

# WHONNOCK NOTES

Occasional papers of the Whonnock Community Association to promote the research  
and understanding of the past of our community.

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## THE FAMILY OF CATHERINE & EDWARD JULIUS MUENCH

Fred Braches



*Edward Julius Muench*

*This portrait of Edward Julius Muench was at the Moses farm where Donald E. Waite took a photo of it for his book The Langley Story published in 1977. It was thought to be lost after Evelyn Copeland's death in 1981 but the portrait is now at the house of Mina Muench, the widow of Bernard F. Muench, in Kelowna. There may have been a matching portrait of his wife, Katherine Muench.*



<<< Matilda Mary (Muench) Miller, the oldest daughter of Edward and Catherine, died in 1895 of tuberculosis leaving behind three young children.  
Photo courtesy Leslie Vaugh Eagon.



The three youngest Muench children.  
Emily Elizabeth Moses is standing  
behind Henry William ("Sonny")  
Muench and Julia Jessie Bradbury.  
Photo courtesy Loree Gillard. >>>



<<< Emily around the time she  
married Christopher Moses. Photo  
courtesy Loree Gillard.



*From left to right Frances (Fredette) Robertson, Loree (Moses) Gillard, Lisa Robertson (Fran's daughter), Carlene (Smith) Herman, and Leslie (Smith) Eagon. Photo taken by Howard Gillard, 26 September 1985, James Bay Tea Room, Victoria. Photo courtesy Loree Gillard.*

*Emily and Chris Moses with their children Dan Moses, Grace Evelyn (later married to Copeland), and, with the doll, Irene (later married to Fredette). Loree Gillard is a daughter of Dan Moses. On the steps of the Moses house, North Saanich, Deep Cove. Photo courtesy Leslie Vaughn Eagon & Loree Gillard.*





Above left: *Emily Moses and Bill Smith, her niece Matilda Emilys "Toots's" husband.*

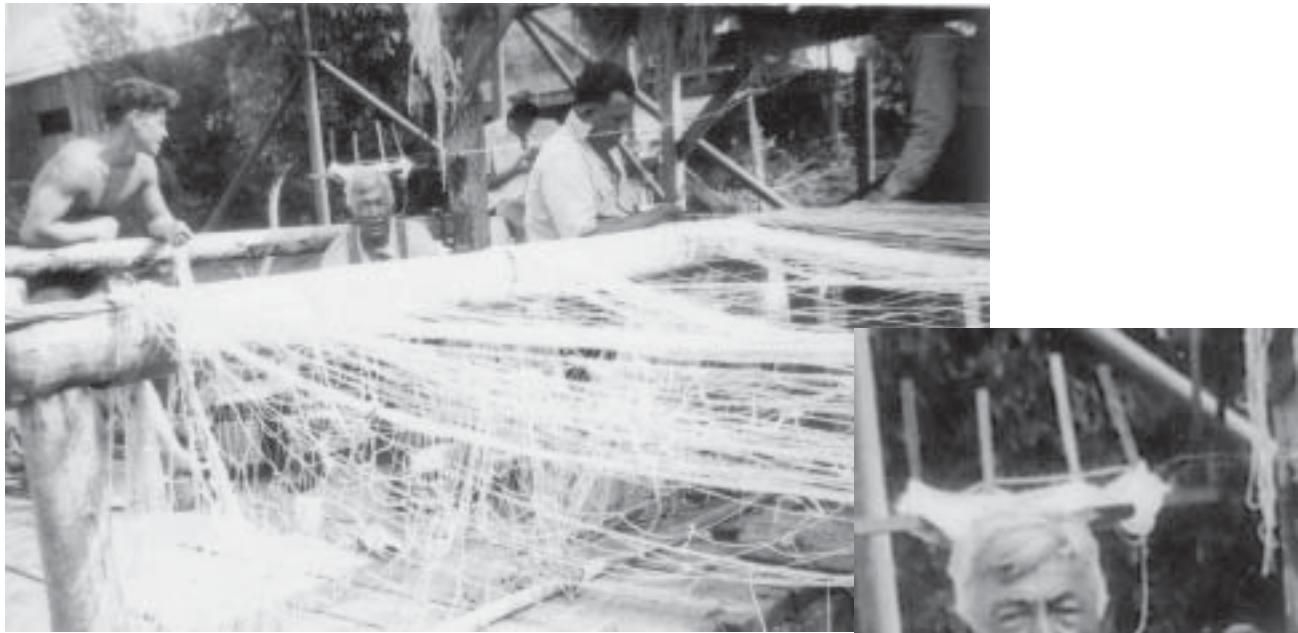
Above right: *"Toots" Smith and her uncle Henry "Sonny" Muench. Photos courtesy Leslie V. Eagon.*

Below: *Henry William Muench and his wife, Margaret Imrie. Courtesy Loree Gillard.*





*Benjamin Muench (centre), Bernard Henry "Dutch" (holding salmon), and Wilfred John "Winky."*  
Photo courtesy Jack Muench/Frances Robertson.



*Mending nets. In the centre Benjamin Muench. Bernard "Dutch" Muench is working on the right side of the picture. The person on the left and people in the background are not identified. Photo courtesy Shirley Yeomans.*



EDWARD JULIUS MUENCH was a pioneer settler in the Langley area. I made him and his family the subject of some research and these *Whonnock Notes* because his wife Catherine was a sister of Jane (or Tselatsetenata), the wife of Robert Robertson. Robertson, a Scot from the Shetlands, was the first permanent white resident in Whonnock. This is not a family history but the information I gathered may be a starting point for further research on the first Muenchs and their descendants, many of whom still live in Langley.

I could not have done this study without the generous co-operation from Muench family members: Cleo Coe, Leslie Vaughn Eagon, Loree Gillard, Jack Muench, Mina Muench, Phyllis Riddall, Frances Robertson, and Shirley Yeomans. Others who shared their knowledge were Sherry Ferguson, Eldon Lee, Bryan Klassen, Valerie Patenaude, Lyn Ross, Donald Waite, and Bruce Watson. I thank all and everyone for their help.

The documents and photographs gathered and reproduced in these *Whonnock Notes*—are part of the collection of the Whonnock Community Association, kept at the Mission Community Archives. Archival storage ensures that documents are kept secure for generations and yet remain accessible for all researchers and family members.

## EDWARD MUENCH, CATHERINE, AND THEIR CHILDREN

EDWARD MUENCH was born in Germany in 1837, probably in Saxony, as the word “Sacsonia” on his gravestone suggests. Early in life he emigrated with his parents to New York, where his father was a burlap manufacturer. From there, Edward came to British Columbia, perhaps to catch the 1858 gold rush, but from the mid-1860s he homesteaded in West Langley. His signature appears on an 1872 petition sent to Victoria requesting incorporation of Langley into a municipality, which makes him one of the founding fathers of Langley. This petition, by the way, is the only place where Muench’s name appears in full: Edward Julius Muench; everywhere else he is referred to as Edward Muench.

Although the Muench homestead was in Langley, the distance to the Fort was considerable and it was much easier to cross the Fraser River for interaction with the community in Port Hammond and Maple Ridge. Consequently, the children were among the first pupils to attend Maple Ridge’s first school, of which Edward Muench was a trustee, and when he died he was buried in the Maple Ridge cemetery.

1882 is the year given as Muench’s death on the grave marker but unfortunately no other record of his death has been found. However, from the record of a land transaction in 1887 by Eustace Alexander Jenns, the administrator of the Muench estate, it appears that he died without a will in 1883. (see notes in the margin on page 2)

This is all that is known at this point about Edward Muench. In his 1970s book *The Langley Story*, Donald E. Waite has not been able to come up with much more information either. The three paragraphs in that book referring to the Muench family are printed in the margin of the following page. At that time, none of the first Muench children were alive any longer, and their descendants knew little of the early family history. Waite obtained most of the information from Grace Evelyn (Moses) Copeland, who was then still alive in North Saanich.

		8d. P. by: Frères O. M. I.
3	George le 8 Aout 1876 par l'assigne Père O. M. I.	
69	ai baptisé dans l'église de St Charles George	
	age de 6 mois fils de Edward Muench	
	blanc de Langley et de Shenade Lankremain	
	Sophie de Langley a été la marraine	

Above: The 1876 OMI baptism record of Oscar George Muench showing Catherine Muench’s original Native name and origin. Courtesy Oblate Archives of St. Paul’s Province, Vancouver. In translation: George [Muench]—8 August 1876, I, the undersigned, OMI priest, have baptised in the church of St. Charles [Langley], George, six-month old son of Edward Munch [sic], white, from Langley, and of Shenade of Lankremain [Lakahamen, Nicomel]. Sophie from Langley was the godmother.

Following three quotes from Donald Waite's book *The Langley Story*.

Brothers Adam and William Innes and Edward Muench had come into the [Langley] area with the intention of transporting freight along the Cariboo Wagon Road to Barkerville. p 61

Muench was of German ancestry. His parents were burlap manufacturers in New York. When the freighting to the Cariboo ended Muench settled down to raise cattle and children. He had earlier married a Flat Head Indian widow with two children from Port Townsend. He had met her while she was visiting with her sister in Whonnock, who was married to Robert Robertson. Muench's wife bore him eleven children. p 65

In 1882 Edward Muench passed away and was the first person buried in the Maple Ridge cemetery across the river. Since no preacher was available, Paul Murray, a schoolteacher in Maple Ridge...conducted the graveyard services. Unfamiliar with procedures Murray had the body lowered into the ground incorrectly. As a result Muench's headstone was placed at his feet. The stone carver misspelled his name Muend. p 115

*The place, and cause of the death of Edward Julius Muench are not known and even the year is uncertain. An undated petition regarding a portion of Edward's land by E.A. Jenns, the administrator of Muench's estate, mentions the day of Edward's death was "on or about" 9 December 1883. [BC Supreme Court, New Westminster, Probate/estate files. Microfilm BB11285, BC Archives]. Did he die in 1883? The day of his death generally accepted by the family is the one on Edward's gravestone, 8 December 1882, also quoted in the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Gazette (18 November 1938) The 1938 newspaper article also suggests that this was the "first interment recorded here..." but it is likely that earlier burials took place here since this cemetery was established in 1878 (Maple Ridge, A History of Settlement, p. 113).*

We know even less about Edward Muench's wife. In some documents she appears as Mary or Marie but most often she is referred to as Catherine. Her Native name has different spellings: Sonat or Shenade, which probably were both attempts by white scribes to capture the Halquemey-lem pronunciation. In a 1957 interview, Grace Evelyn (Moses) Copeland referred to her grandmother Catherine as "a full-blooded Gwandolin [Kwantlen] Indian orphan girl from Fort Langley," and Catherine's death record shows her place of birth as Langley. However, other records suggest that she and her sister Jane Robertson were Lakahah-men (written as "Laukremain" and "Lankremain") from Nicomen Island or near there. In any event, it is possible that the two girls grew up in Langley and it must have been there that they met their future spouses, Edward Muench and Robert Robertson.

