

# Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society

## Finding Aid - Barbara Bell fonds (Accession 999.12.)

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<https://memoryns.ca/index.php/barbara-bell-fonds>

# Barbara Bell fonds

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## Table of contents

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Summary information .....	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch .....	3
Scope and content .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Notes .....	4
Access points .....	4
Series descriptions .....	4
, Guest book, 1948-1978 .....	4
, Diaries and notebooks, 1919-1994 .....	5
, Deeds and legal documents, 1948-1981 .....	5
, Correspondence by and to Barbara Bell, 1920-1999 .....	5
, Contract bridge manuscript, [ca. 1950] .....	6
, Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society, 1980-1996 .....	6
, Cole Harbour Area Planning Committee, 1974-1980 .....	6
, Autopic book and other WWII related materials, 1944-1946 .....	7
, Bell newspaper clippings, 1953-1999 .....	7
, Personal account books and financial records, 1930-1998 .....	7
, Social work and work with the church, 1958-1999 .....	7
, Travel by Barbara Bell, .....	8

## Summary information

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**Repository:** Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society

**Title:** Barbara Bell fonds

**ID:** Accession 999.12.

**Date:** 1919-1999 (date of creation)

**Physical description:** 1.3 m of textual records

**Dates of creation,  
revision and deletion:**

**Note [generalNote]:** Further information available in the family files.

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Barbara Bell was born on 4 June in 1902 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the daughter of Francis H. Bell and M. Leila Bell. Bell had at least one brother, Hugh B. Bell. Barbara spent her early years in Bermuda, and later went to school at Halifax Ladies College around 1919. Bell was an ambulance driver, Lieutenant in the St. John's Ambulance Battalion, in France and Germany during WWII. After the war Bell helped locate and distribute aid to people who had been hiding from the Germans. She then returned to Halifax where she organized a social club, the Mardi Gras Club, on the Navy's behalf. She was also president of the Protestant Orphanage, today known as Veith House. Bell was a member of St. Paul's Anglican Church in Halifax. She also ran Camp Sunshine in Mahone Bay. Bell was actively involved as a volunteer with organizations such as the Izaak Walton Killam children's hospital. Bell was a founding member of the Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society. She and her father were members of the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron and were closely involved with the Marblehead to Halifax races, presenting the Hugh Bell Trophy to the winner. Bell never married but fostered two girls. Bell died 15 August 1999 in Cole Harbour.

### Custodial history

Curator retrieved the material from the Bell house after the death of Barbara Bell in 1999.

## Scope and content

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Fonds consist of: deeds and legal, contract bridge manuscript, travel, autopic book, diaries, correspondence, planning committee, rural heritage society, guest book, personal account books, social work, newspaper clippings.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

### Arrangement

Some arrangement has been imposed by the curator.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
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## Access points

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- World War II, 1939-1945 - Civilian work (subject)
  - World War II. 1939-1945 - Correspondence, reminiscences, etc. (subject)
  - Diaries - Women (subject)
  - Travel - Reminiscences (subject)
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## Series descriptions

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### Guest book

Creator: Bell, Barbara

Date: 1948-1978 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series forms part of Barbara Bell fonds and consists of a guest book kept by Barbara Bell signed by visitors to her home.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

**File / item list****Diaries and notebooks**

Creator: Bell, Barbara

Date: 1919-1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series forms part of Barbara Bell fonds and consists of personal diaries kept by Barbara Bell while living in Halifax, serving with the Red Cross in France, and traveling in Europe; notebook entitled Books I have enjoyed.

Physical description: 8 cm of textual records

**File / item list****Deeds and legal documents**

Date: 1948-1981 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series forms part of Barbara Bell fonds and consists of deeds and related correspondence regarding land owned by Barbara Bell, and a copy of her Will.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Related material:

See draft copy of Will in the ledger book found in the Frank H. Bell fonds.

**File / item list****Correspondence by and to Barbara Bell**

Creator: Bell, Barbara

Date: 1920-1999 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series forms part of Barbara Bell fonds and consists of drafts of correspondence by Bell written in an old ledger book belonging to her father, Frank H. Bell; correspondence to Barbara Bell and her brother Hugh about the death of their mother, M. Leila Bell, in 1933; correspondence from friends she served with in WWII; love letters to Barbara Bell; correspondence from her foster child, Judy; Christmas cards and postcards from friends and family; correspondence with organizations such as the Unitarian Service Committee (USC) and other organizations in which Barbara Bell was involved.

Physical description: 30 cm of textual records

Related material:

See also Frank H. Bell fonds.

**File / item list****Contract bridge manuscript**

Creator: Bell, Barbara

Creator: Hillier, Fred N.

Date: [ca. 1950] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series forms part of Barbara Bell fonds and consists of a manuscript by Barbara Bell and Fred N. Hilliard called Their Laws of Contract Bridge.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

**File / item list****Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society**

Creator: Bell, Barbara

Date: 1980-1996 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series forms part of Barbara Bell fonds and consists of minutes, correspondence, newsletters and reports collected by Bell during her tenure as a member of the Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society.

Physical description: 8 cm of textual records

**File / item list****Cole Harbour Area Planning Committee**

Date: 1974-1980 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series forms part of Barbara Bell fonds and consists of minutes, correspondence, reports, newspaper clippings and flyers collected by Bell during her tenure as a member of the Cole Harbour Area Planning Committee.

Physical description: 5 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Cole Harbour Area Planning Committee (Halifax, N.S.)
- Cole Harbour (Halifax County, N.S.) (place)

**File / item list****Autoplic book and other WWII related materials**

Creator: Bell, Barbara

Date: 1944-1946 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series forms part of Barbara Bell fonds and consists of an Autoplic book kept by Barbara Bell recording her work as an ambulance driver for the Red Cross in France during WWII; ration stamps; correspondence to Bell regarding her service; certificates of proficiency and identity; French lessons.

Physical description: 4 cm of textual records

**File / item list****Bell newspaper clippings**

Date: 1953-1999 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series forms part of Barbara Bell fonds and consists of newspaper clippings kept by Barbara Bell including articles about the Marblehead Yacht races, architecture, mental patients and hospitals, travel and gardening.

Physical description: 4 cm of textual records

**File / item list****Personal account books and financial records**

Creator: Bell, Barbara

Creator: Steede, F.B.

Date: 1930-1998 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of an account book kept by Barbara Bell. Originally this book was used by F.B. Steede from 1884-1887; account book including accounts for a trip to the Orient (1983); notebooks listing investments; receipts.

Physical description: 20

**File / item list****Social work and work with the church**

Date: 1958-1999 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of handwritten minutes of meetings of the Social Services Committee, possibly for St. Paul's Anglican Church, Halifax, Nova Scotia kept by Barbara Bell; copies of a history of Saint Paul's Alms House of Industry for Girls Halifax, Constitution and By-Laws; newsletters from St. Paul's Church; minutes of meeting of the Halifax Protestant Orphans Home (1958).

Physical description: 20 cm of textual records

**File / item list**

**Travel by Barbara Bell**

Scope and content:

Series consists of passports belonging to Barbara Bell; maps and tourist pamphlets of places she visited; blank postcards showing the areas she visited.

Physical description: 30 cm of textual records

**File / item list**