

## Edward Crawford Swank Fonds

**Dates of Creation:** 1821-1962, predominantly 1916-1958.

**Physical Extent:** 12.0 centimeters of textual records, 8 photographs, and 23 negatives.

### Biographical History:

Edward Crawford Swank was born September 13, 1890 in Omaha, Nebraska. His prolific career on the sea began in 1907 as a deckhand for the Canadian Pacific Coast Service fleet. On July 27, 1916 Swank received his certificate of naturalization, becoming a British Subject. That same year he joined the Royal Canadian Navy and served on the HMCS *Malaspina* and on other ships in the Atlantic. After serving for two years and earning certification as “Mate” in the Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve, he returned to the CPR, transferring to their Ocean Service fleet.

In 1919 he left service to write his Master’s papers which he received on August 5, 1919 with certification as “Master of a Passenger Steamer”. Swank’s first job as a ship’s Master was with Thompson Howe Sound Navigation which was later taken over by the Union Steamships Company. In 1922 he joined the Grand Trunk Pacific Line (now called Canadian National Steamships). In 1942 he joined the B.C. Steamship Line (now known as Northland Navigation), running to Alaska for the United States Army. In 1945 he joined the Frank Waterhouse Company which was later absorbed by Union Steamships Ltd. Swank sailed on all of the Union Steamship freighters and was Master of their flagship *Cassiar* before his retirement on December 6, 1957.

Edward Swank was married to Elizabeth May (maiden name unknown) and until his death, they resided at 2903 Kathleen Street, in Burnaby, British Columbia.

Swank’s maritime career includes the following appointments:

Position	Ship	Dates
Deckhand/3 <sup>rd</sup> Officer	CPR <i>Princess Royal</i>	1907-1913
Mate	<i>T&amp;B</i>	June 3, 1913-May 10,1916
2 <sup>nd</sup> Officer	CPR <i>Queen City</i>	June 29, 1916-Sept 27,1916
3 <sup>rd</sup> Officer	CPR <i>Princess Charlotte</i>	Sept-Dec 1916
3 <sup>rd</sup> Officer	<i>SS Prince Adelaide</i>	Sept 30, 1916- Jan 31, 1917
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mate/2 <sup>nd</sup> Officer	HMCS <i>Malaspina</i>	Dec 1916- April 1918
Mate	HMCS <i>Seagull (Trawler 26)</i>	April 1917-June 1918
Mate	Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve	Dec 1, 1917-Dec 20,1918
Mate in Command	HMCS <i>TR 26</i>	July 1918- Nov 1918
3 <sup>rd</sup> Officer	CPR <i>Princess Charlotte</i>	1918-1919
4 <sup>th</sup> Officer/3 <sup>rd</sup> Officer	RMS <i>Empress of Asia</i>	1919-1920

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Swank's maritime career includes the following appointments (continued):

Position	Ship	Dates
3 <sup>rd</sup> Officer	<i>Princess Alice</i>	Mar 12, 1919-April 15,1919
Captain	<i>SS Marine Express No.1</i>	August1919-Nov 1, 1919
Chief Officer	<i>SS E.D. Kingsley</i>	April 12,1920-July 17, 1920
Master	<i>SS Marine Empress No.1</i>	1920
Master	<i>Newcastle No.6</i>	April 1920-March 1921
Chief Officer	<i>SS Talarite</i>	April 20,1921-Aug 4,1921
Officer	<i>Prince John</i>	1922
Master	<i>SS Talarite</i>	July 6, 1921-Feb 15, 1922
Chief Officer	<i>SS Talarite</i>	Feb 15, 1922-May 18,1922
3 <sup>rd</sup> Officer	<i>SS Prince Albert</i>	July 1,1922-July 21, 1922
Captain	<i>Kiltuish</i>	Aug 14,1922-March 27,1923
3 <sup>rd</sup> Officer	<i>SS Prince Rupert</i>	Aug 16, 1926-June 1, 1928
3 <sup>rd</sup> Officer	<i>SS Prince George</i>	Sept 1929
2 <sup>nd</sup> Officer/3 <sup>rd</sup> Officer	<i>SS Prince John</i>	Oct 7, 1929-Nov 29,1929
3 <sup>rd</sup> Officer	<i>SS Prince Charles</i>	Dec 4,1929
Master	<i>M/V Chief Takush</i>	June 17, 1936-Aug 10, 1936
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mate	<i>SS Griffco</i>	Dec 27,1939-Dec 5, 1940
2 <sup>nd</sup> Officer/3 <sup>rd</sup> officer	<i>SS Rosebank</i>	May 21, 1941-Oct 21,1941
Chief Officer/ Master	<i>SS Island Prince</i>	Nov 13, 1942-Nov 13, 1944
Captain	<i>Chilkoot</i>	1956
Master	<i>Cassiar</i>	1957