In *The Langley Story*, Waite describes Catherine as "...a widow with two children from Port Townsend." This story is reiterated by Leslie Vaughn Eagon, Catherine's great-granddaughter, who refers to a statement made by Mrs. Copeland, Don Waite's main informant: "...that Sonat first married a man by the name of 'Miller' from Port Townsend who was a barrel maker or cooper and had two children, a boy and a girl (who died), the boy being 'Johnnie Miller'" (Letter dated 31 March 2001 on file). Leslie's sister Carlene Smith also thinks that before Catherine met Muench, in or about 1860 she married a man by the name of Miller and lived in Port Townsend with him, and that there were a boy and a girl from

that marriage. John Miller apparently died in 1864. (see "Notes on Sonat," p 10) It is doubtful that this John Miller ever worked for the Hudson's Bay Company since Bruce Watson's extensive record of HBC employees at Fort Langley in the 1860s does not include him.

According to the 1881 census, Catherine was 33 years old at that time. This means that she would have been only about twelve years old at the time of her marriage to John Miller, and that in 1864 she was a widow with two children at age sixteen. On the other hand, her death certificate states that at her death in 1899 she was "about sixty." Assuming that this age is correct, she would have been about twenty at the time of her first marriage, and twenty-five at the time of her marriage to Edward Muench.

Catherine's descendants believe that she gave birth to 13 children, including the two children from "Miller." Carlene Smith listed the 13 children and of this list the 11 Muench children, including two still births, are shown on the opposite page. Also included is "Frank," born according to Carlene Herman's list in 1884. The 1891 census shows Frank as a three-year old, born therefore around 1888, too late to be Edward's child. Still I included him as one of the Muench children on the descendant tree on page 4. Frank's fate is unknown.

Only five of Edward and Catherine Muench's children reached the twentieth century: Joseph, Benjamin, Emily, Julia, and Henry. The others Oscar George, Matilda Mary, and Edward Jr., died before 1900. Oscar and Edward had no children

but Matilda Mary, who married Oscar John Miller (not to be confused with "Johnnie Miller"), had three children. Among these was Emily Matilda (Miller) Smith, whose descendants live in the United States. There is no information available about Matilda Mary's other two children.

Emily Elizabeth Muench married Christopher Moses, and their home at Deepcove, North Saanich, became a home and refuge for many of the Muench children. The offspring of Emily Elizabeth Muench and Christopher Moses now live on Vancouver Island and in the Lower Mainland.

In 1901, only Benjamin and Joseph were recorded by the census as still living in West Langley. In April 1900, Benjamin had married Elizabeth Eleanore Reid. Most of their offspring seem to live in the Lower Mainland. Benjamin Muench's descendants are the only branch still carrying the family name.

Joseph and Henry, who spent much of their lives in the Cariboo, apparently were childless. Joseph Muench lies buried in Lac la Hache and Henry is still remembered there.

"Muench Lake" and "Muench Creek" commemorate the name of this pioneer family in the Cariboo. In Langley, on the other hand, the site of the Muench's original homestead, the "Muench Trail," leading from Fort Langley to Derby and to the Muench property, was renamed after the First World War, sadly obliterating the Muench name from the municipal landscape.

## CATHERINE'S CHILDREN

*Much of the family lore, including the story of Catherine's 13 children, was remembered and recounted by Grace Evelyn (Moses) Copeland here interviewed in 1957. (More on page 14)*

Adventurous Grandfather Mu[e]nch was of German blood. He had come to Fort Langley from New York. A man of sterling worth and initiative with regard for education he made his first money packing supplies into the Cariboo gold fields, in due time owned the first threshing machine in the Fraser Valley and became the first school trustee at Maple Ridge.

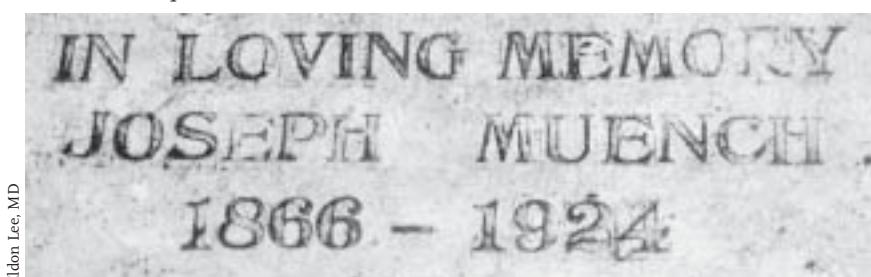
It was his wife who was the Indian and by Grace's account as unusual as the rest of the family. An orphan reared by an elder sister married to a Hudson's Bay Company man [Robert Robertson], she had thirteen children, all carefully brought up and educated.

*Carlene (Smith) Herman, a daughter of Emily Matilda (Miller) Smith and a granddaughter of Matilda Mary Muench listed Catherine's children. Her list adds up to the count of 13 by Mrs. Copeland, including the two children from a possible earlier marriage and 11 Muench's children shown here. For an updated descendant tree of the Muench's see the next page.*

Edward and Catherine's (Sonat's) children are as follows:

(1) JOSEPH MUENCH	b. 1866 - d. 1926.
(2) MATILDA MARY MUENCH	b. 10-10-1867 - d. 3-26-1895.
(3) BENJAMIN MUENCH	b. 1869 - d. 1945.
(4) Stillborn.	
(5) EDWARD MUENCH	b. 1872 - d. 1888.
(6) GEORGE MUENCH	b. 1874 - d. 1890.
(7) Stillborn.	
(8) EMILY ELIZABETH MUENCH	b. 4-3-1878 - d. 7-9-1934.
(9) JULIA JESSE MUENCH	b. 2-9-1880 - d. 8-19-1919.
(10) HENRY W. MUENCH	b. 2-7-1882 - d. 12-1954.
(11) FRANK MUENCH	b. 1884 [?] - d. unknown.

*Below: The inscription on Joseph Muench's grave stone at Lac la Hache shows 1866 as his birth year, as does Carlene Herman's family tree. He was likely born in 1869 because census 1881 shows him as 11 years old and his wedding record shows him as 40 years old in 1909. That would make Matilda Mary Muench the oldest child.*



Eldon Lee, MD

# DESCENDANT TREE OF THE MUENCH FAMILY

Edward Julius Muench (18 Feb 1837 - 9 Dec 1882?) & Catherine (About 1839 - 3 Mar 1899)

| Matilda Mary Muench (10 Oct 1867 - 26 Mar 1895) & Oscar John Miller ( - 1912)

| | Fredrick Oscar Miller (1890 - Aug 1979)

| | Nettie Matilda Miller (1892 - 1947)

| | Matilda Emily Miller (3 Feb 1894 - 1990) & William "Bill" Smith ( - 15 Feb 1937)

| | | Carlene Smith (10 Sep 1912 - ) & Herman

| | | Leslie V. Smith (24 Aug 1926 - ) & Eagon

| Joseph Muench (10 August 1869 - 1924) & Clara Van Bramer (Circa 1886 - ?)

| Benjamin Muench (19 Jan 1871 - 5 Nov 1945) & Elizabeth Elanor Reid (8 Jul 1868 - ca 1918)

| | Wilfred John [Winky]Muench (8 Mar 1899 - 1 April 1963)

| | | & Emma Elizabeth Trattle (née Wright) (11 Jul 1891 - 23 Mar 1979)

| | | | (1) Benjamin; (2) Heather Pankewicz; (3) Lorrie; (4) Jack; (5) Viola Earl; (6) Joy Hassell; (7) Claude

| | | | Edward Louis Muench (1 Aug 1900 - 12 Jul 1970) & Winnifred Alice Sailes (1901 - 1982?)

| | | | | (1) Phyllis Elanor Riddall (1922 - ); (2) Cleopatra Edith Coe (1926 - )

| | | | | Bernard Henry [Dutch] Muench (28 Apr 1902 - 19 Aug 1966) & Florence Armishaw (25 Dec 1902 - 6 Sep 1950)

| | | | | | Bernard Muench (1925 - 1995) & Mina McIntosh

| | | | | | Shirley Muench (1929 - ) & John Yeomans

| | | | | | | Bernard Henry Muench 28 Apr 1902 - 19 Aug 1966

| | | | | | | | & Dresda Thomocine Hepsley (née Hamilton) (19 Apr 1908 - 21 Mar 1975)

| | | | | | | | Edward Muench (About 1873 - 15 Apr 1897)

| | | | | | | | Oscar George Muench (Feb? 1876 - 2 Nov 1893)

| | | | | | | | Emily Elizabeth Muench (3 Apr 1878 - 9 Jul 1934) & Christopher Moses

| | | | | | | | Grace Evelyn Moses (30 Mar 1901 - 31 May 1981) & Walter Newall Copeland

| | | | | | | | Daniel David Moses (1905? - 1956) & Madge Fouracre

| | | | | | | | | Loree Moses & Howard Gillard

| | | | | | | | Irene Maud Moses & Frank Fredette

| | | | | | | | | | Frances (Fredette) Robertson

| | | | | | | | | | Julia Jessie Muench (2 Sep 1880 - 19 Aug 1919) & Charles Alfred Bradbury

| | | | | | | | | | Red and Leonard Bradbury

| | | | | | | | | | Henry William ("Sonny") Muench (2 Jul 1882 - 3 Dec 1954) & Margaret Imrie (About 1872 - 1919?)

| | | | | | | | | | Frank Muench (About 1888? - )

This descendant tree shows the best information available about Edward and Catherine Muench and their children. I have tried to include grandchildren as best as possible. The information on later generations is left mostly incomplete.

# THE LITTLE WE KNOW ABOUT THE CHILDREN

## 1. Matilda Mary Muench (10 Oct 1867 - 26 Mar 1895)

Matilda Mary Muench (10 Oct 1867 - 26 Mar 1895) & Oscar John Miller ( 1855 - 25 October 1912)

Fredrick Oscar Miller (1890 - Aug 1979)

Nettie Matilda Miller (1892 - 1947)

Matilda Emily Miller (3 Feb 1894 - 1990) & William "Bill" Smith (- 15 Feb 1937)

& Benjamin F. Noble (- 10 Dec 1959)

Matilda Mary made a statement in defence of her cousin, William Robertson, in a murder trial in New Westminster. She was then 16 years old. He was convicted and executed in 1884. See *Whonnock Notes* No. 7.

Matilda Mary died of tuberculosis in 1895. No death record found.

## **2. Joseph Muench (ca. 1869 - 1924)**

Joseph Muench (ca. 1869 - 1924) & Clara Van Bramer (Circa 1886 - )

On 3 November 1909, Joseph Muench, 40 years old, "bachelor and farmer" from Port Hammond, married Clara Van Bramer (or Bramer) from Lumby, Wa. She is the daughter of William John Van Bramer and Lizzie, "Indian." The ceremony took place in Benjamin Muench's house in "Lower Langley" (09-09-120714).

Joe died too long ago to be remembered by any of the present-day descendants and nothing is known about his life in the Cariboo. Joseph Muench's gravestone in Lac la Hache reads: "In Loving Memory/ Joseph Muench/ 1866-1924," he was, however born in 1869. No death record found.

### **3. Benjamin Muench (19 Jan 1871 - 5 Nov 1945)**

Benjamin Muench (19 Jan 1871 - 5 Nov 1945) & Elizabeth Eleanor Reid (8 Jul 1868 - Before 1945)

Wilfred John Muench (8 Mar 1899 - 1 April 1963) & Emma Elizabeth Trattle (née Wright) (11 Jul 1891 - 23 Mar 1979)

Edward Louis Muench (1 Aug 1900 - 12 Jul 1970) & Winnifred Alice Sailes

Bernard Henry ("Dutch") Muench (28 Apr 1902 - 19 Aug 1966) & Florence Armishaw (25 Dec 1902 - 6 Sep 1950)

& Dresda Thomocine Hepsley (née Hamilton) (19 Apr 1908 - 21 Mar 1975)

On 4 April 1900, Benjamin Muench, 29-years-old, “ bachelor and steamboat hand,” married Elizabeth Elanor Reid, a 33-year-old “spinster” from Victoria (1900-09-117615). The marriage record shows the bride’s mother as Florence née Brazille, but the OMI baptismal record for Helene [sic] Elizabeth shows her mother’s name as Florence née Brousseau—a well-known HBC name. Benjamin Muench died in 1945, 74 years old (1945-09-671014).

