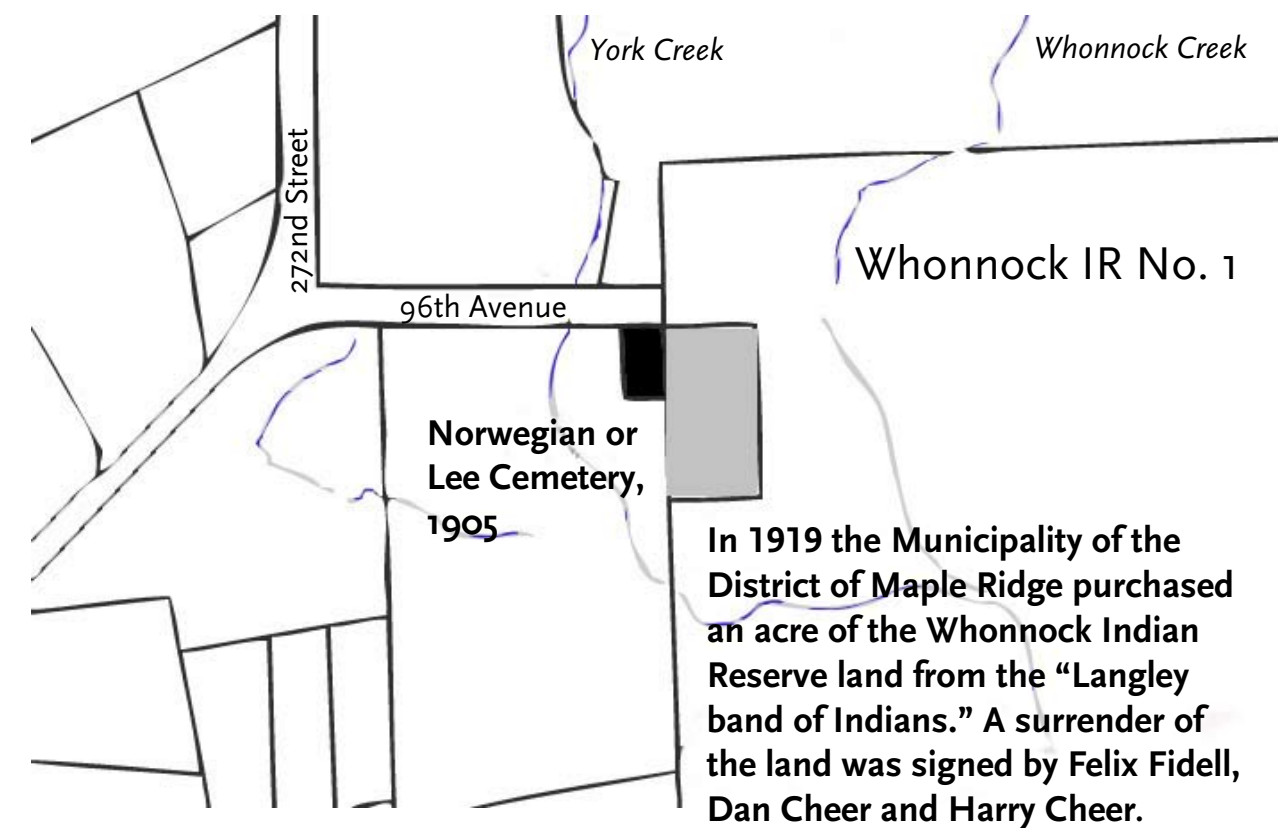


Whonnock Cemetery consists of two parts: the Norwegian or Lee Cemetery of 1905 and the lands purchased by Maple Ridge from Kwantlen First Nation in 1919.



In 1919 the Municipality of the District of Maple Ridge purchased an acre of the Whonnock Indian Reserve land from the "Langley band of Indians." A surrender of the land was signed by Felix Fidell, Dan Cheer and Harry Cheer.

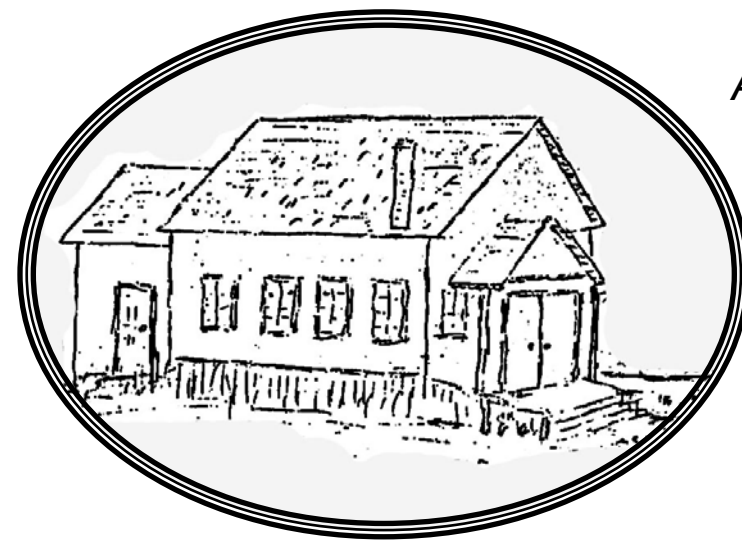
AROUND 1890, closely related families came to Whonnock from an area near Trondheim, Norway. They made their living mainly through fishing. Typical family names were Lie (Lee), Nilsen (Nelson), Anderson, Knudtsen and Mathias (Mattisen). Retaining religious ties to their homeland, in 1895 they established the "Trondheim Scandinavian Evangelical Congregation of Whonnock B.C." and the Lutheran Women's Association, the working arm of the congregation.

In 1904, Ole Lee Jr. provided land for a church yard for the congregation and the following year the Norwegians built a small church here, facing the street. Services were held in Norwegian.

In 1985, when most of the original settlers had died and many of their descendants had moved away the church on the cemetery was dismantled.

For many years Ted and Hank Lee maintained the old cemetery. In June 1982 the property was transferred to the District of Maple Ridge and made part of the Whonnock Cemetery.

The graves of the Norwegian settlers are in the back of the property. In front, near the road where the church once stood, are other graves. This part of the Whonnock Cemetery is no longer used exclusively for the people of Norwegian descent.



A sketch by Mary Flatla of the Lutheran Church that once stood on the Norwegian Cemetery.

Ole Lee Jr., his wife Frida (Johansson) Lee and their children, 1913. Church and cemetery were on his land.

Photos courtesy Nancy (Lee) Webster and Linda Mattis



Four generations: Ole Andreas Lee, daughter Mary West, her son from her first marriage, Axel Nelson, and great-grandson Melvin Nelson, who was born in 1911. Mary was the first president of the Lutheran Women's Association and was a leading force in the organization of the Ladies Club and the construction of the Ladies Hall (later Whonnock Memorial Hall).



Georgina (Lee) Fletcher, secretary of the Lutheran Women's Association and later president and member of the board of the Ladies Club.

Right: Axel and Anna Oline Lee's house, now 10225-272 Street, constructed around 1914 by Axel's brother Olaus Lee, a master carpenter.



Axel Bernhart Lee and Anna Oline (Nelson) Lee.