### **Custodial History:**

The records comprising this fonds were salvaged by Leonard McCann, Curator Emeritus of the Vancouver Maritime Museum, and a neighbour of Edward Swank in the early 1990's. The records, unclaimed by any known heirs, were left behind in the Swank house and were retrieved prior to the demolition of the home. The records were returned to the Maritime Museum and stored as part of the Reference Library collection.

### **Scope and Content:**

The fonds consists of textual and graphic records created and received by Edward Swank during his private life and as a prominent member of British Columbia's maritime community. Included are photographs, negatives, personal correspondence, certificates, identification cards, service reference letters, letters of appointment, certificates of discharge, notebooks, crew lists, copies of logbook entries, accounts and wages forms, doctor's letters for various seamen, and ship repair lists.

The records have been arranged into the following series:

- I. Personal Papers (1821-1962, predominantly 1916-1962)
- II. Maritime Service Records (1904-1958, predominantly 1916-1944)

## Edward Crawford Swank Fonds

### Notes:

*Source of Supplied Title:* Title based on provenance of fonds.

*Physical Description:* 12.0 centimeters of textual records; 8 photographs: b&w; 6.0 x 8.5- 9.5x 14.5 centimeters, 23 nitrate negatives: b&w; 6.0 x 8.0 centimeters.

*Conservation:* Rusted paperclips have been removed from the records and there are a number of fragile records that need mylar encapsulation in order to protect them. Those records that are particularly sensitive to handling have been left in plastic folders.

Nitrate negatives that were originally stored with records and photographs in the fonds have been removed and are stored separately with other nitrate negatives in the Vancouver Maritime Museum Library collection. All of the twenty-three negatives, dating from 1919, are in good physical condition and have been placed into individual, acid free envelopes.

One of the certificates found in Series I, Swank's appointment as "Mate" from the Royal Naval Service, dated January 10, 1918, is quite damaged. It has both mold and rust damage and a number of brittle fold creases. The original linen backing of the document has been removed, as it no longer provides support. The document has been stored in its folded condition as it puts the least amount of stress on the current state of the document. It has been wrapped in tissue paper and placed in an acid free envelope. The mold appears to be dormant and regular assessment of the document is required in order to determine future conservation needs.

*Arrangement:* The original order of the records is unknown as they were salvaged from disorganized and scattered piles all over the floor of the Swank house. In order to facilitate their prompt removal, they were arbitrarily boxed and brought to Vancouver Maritime Museum. A museum volunteer, re-boxed and organized the records, stabilized fragile documents, and filled out an "Archive Record Note" for each record. In October 2002 the formal arrangement and description of the Swank records was completed by an archivist, Lisa Beitel. Based on the known history of the records the decision was made to organize the records chronologically into two series. The original box list has been retained and is available at the end of the finding aid.

*Finding Aids:* A finding aid consisting of a Series-Folder List has been created for the records.

## Edward Crawford Swank Fonds

### Series Level Descriptions

#### *Series 1: Personal Papers*

**Dates:** 1821-1962, predominantly 1916-1962.

**Physical Extent:** 7.0 centimeters of textual records, 8 photographs and 23 negatives.

#### **Scope and Content:**

Series consists of textual records and photographs including certificates received by Swank after his appointment as Mate and Master of a Passenger Steamer, correspondence regarding naturalization as a British subject, identification cards, policy documents from Eagle Star Insurance Company, black and white studio portraits of unknown persons and nitrate negatives depicting images of boats and unknown persons. Also included in this series are letters written by Frank Davison to Alice "Allie" in Nova Scotia while away at sea between 1896-1898, 1890-1902, and 1914-1915.

#### **Notes:**

*Source of Supplied Title:* Title based on content of series.