#### 4. Edward Muench (About 1873 - 15 Apr 1897)

The name Edward Muench is mentioned in some news items from Port Hammond in the *British Columbian*. The entries end in February 1897 with the message that he is building fishing boats for the new canneries. He died, 24-year old, on 15 April 1897. 1897-09-079309.

## 5. Oscar George Muench (About 1876 - 2 Nov 1893)

Oscar was about 18 years old when he died. The death record tells that he “was an idiot, was deaf and dumb from birth & for several years during the earlier part of his life, had to be chained, until becoming weaker...he was more manageable.” 1893-09-078899

## 6. Emily Elizabeth Muench (1878 - 9 Jul 1934)

Emily Elizabeth Muench (3 Apr 1878 - 9 Jul 1934) & Christopher Moses

| Irene Maud Moses & Frank Fredette  
| Daniel David Moses 1905(?) - 1956 & Madge Fouracre (? - 1966)  
| Grace Evelyn Moses (30 Mar 1901 - 31 May 1981) & Walter Newall Copeland

On 6 June 1900, 22-year-old Emily Elizabeth Muench married Christopher Moses, a 29-year-old “bachelor and farmer” from North Saanich. They married at the residence of Joseph Muench in Langley (1900-09-117616).

## 7. Julia Jessie Muench (2 Sep 1880 - 19 Aug 1919)

Julia Jessie Muench (2 Sep 1880 - 19 Aug 1919) & Charles Alfred Bradbury

| Red Bradbury, Leonard Bradbury

On 27 July 1904, Julia Jessie Muench, a 24-year-old “spinster,” married Charles Alfred Bradbury, a 31-year old “widower” from Chemainus. Charles was a lumberman, born in Moodyville. His parents were Mary Anne Millman and Eugene Bradbury (1904-09-012711). According to the death record (1919-09-243719) she had been invalid for many years. She was buried at the cemetery at Mills Cross Road in Sidney (SPS-397).

## 8. Henry William (“Sonny”) Muench (2 Jul 1882 - 3 Dec 1954)

Henry William (“Sonny”) Muench (2 Jul 1882 - 3 Dec 1954) & Margaret Imrie (About 1872 - ?)

On 6 February 1909, 26-year-old “bachelor and rancher” Henry William Muench and Margaret Imrie are married in St. Barbara’s church in Victoria. The marriage certificate shows William H. and Mary R. Muench as his parents. The parents of the bride are Peter and Annie Imrie from Saanich (1909-09-018225).

Henry William spent much of his life in the Cariboo. He served overseas in the First World War. In his old age Henry William returned to the Fraser Valley and lived in Walnut Grove where he died in 1954 (1954-09-11748). According to the record of his death he was buried in Victoria.

## 9. Frank Muench (About 1888? - )

The 1891 census mentions a son, Frank, three years old. Edward (Sr.) died in 1882 or 1883 and could not have been the father of this child. Carlene (Smith) suggested that Frank was born in 1884.

# THE MUENCH FAMILY IN CANADA CENSUS

*The correct spelling of the family name caused some problems for the enumerators in 1881 and 1891. In German the name is either written Münch or Muench.*

## 1881 Census

### *Muensch Muntz \*)*

Edward	M	44	Germany	Lutheran	German	Farmer
Mary	F	33	BC	RC	Native	
Matilda	F	13	BC	RC	German	
Joseph	M	11	BC	RC	German	
Benjamin	M	9	BC	RC	German	
Edward	M	7	BC	RC	German	
George	M	3	BC	RC	German	
Julia	F	1	BC	RC	German	

## 1891 Census

### *Munch*

Joseph	M	21	S[on]	BC	German
Catherine	F	-	Mother	BC	(Ind)
Benjamin	M	18	S[on]	BC	German
Edward	M	16	S[on]	BC	German
George	M	14	S[on]	BC	German
Emily	F	12	D[aughter]	BC	German
Julia	F	10	D[aughter]	BC	German
Henry	M	8	S[on]	BC	German
Frank	M	3	S[on]	BC	German

## 1901 Census

### *Muensch*

Benjamin	M	Head	M	19 Jan 1871	30	BC	German B[lood]
Elizabeth	F	Wife	M	1 Jul 1867	33	BC	French B[lood]
Edith	F	Daughter	S	10 Feb 1891	10	BC	Irish B[lood]
Wilfred	M	Son	S	8 Mar 1899	2	BC	German B[lood]
Edward	M	Son	S	1 Aug 1900		BC	German B[lood]
Joseph	M	Brother	S	10 Aug 1867	33	BC	German B[lood]

*In 1901, only Benjamin and Joseph were recorded by the census as still living in West Langley. In April 1900, Benjamin had married Elizabeth Eleanore Reid. Note "Edith," a ten-year-old daughter of Irish blood.*

# MEMORIES OF THE FAMILY AND OTHERS

## LIFE STORY

by Emily "Toots" Miller

*Emily ("Toots") Miller was a granddaughter of Edward and Catherine Muench. She was the mother of Carlene Emily (Smith) Herman and Leslie Vaughn (Smith) Eagon.*

I was born in Harrison, BC, in a railroad station house, on 2 March 1894.

My father, Oscar John Miller, was a Section Foreman for the Canadian Pacific Railway and we lived in the station house. I was named for my Mother Matilda<sup>1</sup> and my Aunt Emily.<sup>2</sup> Originally called Matilda Emily Miller I changed [my name] to Emily Matilda Miller, as I preferred that. My Grandmother<sup>3</sup> called me "Toots" so I've been known as Toots by family and friends all my life.

My Father was Oscar John Miller. He came from Germany and lived from 1856 to 1912. My Mother was Matilda Mary Muench, born in Langley, BC, 10 October 1867, died 26 March 1895. Her Father was Edward Muench, from Sascania [Saxony], Germany and who lived from 1837 to 1882.<sup>4</sup> Her Mother was Sonat, a Flathead Tribe Indian woman, born 1839 and died 3 March 1899. Both Grandparents are buried in Langley, BC, where they lived. I had an older Brother, Fredrick Oscar Miller, born in 1890 died in August 1979, and an older sister, Nettie Matilda born 1892 and died 1947.

At the time of my birth, due to the serious illness of my Mother, (terminal TB) I went to live with my Grandmother Catherine (Sonat) in Langley until her death in 1899. Then I lived with Aunt Emma Gunion for one year. After that I lived with Aunt Emily Moses, (my Mother's sister) for four years, until 1904. I went to school in North Saanich for three years.

In 1904 I returned to Port Hammond to be with my Father and Brother [Fredrick Oscar] and Sister [Nettie Matilda] to live. I kept house for my family and went to school in Port Hammond thru the 8th grade. I went part of my first year of High School in Maple Ridge, BC. I returned to Emily Moses' home in 1910 to help her during her and my cousin Dan's illness and remained there after their recovery. I worked at Spencer's Dept. store, [in] the Notions Dept., in Victoria during the Christmas season. Then I worked at a laundry in Victoria for the summer months. I returned to Port Hammond in the sum-

mer of 1911 when I was 17. There I worked in my Brother Fred's Pool Room and Ice Cream Parlor and Confectionery for a short time.

I met Bill Smith in September 1911. He was a Brakeman on the CPR and I was living in the Section House [in Hammond] with my family, having rented our own home. We fell in love and were married 21 December 1911 in New Westminster, BC in a Church Rectory. We went to Everett, Washington for our honeymoon and to make our home, and remained there until March 1912. We were visiting Aunt Emily [Moses] when we heard of my Father's illness so we went to Vancouver to see him; he died within a few days.

After the funeral we moved from Everett to Port Hammond where we stayed until August, then we went over to Deep Cove, BC [North Saanich] to await the birth of our first child, Carlene Emily, on 10 September 1912, at the Moses home. Bill was working for Uncle Chris [Moses] at his Soda Works in Victoria, BC. Chris was Emily's husband.<sup>5</sup> We stayed with Aunt Emily and Uncle Chris until September 1913, then moved to Portland, Oregon, where Bill first found work on the railroad, then after a while a chauffeuring job for a couple of years. We lived in Portland until March 1916, then went to Cleveland, Ohio, to visit Bill's Mother, Wilhelmina Schaeffer Smith. Both Bill's parents were German immigrants.

We lived in Cleveland for about six months in an apartment and then moved on to Buffalo, New York, for a short time, then on to Boston, Massachusetts, staying there several months. Bill worked as an auto mechanic. From Boston we went on to Falmouth, Cape Cod, where Bill got a job as a mechanic foreman and we stayed there until 1917. From Falmouth we went to New York for two months, then left in November 1917 by boat to go to New Orleans. From New Orleans we took a train to Los Angeles then on to San Francisco to 561 Baker St., where we stayed until 1919.

From San Francisco we moved to San Jose for a year and during this time Carlene lived and attended school at the Santa Clara Convent. From San Jose it was back to San Francisco for a short time, then we spent the summer months in Watsonville, and from there we moved to Seattle [in] September 1920 and lived on 14th Street there until 1924. Bill was doing

auto-mechanic work during this time. From 1924 to 1925 Bill returned to Los Angeles and left Carlene and I alone in Seattle. When he returned in 1925 we moved to 13th Street and lived in an apartment in the Reavis home.

Leslie, my second daughter, was born on 24 August 1926. In 1927 we moved to 12th Street and Pine Streets to the Wellington Apartments, where we stayed until the summer of 1929, at which time Bill went back to Los Angeles and Carlene stayed in Seattle with the Bevans family to complete her last year of High School. Leslie and I went to live with Aunt Emily at Deep Cove until March 1930 when we joined Bill back in Los Angeles. We lived at 621 W. 45th St. and Carlene returned to us in June 1930 after her graduation. In 1932 Leslie and I went back to live with Aunt Emily again in Deep Cove. Carlene was married in 1931, so she and her husband Alby stayed in Los Angeles. Leslie and I stayed with Aunt Emily until 1935 when we returned to Bill in Los Angeles and lived at the Offield home at 1503 West 28th St. and we stayed there until Bill's sudden death of a heart attack on 15 February 1937. Actually we stayed until August 1937 when Leslie and I went to live with Carlene and Alby in Monterey Park, a suburb of Los Angeles. They had purchased a home there large enough for all of us. The address was 1109 Newlee St.

In 1944 I was married to Benjamin F. Noble, a Servicemen in the Army that I met at the USO Recreation Center in Monterey Park. For the first three months after our marriage we lived in Turlock where Ben worked after his discharge from the Service. I then returned to Monterey Park to stay with Carlene and Leslie until Leslie was married to Joseph L. Smith on 30 August 1945. After that, Ben and I lived in Vancouver, WA, for about a month and then moved to Vanport, Oregon, where we lived until 30 May 1948 when Vanport was flooded out and we lost our home and many of our possessions. Many others lost their lives in the flood. We moved to 1022 North Margin St. in 1948, where we lived until March 1959 when we went on to live at the Bonneville Dam at the Dam Site. There Ben died suddenly of a heart attack on 10 December 1959.