*Arrangement:* The custodial relationship between the Frank Davison letters and Edward Swank, or his wife Elizabeth, is unknown. The only information that could be discovered from the extensive correspondence was a hand written comment on an envelope "Aunt Allie, Letters at Sea".

#### *Series 2: Maritime Services Records*

**Dates:** 1904-1958, predominantly 1916-1944.

**Physical Extent:** 5.0 centimeters of textual records.

#### **Scope and Content:**

Series consists of textual records including letters of appointment, service reference letters, discharge certificates, logbooks, newspaper articles, letters, reports, supply and repair lists, and handwritten notes received and compiled by Swank during his years of maritime service.

#### **Notes:**

*Source of Supplied Title:* Title based on content of series.

*Arrangement:* It is unknown if all the records in this series, especially a number of the handwritten notes, were penned by Swank because they have no identifiable author.

## Edward Crawford Swank Fonds

### Box / File List

#### Box 1 Series I: Personal Papers

Title	Date(s)
<b>File 1</b>	
-Confirmation letter re: Naturalization to become a British Subject	Jan 10, 1916
-Certificate of Naturalization	June 27, 1916
-R.N.C.V.R. Certificate of appointment as " <i>Mate</i> "	Jan 10, 1918
-Certificate of Competency as " <i>Master of a Passenger Steamer</i> "	Aug 5, 1919
-Alien Seaman's Identification card, No. 26168	May 15, 1920
-Alien Registration Receipt card, No. 958393	May 1920
-Receipt for Canadian Merchant Service Guild	July 6, 1928
-Receipt and Letter re: Canadian Merchant Service Guild Dues	Nov 29, 1929
-St. John's Ambulance Certificate letter	May 22, 1922
-Interim St. John's First Aid Certificate	May 22, 1922
-Empire Home Benefit Association Membership Application	Sept 1940
-Letter from Workmen's Compensation Board re: Claim #4035703	Jan 24, 1941
-Merchant Marine ID certificate	May 21, 1941
-Nonresident Alien's Border Crossing ID card	Dec 27, 1943
-Pilotage Exemption certificate	Oct 29, 1943
-Renewal Certificate of Competency as " <i>Master of a Passenger Steamer</i> "	July 19, 1948
-Policy document from Canadian Life Assurance Company	Sept 29, 1948
<b>File 2</b>	
-Certificate of Completion – Radar course, Vancouver Vocational Institute	Feb 11, 1954
-Certificate of Proficiency in Radio – Radiotelephone Class	March 4, 1955
-Certification of Proficiency in Radio (Temporary Permit)	March 4, 1955
-Letter by E.C. Swank requesting copy of birth certificate	Nov 5, 1957
-Letter of E.C. Swank re: enclosed documents	Dec 14, 1957
-Stamped copies of Master's Certificate "Exhibit A"	Dec 17, 1957
-Telegraph from Enwright re: Christmas Wishes	Dec 20, 1957
-The <i>Northern Sentinel</i> "Along the Waterfront: Skipper Ends Long Career"	Jan 2, 1958
-Letter and receipt re: War Veteran's Allowances	Jan 28, 1958
-Receipt re: payment of Eagle Star Policy # CP52511	July 21, 1959
-Letter re: Eagle Star Insurance Policy	July 21, 1959
-Composite Dwelling Policy of Elizabeth E. Swank and Captain Edward Swank, Eagle Star Insurance Company Limited	Aug 17, 1962
-Programme in Aid of the Liverpool Seaman's Orphanage	no date
-Ten (10) Postcards of Ketichan, Alaska; Wrangell, Alaska; Skagway, Alaska; Juneau, Alaska; White Pass-Yukon Railroad	no date
-Valentine's card "For My Husband"	no date
-Transcribed Poem "On the Loss of Barque North Britain"	no date
-Seal of Archbishop of Canterbury	no date
-Certificate of Probate, Elizabeth Peacock	Feb 7, 1839
-Certificate to Lt. Samuel Markshaw Peacock appointed as Lieutenant of Sloop <i>Grasshopper</i>	Dec 27, 1821