I stayed at the Dam until February 1960 when I left to go to Leslie's for a couple of weeks in Fair Oaks, CA, then stayed with Carlene in Auburn, CA. From 1960 on I spent January thru May each year with Carlene to be of help to her during the tax season (she is a tax consultant) and the balance of the

year at either Leslie's or Floy Pepper's home in Portland, Oregon until 1978.

Leslie moved from Fair Oaks in June 1964 to Lemoore, from Lemoore to Petaluma [in] November 1966 and from Petaluma to Oak Harbor May 1973, and from Oak Harbor to Lynnwood, WA [in] 1979. From Lynnwood to Camano Island in 1983 and to Bremerton July 1983<sup>6</sup>. I stayed with her at all these locations from time to time, and occasionally spent summers at Deep Cove, BC until 1980 with my cousin Evelyn Copeland<sup>7</sup>. She died in May of 1981, so that ended that summer visit. Since that time I have been with Leslie.

I was blessed with good health all my life until my 89th year then in March 1983 I suffered a slight stroke and fell fracturing my vertebrae due to an Osteoporosis condition. My eyesight has been failing due to Glaucoma and a Cataract but otherwise I have remained in reasonably good health. Leslie has [been] a full-time companion for me so I am well cared for. I reached my 90th birthday on 2 March 1984.

During my life I've enjoyed many pleasant vacations with Ben and with my two daughters and their husbands. My hobbies have been reading, gardening, sewing, needlework embroidery, rug making, doll making etc. I have five grandchildren now; I lost my oldest grandchild, Leonard, on 14 December 1980 with a fatal heart attack at the age of nearly 42 years. I also have 15 great-grandchildren, 10 are Carlene's grandchildren and 5 are Leslie's grandchildren.

I've enjoyed a good, long life and have many blessings, a loving and devoted family always and many good friends.

<sup>1</sup> Matilda Mary (Muench) Miller, b 10 October 1867 d 26 March 1895.

<sup>2</sup> Emily Elizabeth (Muench) Moses, b 3 April 1878 d 9 July 1934.

<sup>3</sup> Catherine Muench, b ca. 1839 d. 3 March 1899.

<sup>4</sup> Edward Julius Muench, b 18 February 1837 d 9 December 1882?.

The gravestone reads "Sasconia" rather than Saxony.

<sup>5</sup> Christopher Moses.

<sup>6</sup> Leslie Vaughn Eagon notes (31 March 2001): "...regarding dates of my various moves. As follows: I moved from Petaluma to Oak Harbor in June 1969 and from Oak Harbor to Lynnwood in 1973; from Lynnwood to Camano Isl. in 1979."

<sup>7</sup> Evelyn Copeland nee Moses, daughter of Christopher Moses and Emily Muench.

## NOTES ON “SONAT” by Carlene (Smith) Herman

“Sonat,” also known as Catherine Christine [?] Muench, [was] grandmother of Emily Miller Noble and great-grandmother of [the writer] Carlene Herman.

Sonat was a member of the Flathead Tribe, also known as Salish. In the old days the custom of the Flatheads was to bind the foreheads of the babies to form elongated heads.

Sonat was probably born in Port Townsend, Washington in 1844 (possibly either [in] Montana, or B.C. Canada). She died March 3, 1899, in Langley, BC and was buried there in a family plot.<sup>1</sup>

Sonat married a man called Johnny Miller in Seattle, WA. about 1860. Miller was a cooper for the Hudson Bay Co. They moved to Port Townsend, WA, and had two children, a boy Jack and a girl. The girl died in infancy. Johnny Miller died in 1864.

After Johnny Miller died in 1864, Sonat went to visit her sister, in Whonnock, near Langley, B.C. Her sister was married to a Robert Robertson. Here Sonat met and married Edward Julius Muench in 1865. (Muench was born 18 February 1837 and died 9 December 1882, also in Langley, BC. Sonat, now known as Catherine, and Edward had 11 children, 9 of whom survived.<sup>2</sup>

Edward Muench came to Langley from New York. He worked as a mule packer for trips to the Cariboo in B.C., for Hudson Bay Co. He packed freight on oxen, and also raised cattle. He was one of the Founding Fathers of the Langley Municipality and the first school Trustee in Maple Ridge, B.C. Edward was born in Brooklyn, NY and was of German ancestry. His parents were burlap manufacturers in New York.

<sup>1</sup> The first sentence of this paragraph was later amended reading that “Sonat [was] born [in] Langley, BC—on death certificate.” There is no record showing where Catherine Muench was buried.

<sup>2</sup> See Carlene Herman’s list of the children on page 3.

## REMINISCENCES by Leslie Vaugh (Smith) Eagon

...Uncle Sonny [Henry William] was a very beloved “Uncle” to me. He was endowed with that same Native sense of humour as his sister, Emily [Moses], as you will note from her pictures. I remember he deep, hearty chuckles so well, bubbling up from the depths of her soul. My remembrances of Uncle Sonny are mostly from the three years we lived on the [Moses] farm, especially during his annual holiday visits—his playful teasing, [his] stories and our trek out to the woods on the hillside to find the perfect Christmas tree,

then bringing it back down to the farmhouse together.

My various memories of Aunt Emily during that time are also very dear to my heart. One of which is when an elderly local Native friend came to visit her she would be invited to stay and share a meal with the family at the big, long kitchen table. Aunt Emily would chat with her in her Native tongue interspersed with the continual guttural ck, ck, ck’s of their dialect. We called the friend “Old Katie” and I can still picture her in her many skirts and shawls, and exuding a heavy smoky odour. Also, Aunt Emily and my mother [Emily Matilda Miller] would often sit in front of the fireplace in the evenings while I snuggled at their feet on the bearskin rug, drowsily listening, while they told family stories with many hearty chuckles throughout. Another vivid picture of her white “pinny” (pinafore/apron) shaking it at her old cat “Penny” to “scat” out of the kitchen, in order that she wouldn’t be underfoot while she was cooking or baking. Penny, by the way, could actually turn the kitchen door handle with her paws and come in by herself!

## INTERVIEW WITH BERNARD MUENCH by Donald E. Waite

*Donald E. Waite interviewed Bernard Muench in November 1973. Bernard Muench was son of Bernhard Henry [“Dutch”] Muench, a grandson of Benjamin Muench, and a great-grandson of Edward Julius Muench. Bernard’s comments that “he and his two boys are the only male Muenches left” is curious since the Muench name also survived in the sons of his uncle, Wilfred John Muench and their offspring. After Bernard Muench died in 1985 his widow Mina returned to the Okanagan where she is running a successful bed-and-breakfast inn. The original portrait of Edward Julius Muench decorates a wall in her dining room.*

Edward Muench came from New York, attracted by the 1858 gold rush that bought 10,000 prospectors from California.

He ran a wagon train to Barkerville, they homesteaded in Fort Langley. In September, 1871 the land was registered and a copy is in Victoria. He may have been here prior to that date. The land ran south from the Fraser River. He married a full-blooded Indian woman and Bernie thinks there were 13 children (11 boys). Bernard thinks that he and his 2 boys are the only male Muenches left. Through four generations many Muenches remained single and childless.

He thinks Edward Muench may have been the first one buried in Maple Ridge cemetery. Edward’s son Benjamin was born on the property and is Bernard’s

paternal grandfather. He died in 1945 or 1946. [Benjamin died in 1945.] Bernard's father was always a fisherman and Bernard has done the same. The original acreage of the farm was 450 acres but only 52 acres remain (1973). He thinks the original house was near the river.

He remembers that his grandfather, Benjamin, said that after the railways went through it was strictly Chinese labour. Many Chinese had to find farm work after the railways no longer required their services. A farmer couple could employ three or four Chinese just by giving them their board. About 1888, when Bernard's father was a small boy he saw that his father, Benjamin, was on good terms with the Chinese.

Bernard was born in 1925 and went to West Langley for grades 1 to 8. He went to Langley Prairie for high school. While he was in high school his dad got him an old boat and Bernard fished each summer. He made enough money that he took up fishing as a career.

In 1948 he became a fish collector and continued through the years in that capacity. From 1941 to 1948 he had gillnetted.

He remembers learning how to milk by hand because he wanted to and recalls that two years later he was setting up milking machines because he had to.

He remembers that the family always drank tea, never coffee, but recalls drinking coffee when he was 16 when his mother won a percolator at a bingo game.

He thinks the original family house was down along the river.

Bernard can recall walking across the frozen Fraser River to Hammond and Haney and to Barnston Island. At that time there were no steel tugboats. Once the ice began to form on the river it was left because no wooden boat could break it up. "Something I don't think anyone will ever see again is the Fraser River frozen across to the degree you can walk over it. In fact they used to take horses back and forth across the ice."

"At just about where I'd tie my boat there's an indentation in the river bank where one of our alcoholic skippers on a river boat ran his boat up onto the beach. To get it out they borrowed some Chinese workmen from the C.P.R. (then busy building that line of railway) to pull the boat out of the bank. The hole is still showing where that happened."

Bernard says that because of the Hudson's Bay Company Fort here in the early days the native Indians supplied fish for a commercial market before anyone else did. When the white fisherman brought in

their boats and gear the Indian fishermen brought theirs up to equal standards as they could in order to compete. He says his father was a commercial gillnet fisherman for over 50 years.

Bernard's wife [Mina] was born in the Okanagan but her family moved to Vancouver and then to Langley. Her family lived about 2 miles from where Bernard lived. They married and have 1 girl & 2 boys born in 1958, 1959 and 1960. Bernard's children also attended West Langley Elementary, then went on to Junior High at Fort Langley before high school at Langley Prairie.

## ABOUT JOE AND HENRY

From a letter by Eldon E. Lee, MD, 2 January 2001.

*Dr. Eldon Lee, well-known author of a number of books on the people of the Cariboo, kindly assisted in finding traces of Joe and Henry. He found memories about Henry and the gravestone of Joseph shown on page 3.*

In regard to the Muench family of Lac la Hache—Goodness, I haven't thought of them for years—but remember Henry quite well. However no one seems to remember Joseph Muench although the old timers all remember Henry [Henri] who came to the area before 1914 and purchased a small meadow holding about 4 to 5 miles southwest of Lac la Hache. This was close to the MacDougall's meadows. Tommy and Archie MacDougall were long time friends of Henry.

I'm indebted to Stan Wright of Lac la Hache, a recognized local historian for the following information. Henry originated in the lower Fraser Valley and through the years had family in this area. After he settled in Lac la Hache family members from the Langley area visited him from time to time. One was remembered as "Dutch" [Bernhard] Muench [Bernard's 2nd wife, Dresda ("Tiny") Hepsley née Hamilton came from Lac la Hache] and also a niece Pauline Frue [Coleen Frew?] In 1914 Henry enlisted in the Canadian Army and was overseas for several years.

Stan Wright thinks that [Henry] was married but [that] his wife perished in the 1918-1919 influenza epidemic. No one seems to know of any children and Henry never married again. After the war he obtained a settler's pre-emption grant on a small ranch southwest of Lac la Hache which he sold in 1934. He then built a small cabin about a mile south of Lac la Hache on 111 Mile Creek. I gather that [Henry] lived there for many years, before passing away in 1954.