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Title	Date(s)
<b>File 3</b>	
-Black and white studio photograph of "C.W.G. Crawford", mounted	1910
-Black and white studio photograph of "W.A. Dancey"	no date
-Black and white studio photograph of unknown girl, mounted	no date
-Black and white studio photograph of unknown family, mounted	no date
-Black and white studio photograph of unknown baby, ID 984-95-21	no date
-Black and white studio photograph of unknown woman, mounted	no date
-Black and white studio photograph of three unknown children, mounted	no date
-Black and white studio photograph of unknown man	no date
<b>File 4</b>	
-Frank Davison Correspondence, Ship <i>Corringa</i>	Nov 1896-Oct 1898
<b>File 5</b>	
-Frank Davison Correspondence, RMS <i>Empress of China</i>	Nov 1890-May 1901
-Frank Davison Correspondence, <i>Monteagle</i>	Jan 1914-April 1915
<b>File 6</b>	
-E.C. Swank, Letters of Appointment	Feb 1917-Feb 1930
-E.C. Swank, Service Reference Letters	Mar 1916-Nov 1944
-E.C. Swank, Discharge Certificates	May 1916-Oct 1941
<b>File 7</b>	
-Pilot House Log book: Vancouver-Powell River; Powell River –Ocean Falls; Ocean Falls-Prince Rupert (no ship name)	No Date
-Small red notebook: addresses, notes on ship runs, depth charges	1918-1919
-Brown notebook: expenses, log of distances	1922-1923
-Small black notebook: notes from <i>SS Island Prince</i> , <i>SS Alaska Prince</i>	1944
<b>Box 1 Series II: Maritime Service Records</b>	
<b>File 8</b>	
-Declaration of Ownership by Individual: Ship <i>Reliance</i>	Nov 28, 1904
-Declaration of Ownership on behalf of a Body Corporate: <i>Scow A.M. 5</i>	Dec. 15, 1910
-Certificate of Appointment: George Alexander Macdonald, "Manager of Ship <i>SS Thames</i> "	Mar 14, 1913
-Disciplinary Court Notice of Trial- Edward Crawford Swank, Mate R.N.C.V.R. HCSM <i>Seagull Trawler 26</i>	Nov. 9, 1918
-Minister of Labour letter re: Differences Between Certain Ship owners of B.C. and their Employees, Member of Canadian Merchant Service Guild	Feb. 13, 1919
-Doctor's letter re: Melvin Canefoot	April 12, 1920
-Doctor's letter re: E. Khomer, Fireman	April 30, 1920
-Doctor's letter re: F. McGuire	April 30, 1920
-Doctor's letter re: William Bernard	May 3, 1920
-Doctor's letter re: Frank McGuire	May 7, 1920
-Letter re: <i>Scow K&amp;W #4</i>	Aug 20, 1920
-Permit to Sign Articles: Frank Kerry	Oct 20, 1920