# FROM NEWSPAPERS

*Edward Muench Jr was a son of Edward and Catherine. The Muench brothers caught the attention of their fellow citizens. Unfortunately Edward died early in 1897, only some 24 years old.*

From: *British Columbian*

Port Hammond, 8 November 1892: Messrs. Muench Brothers are with us, with their threshing machine, and it is expected that things will fairly "hum" for the next few days as Messrs. Blake, Nelson, Irving and Callaghan have their threshing still to do, and Messrs. Muench propose to do the needful before they leave.

Port Hammond, 15 May 1894: Our first buggy has arrived, Mr. Bond being the purchaser, and Mr. Dale has purchased a fine horse from the Muench Bros.

Maple Ridge Council, 12 June 1894: The Reeve reported application for bounty by E. Muench on one bear and one wild-cat. Voucher issued.

Saturday, 18 July 1896: The Muench brothers shot a large bear, one day last week. Salmon is very scarce so far, and the current is too strong to fish with safety or comfort. Messrs. Muench and Roberts made a drift, one day last week, and came ashore with four sockeyes and minus 35 fathoms of new 55-mesh net. Better luck next time, boys.

Wednesday, 19 August 1896: A 500-pound sturgeon got himself nicely rolled up in Ed. Muench's salmon net, last Sunday evening, "Ed." said that, when the sturgeon struck the net, he thought that all the sharks and whales in the Pacific had come. "Ed." yelled for help for all he was worth, and Messrs. T. and G. Kerr quickly responded, and with a heavy club, soon had Mr. Sturgeon *hors de combat*. Don't get so badly scared, next time, "Ed," there are no sharks or whales in the Fraser, at least not up this far.

Friday, 11 September 1896: Muench Bros. shot another large bear last week.

Maple Ridge, 26 September 1896: Muench Bros. & Co. have returned from a hunting trip around Pitt Lake. They report game rather scarce, having only killed one or two bear in the whole trip.

Tuesday, 2 February 1897: Mr. Ed. Muench, has (we hear) a contract to build a dozen fishing boats for one of the new canneries in course of erection at New Westminster. (Courtesy *Maple Ridge Museum and Archives*)

From: *Langley Advance*, 25 August 1966

## B.H. MUENCH LAID TO REST

One of the most colourful personalities of the Fraser River for the past half a century, Mr. Bernard Henry (Dutch) Muench, passed away in Langley Memorial Hospital on Friday, Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> after a short illness. [Bernard Henry Muench was a son of Benjamin Muench.]

The gravel-voiced authority on river lore and protocol was born on the original, Muench homestead at 21285 Allard Crescent in 1902. His grandparents had pre-empted the property in the early 1870's. Mr. Muench lost his mother in the 1918 'flu' epidemic and his father, Benjamin Muench, passed away on the same property in 1948.

All his adult and teenage life, Mr. Muench was a gillnet fisherman on the Fraser River. During the late 1920's and 1930's, Dutch was a prominent amateur wrestler, being a drawing card on shows throughout the lower mainland of B.C. He also took numerous athletes in tow and helped train them for wrestling and boxing. More lately he was an enthusiastic sport hunter of all types of game.

In the community he had been active in most affairs and for some time he hosted regular dances in the old barn on his property as community gesture. Mr. Muench's powerful physical strength had a wide reputation and his life-long association with the river brought him equal respect for his knowledge of fishing habits and wiles of the river.

He was married in 1925 to the former Florence Arminshaw who pre-deceased him in a river drowning in 1950. He was remarried in 1958 to the former Mrs. Dresda (Tiny) Hamilton of Lac La Hache.

Besides his wife he is survived by a son, Bernard of Langley; a daughter, Mrs. Shirley Yeomans, of Langley; a brother, Edward, in North Vancouver, and five grandchildren.

Funeral service for Mr. Muench was held in the chapel of Langley Funeral Home at 1:30 o'clock Monday afternoon, Aug. 22nd. Rev. Norman Calland officiated and interment was in Fort Langley Cemetery. (Courtesy BC Archives)

From *Langley Advance*, 4 April 1963

## W. MUENCH FUNERAL TO BEHELD TODAY

Funeral services will be held this Thursday, for Wilfred John Muench, late of 21102 Allard Cresc., Fort Langley, at 2:00 p.m. from the chapel of Langley Funeral Home. Rev. James Moir will officiate and, interment will, follow in Fort Langley Cemetery. [Wilfred John Muench was a son of Benjamin Muench.]

Mr. Muench passed away in Langley Memorial Hospital on, Monday, April 1st, in his 65th year. He is survived by his loving wife, Elizabeth; four sons, Benjamin of Port Alberni, Lorrie and Jack of Langley, and Claude of Cloverdale; three daughters, Mrs: Heather Pankewicz of Alberta, Mrs. Viola Earl of Prince George, and Mrs. Joy Hanley of Whalley; two step-sons, Alfred and William Trattle of Fort Langley; 25 grandchildren; and two brothers, Edward of North Vancouver and Bernard of West Langley.

Mr. Muench was born in Victoria but came to Langley as an infant and had lived here ever since, spending most of his life dairy-farming. He was very interested in community entertainment and was well known as a caller and musician at West Langley and Fort Langley community dances. (Courtesy BC Archives)

From: *Langley Advance*, 3 February 1955.

#### BORN NEAR FORT LANGLEY, HENRY MUENCH, PIONEER MOURNED IN THIS DISTRICT

Passing of Henry William Muench, Cariboo pioneer, last December 4<sup>th</sup>, has raised recollections of the early days in West Langley and Port Kells among the pioneers who grew up with him. Mr. Muench was a member of the late Edward Muench family, one of the earliest settlers in West Langley. Henry William Muench was a son of Edward Julius and Catherine Muench.

He was born on the south bank of the Frazer a few miles west of Fort Langley in February, 1882, and was one of a family of seven children. The family was left fatherless when Henry was only two but his mother retained the large farm and worked it with the help of her four sons and three daughters' until she passed away ten years later.

The Muenchs were progressive farmers in those pioneering days and they owned the first threshing machine in the district—an invention that took eight horses to operate.

Henry Muench left this district when he finished school nearly 60 years ago so it is through recollection of him in those days that much of the early educational facilities of the district are brought to light.

In the first days of his schooling, students from West Langley district crossed the Fraser by row boat to attend Maple Ridge school. Then Port Kells school was opened on the present site of Dan McEachern's farm on Wilson Townline Road. First teacher was Mrs. Mary E. Fife followed by Miss Sayer and then Miss Ackerman.

Such things as school buses were not even dreamed of 70 years ago and the Muench family along with other children of the district traile through bush three miles to Port Kells school. In rain and snow they suffered from

the wet bush; in spring when the river flooded the youngsters travelled to School by canoe; and following the floods higher trails provided the routes but detours would add miles to the lonely treks. A log across Dawson's Creek offered the school children a ducking if they were not careful on the slippery surface.

Youngsters who followed these trails to Port Kells school included Bob Yeomans and his sisters, the four children of the Kerr family, the three Page youngsters, Paul Peters, the five McClughans, Fred Kells, the four Latta children, and the three McCauleys from Barnston Island. Tracks of bear, bob cat and lynx were familiar sites on the school children's trails.

Henry Muench was associated with BC history to some decree after he left Langley. He worked first for his brother-in-law at Saanich on Vancouver Island then built a tow boat and started his own towing business only to sell it and return to the cattle ranch at Saanich.

There he met his future wife, daughter of the Duncan family after which the town of Duncan was named. Their married life was short-lived because of her early death. [Records show that her married Margaret Imrie from Saanich BC.]

Henry Muench's career turned to logging along the BC coast followed by two years with the BC-Alaska boundary survey party. Once while delivering cattle from Saanich to the Cariboo, Henry Muench fell in love with the place. Years later he settled on a ranch at Lac La Hache and later still Muench's Meadows was named after him.

He became a well-known person of the Cariboo and Interior serving as a big game guide, advocating his favorite spots of the Chilcotin River for mountain sheep hunting and Swamp River for moose shooting. He also ran a trap line in the winter.

In World War I, Henry Muench served as a gunner in the B.E.F. He returned from France unharmed after 26 battles but with a medal for being on the famous tug-of-war team that pulled 16 nations.

Ranching and guiding again took his fancy and he remained at those occupations with the exception of a short while in the Cedar Creek gold rush. Effects of his rigorous life began to take their toll and Mr. Muench was forced to become a patient in Shaughnessy Military Hospital in Vancouver. He passed away then on December 4th, 1954. (Courtesy BC Archives)

From: *British Columbian*, 5 February 1955.

#### VALLEY PIONEER'S SAGA DESCRIBES LIFE IN A YOUNG LAND By Ivy McIvcar

One of the most colorful sagas of adventure in B.C. has just been closed in the passing of Henry William Muench, native son of historic Fort Langley. Pioneer farmer, rancher, cowboy, logger, tow-boat operator and gold miner, Henry

Muench's story of adventures in many corners of British Columbia could fill volumes.

He was born on Feb. 2, 1882, one of a family of seven children and left fatherless at the age of two. His mother worked their farm with the help of her four sons and three daughters, until she passed away 10 years later.

The family owned the first threshing machine in the district, which was worked by 8 horses. Much grain was raised, and many head of cattle and horses cared for.

Education for the Muench family began at Maple Ridge school, until the Port Kells school was opened. It was situated on the present site of Dan McEachern's farm home on the Wilson-Townline Rd.

Travelling to school in those days was very different from the present school bus method. Trailing three miles through the bush, soaking wet with rain and snow in winter, it took all day to dry the pupils' clothes out at school, only to return home and repeat the process.

This was slightly different from the canoe and boat travel necessary when the river flooded in Spring.

THE OLD SLIPPERY LOG OVER DAWSON'S CREEK REQUIRED CARE CROSSING IF THE SCHOOL CHILDREN DIDN'T WISH FOR A DUCKING. Much detouring by higher trails during the flooding season, and many extra trail miles, was endured by school mates Bob Yeomans and sisters, the four children of the Kerr family; the three Page youngsters and Paul Peters of the Indian Reserve. Other school mates of Henry Muench were the five McClughan's, Fred Kells, the four Latta children, and three of the McCauley family from Barnston Island, who travelled by boat or crossed the river on ice in the winter.

TREKS OF BEAR, BOB-CAT AND LYNX WERE OFTEN SEEN ON THE SCHOOL CHILDREN'S TRAILS.

The first teacher of Port Kells school was Mrs. Mary E. Fife, who succeeded by Miss Sayer and later Miss Ackerman.

Henry Muench was a very likeable pupil and his sisters were leaders in sports having acquired a knowledge of these previously at Maple Ridge. Upon leaving school at the age of 16 Henry worked in the homestead for a while, then decided to work for his brother-in-law at Saanich on V.I.

BUILDS BOAT. Later on he built a tow-boat and engaged in that business for a short time.

The call of the land and cattle brought him back to Saanich farm, after selling his towing business.

There he met Miss Duncan, for whose family the town was named, and married, but his happiness was short lived owing to the illness and death of his wife shortly after.

Logging along the B.C. coast was another turn in Henry Muench's career, which was also followed by two years with the B.C.-Alaska Boundary Survey Party.

CALL OF CARIBOO. Having first seen and fallen in love with the beauty of the Cariboo country while delivering cattle from the VA farm, Henry decided to make that his home.

He settled on a ranch at Lac la Hache, and later, Muench's Meadows were named after him.

Part of his time was taken up with big game guiding in the Fall, when one of his favorite spots for hunting mountain sheep was around the Chilcotin river. For moose hunting he favoured Swamp river in the early days. He also ran a trap line in the winter.

At the out-break of world war one in 1914, Henry Muench enlisted as a gunner in the BEF. He engaged in battles of 26 French towns and returned home unharmed.

Attached to the famous tug-of-war team that pulled 16 nations, while on active service, he was the proud owner of a medal for that honor.

#### GOLD RUSH TOO:

The life of a cattle rancher was resumed following the exciting war years, until the gold mine rush at Cedar Creek, in which he played a part.

Returning again to his ranching and "guiding" in the Cariboo, he remained there until forced to become a patient in Shaughnessy, hospital in Vancouver.

He died Dec. 4, 1954, from a lengthy illness, after leading one of the most interesting and colourful careers of an early settler. (Courtesy BC Archives)

From: *Islander* (?), 24 Augustus 1957

INTERVIEW BY GWEN CASH

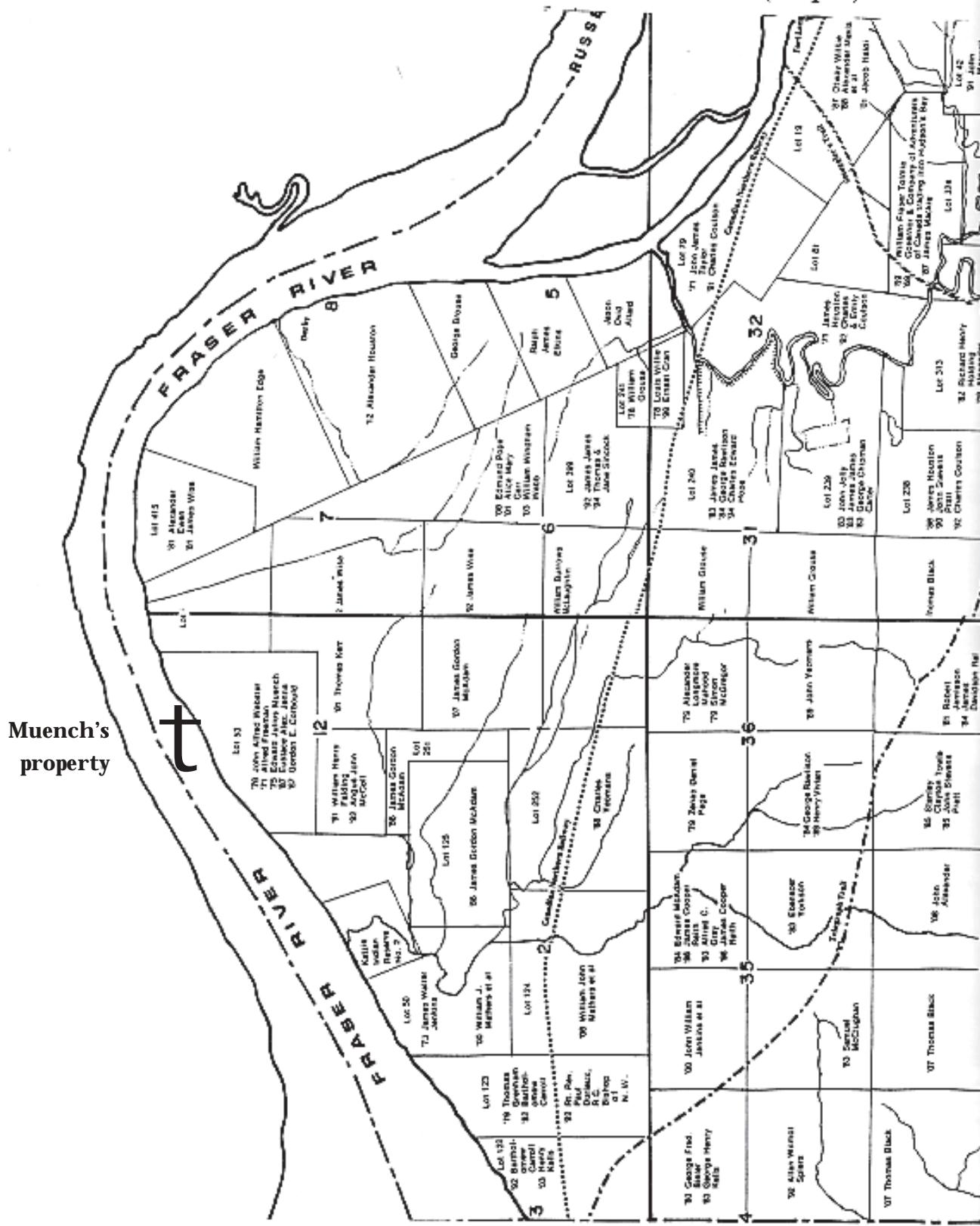
"...My mother was Indian you know?." Her lively dark eyes twinkled. Grace Evelyn's [Moses] mother was Emily Elizabeth Munch, the daughter of a full-blooded Gwandolin [Kwantlen] Indian orphan girl from Fort Langley, which makes Grace quarter Indian.

She looks it and is proud of it. My mother [Emily Elizabeth Munch] was handsome, quick witted, clever and popular. She always said of her Indian blood she was of "improved British stock." Her daughter inherits her attitude.

It was Grandfather Dan's [Moses] only son and child, Christopher, who married the pretty, witty half Indian girl Emily Munch of Fort Langley, thus uniting two of BC's earliest pioneer families.

Adventurous Grandfather Munch was of German blood. He had come to Fort Langley from New York. A man of sterling worth and initiative with a regard for education he made his first money packing supplies into the Cariboo gold fields, in due time owned the first threshing machine in the Fraser Valley and became the first school trustee at Maple Ridge. It was his wife who was the Indian and by Grace's account as unusual as the rest of the family. An orphan reared by an elder sister married to a Hudson's Bay Company man, she had 13 children, all carefully brought up and educated. Emily Elizabeth was one of the 13...." (Courtesy Lyn Ross)

MAPS OF EARLY CROWN GRANTS (*Map 1*)



From Donald E. Waite, *The Langley Story*.

VITAL EVENTS COPIED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES  
ARE LIMITED TO EDWARD JULIUS MUENCH'S WIFE AND CHILDREN.  
SORTED BY YEAR OF EVENT

<i>Muench, Edward Julius</i>	1882 not found	<i>death registry</i>
<i>Muench, Oscar George</i>	1893-09-078899	<i>death registry</i>
<i>Miller, Matilda Mary</i>	1895 not found	<i>death registry</i>
<i>Muench, Edward (Jr.)</i>	1897-09-079309	<i>death registry</i>
<i>Muench, Catherine</i>	1899-09-080695	<i>death registry</i>
<i>Muench, Benjamin</i>	1900-09-117615	<i>marriage registry</i>
<i>Muench, Emily Elizabeth</i>	1900-09-117616	<i>marriage registry</i>
<i>Muench, Julia Jessie</i>	1904-09-012711	<i>marriage registry</i>
<i>Muench, William Henry</i>	1909-09-018225	<i>marriage registry</i>
<i>Muench, Joseph</i>	1909-09-120714	<i>marriage registry</i>
<i>Bradbury, Julia Jessie</i>	1919-09-243719	<i>death registry</i>
<i>Muench, Joseph</i>	1924 not found	<i>death registry</i>
<i>Moses, Emily Elizabeth</i>	1934-09-493306	<i>death registry</i>
<i>Muench, Benjamin</i>	1945-09-671014	<i>death registry</i>
<i>Muench, William Henry</i>	1954-09-011848	<i>death registry</i>

## REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES ACT.

## SCHEDULE C.—Deaths.

Registration District No. 3

85 W

No.	1162	152493
Name and surname of deceased.	Oscar Geo. Muench	
When died.	Nov 2 <sup>nd</sup> 1933	
Sex.	Male	
Age.	18 years	
Rank or profession.	<hr/>	
Where born.	Langley B.C.	
Certified cause of death, and duration of illness.	His illness was of life-long duration	
Name of Physician, if any.	None	
Signature, description, and residence of informant.	Julia Muench. Farmer Langley B.C.	
When registered.	NOV 25 1933	
Religious denomination.	Roman Catholic	
Signature of Registrar.	<u>6 Warwick</u>	
Remarks.	Deceased was an idiot, was deaf & dumb from birth. For several years preceding the earlier part of his life he was able to be cared for, until becoming weaker, things failing sicken he was more manageable.	

**Death Registry Oscar George Muench**  
**BC Archives Reg. Number 1893-09-078899**

## REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES ACT.

## SCHEDULE C.—Deaths.

Registration District 3a.

3.



No.	54/97.
Name and surname of deceased.	Munch Edward.
When died.	Apr 10/1897
Sex.	Male.
Age.	24 years.
Rank or profession.	Farmer
Where born.	Langley B.C.
Certified cause of death, and duration of illness.	Lighted lamp with cerebral congestion 4 weeks.
Name of Physician, if any.	Dr. John Miller M.D.
Signature, description, and residence of informant.	Beny. Munch. Farmer Langley B.C.
When registered.	7 <sup>th</sup> May 1897
Religious denomination.	Roman Catholic
Signature of Registrar.	K. Maynor
Remarks.	

**Death Registration Edward Muench**  
**BC Archives Reg. Number 1897-09-079309**

## REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES ACT.

## SCHEDULE C. - Deaths.

46

Registration District No.

3.

200.

39/99.

111

Name and surname of deceased.

Catherine Muench

150

Where died.

March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1899

Sex.

F

Age.

About 60

Rank or profession.

Wife of Edward Muench

Where born.

Langley

Certified cause of death, and duration of illness.

Cancer - internal. (of uterus)

About 2 years

Name of Physician, if any.

Geo. E. Drew

Signature, description, and residence of informant.

(Rev) A. K. Sharp

Port-Hammond

B.C.

Registrar.

8 March 1899.

When registered.

Religious denomination.

Roman Catholic

Signature of Registrar.

J. D. Gaynor F.R.

Remarks.

A medical certificate of death instead of a Burial Permit was given at the grave. The deceased was an Indian woman.

I do certify the foregoing to be a true extract from the Register 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

Digitized by Google

**Death Registry Catherine Muench**  
**BC Archives Reg. Number 1899-09-080695**

## BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION ACT.

## SCHEDULE C.—Marriages

Registration District of

New Westminister

APR 11 1900  
New York

His name.	Benjamin Muench	J. V. Deltto
Age.	29 years	27
Residence when married.	New Westminister, B.C.	
Place of birth.	Langley, B.C.	
Condition (Bachelor or Widower.)	Bachelor	
Rank or profession.	Steamboat hand	
Names of parents.	Edward Muench & Catharine Muench (Indian name)	
Her name.	Elizabeth Blanche Reid	
Age.	32 years	
Residence when married.	Victoria, B.C.	
Place of birth.	Langley, B.C.	
Spinster or widow.	Spinstress	
Names of parents.	Abraham Reid & Florence - wife - Prayelle	
Names of witnesses.	Julia Jessie Muench	Joseph Muench
Residence of witnesses.	Langley, B.C.	Langley, B.C.
Date of marriage.	April 1 <sup>st</sup> 1900	
Religious denomination of bridegroom.	Roman Catholic	
Religious denomination of bride.	Church of England	
By whom married.	J. V. Deltto	
By license or by banns.	License	
Place of marriage, church, residence, &c.	Corner Royal Avenue & 9th Street, New Westminister, B.C.	