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Title	Date(s)
<b>File 8</b>	
-Account of Wages, E.N. Payne	Dec 18, 1920
-Accounting letter re: <i>Canadian Winner</i> at Port Kembla	July 21, 1921
- Account of Wages, W.J. Levins	Aug 20, 1921
-Letter re: Placement of Officers on <i>SS Canadian Scottish</i>	Oct 9, 1921
-Letter re: Condition of drydock examination of <i>Canadian River</i>	Dec 9, 1921
-Blank Ships Crew List	Jan 3, 1922
-Report form <i>SS Canadian Britisher</i> re: absent men	Jan 24, 1922
-Admission and Discharge Certificate, D.B. King	Jan 24, 1922
-Note re: disorderly officers	Jan 27, 1922
-Report from <i>SS Canadian Britisher</i> re: men who refused to work	Feb 3, 1922
-List of Wages and Advances	Feb 10, 1922
-Men Off Duty Report	Feb 15, 1922
-Pillage and Substitution Report	Mar 14, 1922
-Doctor's letter re: M. Carefoot	April 7, 1922
- <i>SS Canadian Rover</i> , Report of personal belongings of John Sinclair	April 16, 1922
- <i>SS Canadian Rover</i> , Appointment of Room Steward	April 29, 1922
-Account of Wages	May 28, 1922
- <i>Talarite</i> copy of Logbook	May 1922
-Wages re; W. Vincent on <i>SS Canadian Britisher</i>	July 6, 1922
- <i>Canadian Pioneer</i> Ship Crew List	July 17, 1922
-Hospital Discharge Form re: D.V.King	Aug 9, 1922
-Doctor's letter re: Bober G	Aug 9, 1922
-Doctor's letter re: D.V.King	Aug 9, 1922
-Doctor's letter re: Hugues	Aug 9, 1922
-Letter re: reimbursement of goods purchased by sailors	Nov 7, 1922
-Telegraph re: <i>SS Canadian Importer</i>	Dec 1, 1922
-Doctor's letter re: Ronald Taylor	Jan 1923
-Account of Wages, B. Curtis	May 25, 1923
-Account of Wages, H.J. Pike	May 25, 1923
-Account of Wages, Leo Bush	May 25, 1923
-Court Report re: William Cleland	Oct 31, 1923
-Supply Receipt	Jan 24, 1924
-Letter re: desertion of Stewart Curtis, A. Humphries	Jan 25, 1924
-Letter re: desertion of J. Kelly form <i>Canadian Winner</i>	April 30, 1924
-Telegraph re: Kelly's Expenses	May 9, 1924
-Telegraph re: Kelly's Expenses	May 10, 1924
-Telegraph re: Kelly's Expenses	May 11, 1924
-Letter to British Consulate re: appointment of crew, <i>Canadian Prospector</i>	May 29, 1924
-Personal Injury and Sickness Report for James William Phillips	Dec 24, 1924
- <i>SS Canadian Seigneur</i> copy of logbook	Jan 29-Feb 17, 1925
-Doctor's Letter re: A. McLean	Feb 8, 1925
-Note re: Disrating of H. Hilton	Feb 17, 1925
- <i>SS Canadian Seigneur</i> copy of logbook	Feb 23-Mar 25, 1925
-Letter re: disappearance of D. Smith on <i>SS Canadian Winner</i>	Mar 29, 1925
-Doctor's letter re: William Dow	June 13, 1925
-Supplies/Accounting letter from Canadian Government Merchant Marine	June 27, 1925
-Letter re: deserters on <i>SS Canadian Pioneer</i>	July 20, 1925
- <i>SS Canadian Ranger</i> Supply List	Aug 22, 1925

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Title	Date(s)
<b>File 8</b>	
-SS <i>Canadian Seigneur</i> Copy of Logbook	Aug 23, 1925
-SS <i>Canadian Seigneur</i> Copy of Logbook	Aug 24, 1925
-Letter from W.J. Rooney to wife	Sept 11, 1925
-Letter to Mrs. Robert C. Laughlin re: husband	Sept 26, 1925
-Letter re: personal effects of F. Corbet, Fireman on <i>Canadian Winner</i>	Oct 21, 1925
-Supply List	Feb 2, 1926
-Letter re: pay deductions/pay increases on <i>SS Canadian Ranger</i>	Feb 27, 1926
-Letter re: accident of William Halligan, <i>SS Canadian Freighter</i>	Aug 2, 1926
-Doctor's letter re: Robert Pook	Oct 7, 1926
-Doctor's letter re: J. McCormack	Oct 14, 1926
-SS <i>Seigneur</i> Crew List	Jan 7, 1933
-SS <i>Seigneur</i> Shipping Contract	Jan 7, 1933
-Application and Permission for Treatment for Edward Swank	Dec 7, 1940
-Notice letter re: Injury of Private Lewis Warne Breffit	May 2, 1944
-M/V <i>BC Standard</i> Specifications for Covering Annual Refit	April 1956
-M/V <i>BC Standard</i> List of repairs	April 24, 1956
-"Nine Saved off Sinking <i>US Seiner</i> ", <i>Vancouver Province</i>	June 4, 1956
-Letter re: Seniority, Union Steamships Limited	July 24, 1956
-M/V <i>BC Standard</i> List of repairs	April 25, 1957
-M/V <i>BC Standard</i> Specifications Covering Refit	April 25, 1957
-M/V <i>BC Standard</i> Drydock List of Repairs	Mar 27, 1958
-M/V <i>BC Standard</i> Drydock List of Repairs	April 1958
-M/V <i>BC Standard</i> Specifications Covering Refit	May 1958
-List of Pay (unknown ship)	no date
-Crew List and Character Report, (unknown ship, signed Albert J. Edgecombe, Master)	no date
-SS <i>Canadian Seigneur</i> Crew List	no date