I hereby certify that the particulars given in the above Report are correct to the best of my knowledge and information.

Dated the

fourth

day of

April

A.D. 1900

Signature of officiating  
Clergyman, &c.

J. V. Deltto

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

**Mariage Registry Benjamin Muench**  
**BC Archives Reg. Number 1900-09-117615**

## REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES ACT.

## SCHEDULE B.—Marriages.

Registration District No.

Mr.	39/1900.	Aug. 22.
His name.	Christopher Muench	
Age.	29	
Residence when married.	60th Street B.C.	
Place of birth.	Victoria B.C.	
Condition.	Bachelor	
Rank or position.	Warmer	
Name of parents.	Daniel David & Mary. Muench	
Her name.	Emily Elizabeth Muench	
Age.	22	
Residence when married.	Langley B.C.	
Place of birth.	Langley B.C.	
Sister or widow.	Spinster	
Name of parents.	Edward & Catherine Muench	
Name of witness.	Julia Jessie Muench & William Henry Muench	
Residence of witness.	Langley	
Date of marriage.	June 6 <sup>th</sup> 1900	
Religious denomination of bridegroom.	Church of England	
Religious denomination of bride.	Roman Catholic	
By whom married.	T. R. Sharp	
By license.	License	
Remarks.	Married at the residence of Joseph Muench Langley	

I hereby certify that the particulars given in the above Report are correct to the best of my knowledge and information.

Dated the 22<sup>nd</sup>

day of June

A.D. 1900 700

Signature of officer  
(Witness, etc.)

T. R. Sharp

**Mariage Registry Emily Elizabeth Muench**  
**BC Archives Reg. Number 1900-09-117616**

## BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION ACT.

## SCHEDULE C—MARRIAGES

Registration District of

(Islands) Saanich

2

His name:	Charles Alfred Bradbury	
Age:	31	
Residence when married:	Victoria	
Place of birth:	Ghentines	
Condition (Bachelor or Widower):	Widower	
Rank or profession:	Lumberman	
Name of parents:	Henry Ann Mellenan Eugene Bradbury	
Her name:	Julia Jessie Muench	
Age:	24	
Residence when married:	Victoria	
Place of birth:	Port Hammond B.C.	
Sister or widow:	Spinster	
Name of parents:	Edmund Muench Catherine Muench	
Name of widow:	Henry William Muench Miss Maggie Jones	
Residence of widow:	North Saanich B.C. Victoria B.C.	
Date of marriage:	July 27, 1904	
Religious denomination of bridegroom:	Roman Catholic	
Religious denomination of bride:	Roman Catholic	
By whom married:	Rev. T. H. Bright	
By license or by banns:	License	
Place of marriage, church, residence, &c:	North Saanich - residence.	

I hereby certify the foregoing to be the correct record of the marriage of  
and make in pursuance of the above-mentioned Act.

Dated the 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, A.D.

Signature of Officiating Minister  
or Registrar

T. H. Bright

S. 11.—Copies 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.

Printed in 1901.

**Mariage Registry Julia Jessie Muench**  
**BC Archives Reg. Number 1904-09-012711**

## BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION ACT.

## SCHEDULE C.—MARRIAGES.

Registration District of	
Mr.	52
His name.	Henry William Muench
Age.	26
Residence when married.	Vancouver, B.C.
Place of birth.	Vancouver, B.C.
Condition (Bachelor or Widower).	Bachelor
Rank or profession.	Painter
Names of parents.	William H. and Mary R. Muench
Her name.	Margaret Inrie
Age.	27
Residence when married.	Vancouver B.C.
Place of birth.	Vancouver B.C.
Sister or widow.	Spinstress
Names of parents.	Peter and Annie Inrie
Names of witnesses.	Mr. G. Hampton
Residence of witness.	Victoria
Date of marriage.	February 6 <sup>th</sup> 1909
Religious denomination of husband.	Roman Catholic
Religious denomination of wife.	Church of England
By whom married.	Edward G. Miller
By license or by bonds.	By License
Date of marriage, church, residence, &c.	St. Peter's B.C.
I hereby certify the foregoing to be the correct record of the marriage and I sign this 11th day of Feb. 1909.	
made in presence of the above named and Signature of Clergyman, Minister or Registrar	
Henry William Muench Edward G. Miller	

2. 3.—Reports of marriages celebrated are to be delivered, or forwarded by registered post-prepaid, to the District Registrar on the 1st day of March, June, September and December, in each year.

G. 1909-00-19092

**Marriage Registry Henry William Muench**  
**BC Archives Reg. Number 1909-09-018225**

09-09-120714

45714

## REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES ACT.

## SCHEDULE B - Marriages.

Registration District 30

2231

Registration District 30	2231
Mr. Name:	Joseph Muench
Age:	40 years
Residence when married:	Lower Langley
Place of birth:	"
Condition:	Bachelor
Trade or profession:	Farmer
Names of parents:	Edward Muench & Selina (Indian)
Mr. Name:	Clara Van Bremel (formerly Bramell on record - but bride signed Van Bremel)
Age:	28 years.
Residence when married:	Port Hammond B.C.
Place of birth:	Lumby, Wash. U.S.A.
Trade or profession:	Spinster
Names of parents:	William John Van Bramel & Lizzie (Indian)
Mr. Name:	Matilda Miller & Henry Muench
Age:	Port Hammond & Lower Langley.
Residence when married:	November 3 - 1909.
Place of birth:	Roman Catholic
Trade or profession:	" "
Names of parents:	Jas Fick, Methodist Minister Licensee
Residence when married:	Beremony performed at Residence of Brother - Ben Muench - Lower Langley
I hereby certify that the particulars given in the above Report to be correct to the best of my knowledge and information.	
Date of:	3
Day of:	November
Year:	1909
Signature of officiating Clergyman, etc:	Jas Fick Port Hammond

**Mariage Registry Joseph Muench**  
**BC Archives Reg. Number 1909-09-120714**

# VITAL STATISTICS ACT.

## SCHEDULE B--Deaths.

RECEIVED BY

Registered No.	VANCOUVER, B.C., 1919	
1. Full name	Julia Jessie Bradbury	
2. (a) Sex	female	white
	(b) Marital Status	
	Single	Married
	Widowed	Divorced
3. (a) Birthplace	Langley, B.C. (Province or country)	
	(b) Date of birth 1880	
4. Age	39	Years
5. Died on the	19th	day of August
	1919, at about 3 P.M.	
6. Last occupation	Housewife	
	(Name of Industry)	
7. Present occupation	None	
	(Name of Industry)	
8. (a) Place of death	St. Joseph's Hospital	
	(Street and No.)	
	(b) How long in place of death 11 days	
9. Former or usual residence	North Saanich, B.C.	
Place of burial	North Saanich	
10. Date of burial	August 21st, 1919	
Hour	2 P.M.	
PHYSICIAN'S CERTIFICATE OF CAUSE OF DEATH.		
IF DEATH FROM VIOLENCE, WAS IT <input type="checkbox"/> ACCIDENT, <input type="checkbox"/> SUICIDE, <input type="checkbox"/> HOMICIDE?		
<p>I hereby certify that I am a physician, <u>Julia Jessie Bradbury</u>, from <u>Aug 19 1919</u> at <u>any place</u>.      That I last saw <u>L</u> alive on the <u>19</u> day of <u>Aug</u>, <u>1919</u> that she died, as I am informed, on the <u>19th</u> of <u>August</u>, <u>1919</u>,      at about <u>3</u> o'clock <u>P.M.</u> M., and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the cause of <u>her</u> death was as hereunder written.</p>		
IF UNDER ONE YEAR OLD, STATE HOW MANY		
(a) Remote or Pather Pathology or Mortal Condition <u>Two weeks for many yrs</u> Examination performed within one month before death? <u>Yes</u>		(Signature) <u>L.T. Bennett</u> Address <u>1000 F.H. Rd., Victoria, B.C.</u> Institution or Town, Municipality or Health District <u>Town of Victoria, B.C.</u>
(b) Immediate or Final Determining Cause <u>Heart disease</u>		
Witness my hand, this <u>21</u> day of <u>Aug</u> , <u>1919</u>		

Witness my hand, this  
day of Aug, 1919

(Signature) L.T. Bennett  
Address 1000 F.H. Rd., Victoria, B.C.

**Death Registry Julia Jessie Bradbury**  
**BC Archives Reg. Number 1919-09-243719**

FORM 6.

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF DEATH

1 PLACE OF DEATH—

If in Municipality..... North Saanich..... Registered No..... 161  
(For use of Registrar of Vital Statistics only)

If in City or Town..... Deep Cove..... Street..... House No.....  
Name

If in hospital or institution, give name.....

2 NAME OF DECEASED..... EMILY ELIZABETH MOSES.....

Residence..... DEEP COVE..... VANCOUVER ISLAND.....  
(Usual place of abode)

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL INFORMATION

3 SEX	4 RACIAL ORIGIN	5 Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced (With the Word) MARRIED
Female	German	

6 BIRTHPLACE (Province or Country)..... Langley, B.C.

7 DATE OF BIRTH (month, day and year)..... April 3, 1876

8 AGE	Years	Months	Days	If less than one day In
	56	3	6	hrs. or min.

9 OCCUPATION OF DECEASED

(a) Wife of Christopher Moses  
(Trade or occupation or kind of work)

(b).....  
(Kind of industry)

10 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (In years and months)

(a) At place of death..... 22 years (b) In province..... All life  
(c) In Canada (if an immigrant).....

Parents	11 Name of father.....
	Edward Muench
	12 Birthplace of father.....
	Brooklyn, N.Y.

Parents	13 Maiden name of mother.....
	Catherine Sonat
	14 Birthplace of mother.....
	Langley, B.C.

15 Informant's name.....	Christopher Moses
	Address.....

16 Relationship to deceased.....	Husband

17 Place of burial, cremation or removal.....	Date of burial or removal.....
	Vancouver, B.C.

18 Undertaker.....	B.C. FUNERAL CO. (HAYWARD'S) LTD.
	734 Broughton St., VICTORIA, B.C.

SEC. 46—Vital Statistics Act makes it the duty of the Undertaker or person acting as Undertaker to obtain all the particulars required in the "Certificate of Registration of Death" and to file the same with the District Registrar who shall issue the burial permit.

(OVER)

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

19 Date of death..... July 9, 1934..... 19.....  
(Month, day and year)

20 I HEREBY CERTIFY, that I attended deceased from

July 8, 1934, to July 9, 1934, that I

last saw him alive on July 8, 1934, and

that death occurred on the date stated above, at 6 a.m.

The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:

Cerebral Thrombosis # 82A

(duration)..... yrs. mos. 8 days

CONTRIBUTORY.....

(duration)..... yrs. mos. days

21 Where was disease contracted if not at place of death?

Did an operation precede death? Yes Date of.....

Nature of operation.....

.....

Was there an autopsy? Yes

(Signed)..... Sidney Burden M.D.

Address.....

Date..... July 9, 1934

State the Disease causing Death, or in death from Violent Causes, state (1) Means and Nature of Injury, (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal or Homicidal.

22. District Registrar's Record Number.....

23 Filed JULY 10th 1934..... Samuel Roberts

District Registrar

Form 6  
Dr J. Hillier  
North Vancouver  
92 Lensby Rd

**PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
**PROVINCIAL** **MINISTRY OF HEALTH—DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS**  
**REGISTRATION OF DEATH**

**Reg. No. (Office use only)**  
**8014**

**1. PLACE OF DEATH** Name of city or place **North Vancouver** Name of Municipality (if any) \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or road **General Hospital** House No. \_\_\_\_\_

**2. LENGTH OF STAY** In Municipality where death occurred **In Province** **In Canada (if immigrant)**  
On from, months and days **7 days** **Lifetime** **-**

**3. PRINT FULL NAME OF DECEASED** **French** **Benjamin**  
(Surname or last name) **(Given or Christian name)**

**4. PERMANENT RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:** Name of city or place **North Vancouver** Name of Municipality (if any) **Langley** House No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or road **Walnut Grove**

**5. SEX** **6. CITIZENSHIP** **(See marginal note)** **7. RACIAL ORIGIN** **(See marginal note)** **8. Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced** **9. BIRTHPLACE (Province or Country)**  
**Male** **Canadian** **German** **Widow** **Langley B.C.**

**10. Date of Birth** **January 19 1871** **11. AGE** **79** Years **Months** **Days** **11. less than one day**  
(Month by name) **(Year)** **(Year)** **(Year)** **(Year)**

**12. (a) Trade, profession or kind of work as spinner, grader, clerk, etc.  
(b) Kind of industry or business, as paper mill, lumber, bank, etc.** **13. (a) Worker specify kind of work shown  
at this occupation** **14. Total years spent in this occupation**

**15. If married, widowed or divorced give name of husband or maiden name of wife of deceased.**

**16. Name of father** **French** **Edward**  
(Surname or last name) **(Given or Christian name)**

**17. Maiden name of mother** **Unknown** **Unknown**  
(Surname or last name) **(Given or Christian name)**

**18. Birthplace—  
Father** **Germany** **Mother** **Unknown**  
(Province or Country) **(Province or Country)**

**19. I certify the foregoing to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.**  
Gives under my hand at **Langley Prairie** the **6** day of **November** 1945

**20. Signature of Informant** **John French** **Relationship to deceased** **son**  
Address **364 West 36 North Vancouver**

**21. Burial, Cremation or Removal** **Burial** **Date** **November 9** 1945  
Place of Burial **Langley** **(Municipality)** **Cemetery** **Fort Langley Langley**

**22. Undertaker** **Columbia Funeral Service** **Address** **New Westminster**

**23. Marginal Notations (Office use only)**

**MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING, WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADED INK. THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD.**

**CITIZENSHIP (NATIONALITY) is defined in terms of the country to which the person owes allegiance. The term "Canadian" should be used as descriptive of a person who was born in Canada or who has rights of Citizenship in Canada, unless he or she has subsequently become a citizen of another country.**

**RACIAL ORIGIN is defined in terms of the people or race to which the person—based through the father—belongs, whether English, Irish, Scottish, French, German, Russian, Ukrainian, etc. The terms "Canadian" or "American" should not be used for RACIAL ORIGIN, as they express CITIZENSHIP (NATIONALITY).**

**MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

**24. DATE OF DEATH** **November 6** 1945  
(Month by name) **(Day) (Year)**

**25. I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended deceased from **1945** to **1945** and last seen him alive on **1945****

**26. Immediate cause** **45C** **CAUSE OF DEATH** **Caecum of Palate** **Sepulcralis** **Sepulcralis** **Sepulcralis**  
(Give disease, injury or complication which caused death, not the mode of dying, such as from fracture, asphyxia, anæsthesia, etc.)  
(Specify whether death was sudden or gradual)

**27. Other medical conditions** **(2 important) not referring to death but not causally related to immediate cause** **—**

**28. If a woman, was the death associated with pregnancy?** **—**

**29. Was there a surgical operation?** **no** **Date of operation** **—** **Was there an autopsy?** **no**  
State findings \_\_\_\_\_

**30. If death was due to external causes (violent) fill in the following:**

Accident, suicide or homicide? **—** Date of injury **—**  
Nature of injury **—** (How received)  
Nature of injury **—**  
Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home or in public place **—**

**31. Signed by** **John French** **Designation** **Res. D.** **R.D. Consent No.**  
**Address** **1/1a Marshall Ave** **Date** **Nov. 10, 1945** **1945**

**32. I hereby certify that the above return was made to me at** **Vancouver, B.C. NOV 10 1945** **J. N. (Signature)**  
**Thru** **(Name and address of person receiving this return)**

**Death Registry Benjamin Muench  
BC Archives Reg. Number 1945-09-671014**

54-09- 011848

DO NOT USE BALL POINT PEN

**PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE — DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS  
**REGISTRATION OF DEATH**

## 1. PLACE OF DEATH

Name of city or place: VANCOUVER, B.C.  
 (If outside city or municipal limits add "Rural")

Name of Municipality (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Street or road: SHAUGHNESSY HOSPITAL

House No. \_\_\_\_\_

(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give the name instead of street and number)

## 2. LENGTH OF STAY

In Municipality where death occurred: In Province: Is Canadian (if immigrant)

(In years, months and days) June 25th, 1953 72 Years Life

## 3. PRINT FULL NAME OF DECEASED

MUEENCH

Henry William

## 4. PERMANENT RESIDENCE OF DECEASED

Name of city or place: LANGLEY PRAIRIE, B.C.  
 (If outside city or municipal limits add "Rural")

Street or road: WALNUT GROVE

House No. \_\_\_\_\_

5. SEX

6. CITIZENSHIP (See marginal note) 7. RACIAL ORIGIN (See marginal note) 8. Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced (Write the word)

Male CANADIAN NOT KNOWN MARRIED IDIVIDED 9. BIRTHPLACE (City or Place and Province or Country)

Female 10. Date of Birth: JUNE 25th 1882 11. AGE: 72 Years Months Days If less than one day

(Month by name) (Year) (Month by name) (Year) (Month by name) (Year) (Month by name) (Year)

12. (a) Trade, profession or kind of work as logger, fisherman, office clerk, etc. FARMER

(b) Kind of industry or business, as logging, fishing, bank, etc. MIXED

13. Date deceased last worked at this occupation: 1942 14. Total years spent in this occupation: 23 Years

15. If married, whether or divorced give name of husband or maiden name of wife of deceased: MARGARET EMERY

16. Name of father: NOT KNOWN 17. Name of mother: NOT KNOWN

18. Maiden name of mother: NOT KNOWN

19. Birthplace—Father: NOT KNOWN Mother: NOT KNOWN

(City or Place and Province or Country) (City or Place and Province or Country)

20. I certify the foregoing to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Given under my hand at: VANCOUVER, B.C., this 6th day of December 1954

Signature of Informant: *John M. Emery* Relationship to deceased: Taken from D.O.

Address of Informant: Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Shaughnessy Hosp., Van. B.C. file

(House No.) (Street or name) (Name of City, Municipality or Place) (Province or State)

21. Burial, Cremation or Removal: REMOVAL Date: DEC 6th 1954 7th 1954

Place of Burial or Cremation: VICTORIA, B.C. Name of Cemetery: (Name of City, Municipality or Place) (Province or State)

22. Undertaker—Name: CLINTON &amp; HANNA LTD. Address: 1049 WEST GEORGIA ST. VAN. B.C. (Name of City, Municipality or Place) (Province or State)

## MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

23. DATE OF DEATH: December 3rd 1954 (Month by name) (Year) (Month by name) (Year)

24. I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended deceased from June 25th 1953

to December 3rd 1954 and last saw him alive on December 3rd 1954

1. Disease or condition directly leading to death (This does not mean the cause of death, e.g., heart failure, anemia, etc. It means the disease, injury, or complication which caused death.)

2. Intended cause: Morbid conditions, if any, giving rise to the above cause, stating the underlying condition last.

3. Other physical condition contributing to the death, but not related to the disease or condition causing it.

4. If a woman, was the death associated with pregnancy? (a) Duration weeks (b) Was there a delivery?

5. (a) Was there a recent surgical operation? (b) Date of operation: 19

(c) State findings of operation: (d) Was there an injury? YES

6. If death was due to external causes (homicide) tell in also the following:

(a) Accidental, suicide or homicide? (State which)

(b) Nature of injury: (How received)

(c) Precise whether injury received in industry, in home or in public place.

7. (a) Autopsy (b) Coroner's inquest (c) Medical inquest (d) Inquest of coroner

8. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

9. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

10. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

11. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

12. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

13. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

14. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

15. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

16. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

17. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

18. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

19. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

20. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

21. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

22. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

23. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

24. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

25. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

26. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

27. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

28. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

29. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

30. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

31. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

32. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

33. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

34. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

35. (a) Death certificate (b) Death record (c) Death registration (d) Death index

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166. (a) Death certificate (b)

Right: On the back of this photograph, taken by A. Savard, Vancouver BC, is written: "To Emily and Chris [Moses] from Mr. and Mrs. Frew." Probably these were Edith McCarthey (born in Victoria) and Robert Frew (born in Ireland) who married at Port Hammond on 15 January 1908. (1908-09-120594). Henry Muench was a witness at their wedding. Edith McCarthey is a daughter of Elizabeth, Benjamin Muench's wife. See extract of 1901 Census on page 7. Photo courtesy Loree Gillard.



Below: Hunting at Quesnel Forks, 1923. Standing on the right is Henry Muench. Photo courtesy Dr. Eldon Lee and Stan Right.





Emma Ganion (Gagnon?). On the envelope containing the photo to the left is written "Emma Ganion." It is assumed that the person on the right-hand photo is the same person. In Matilda Emily "Toots" Miller's "Life Story" (page 8) she writes: "I went to live with my Grandmother Catherine (Sonat) in Langley until her death in 1899. Then I lived with Aunt Emma Gunion [sic] for one year. After that I lived with Aunt Emily Moses for four years, until 1904." It is not clear how and if Mrs. Ganion was related to the Muench family. Photo on left courtesy Loree Gillard. Photo on right courtesy Leslie V. Eagon.



*On the back of this photograph is written:  
"Fred Muench, New York, Cousin of the  
Muenchs."*

*Is the year is 1900? "Merry Christmas and love from Cousin Clara" is written on the back of this photograph. Later someone added: "Cousin to E. Moses in New York," and "Cousin of the Muenchs, New York."*





On the front of the mat of this photograph is written: "Ihrem Cousin Edw. Münch von den Brüdern Krasselt. Am 15. März 1874." which translates "To their cousin Edward Muench from the Krasselt brothers, 15 March 1874." Nothing is known about Muench's German relatives. Photo courtesy Loree Gillard.



Some year ago Edward Muench's white marble grave marker at the Maple Ridge cemetery was broken into pieces. On the fragments parts of his name are still visible. The surname was misspelled MUEND. Edward's birthyear 1837 can be clearly distinguished. The year of his death, 1882, can hardly be deciphered. The stone fragments were located by Valerie Patenaude, curator of Maple Ridge Museum and Archives. One hoped that the Muench descendants will decide soon to replace the stone in memory of their precursors. Since the cemetery was established in 1878 (Maple Ridge, A History of Settlement, p. 113) it seems unlikely that Edward Muench was the first to be buried here as often suggested.



*Photo taken in March 2002.*

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