



Richard Wesley Smith

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b. July 19, 1871 in Lunenburg d. August 30, 1954 in Lunenburg
Buried in Hillcrest Cemetery, Lunenburg

Associated Places: Smith and Rhuland Shipyard
Contribution: Shipbuilding – Builder of the Bluenose

Richard Wesley Smith was a 6th generation descendant of Georg Michael Schmidt who arrived in Lunenburg in 1753. He was born on July 19, 1871 and married Ella Walters, daughter of Captain and Mrs. Elias Walters. They had four children, Audrey, Anita, Charlotte and Roderick.

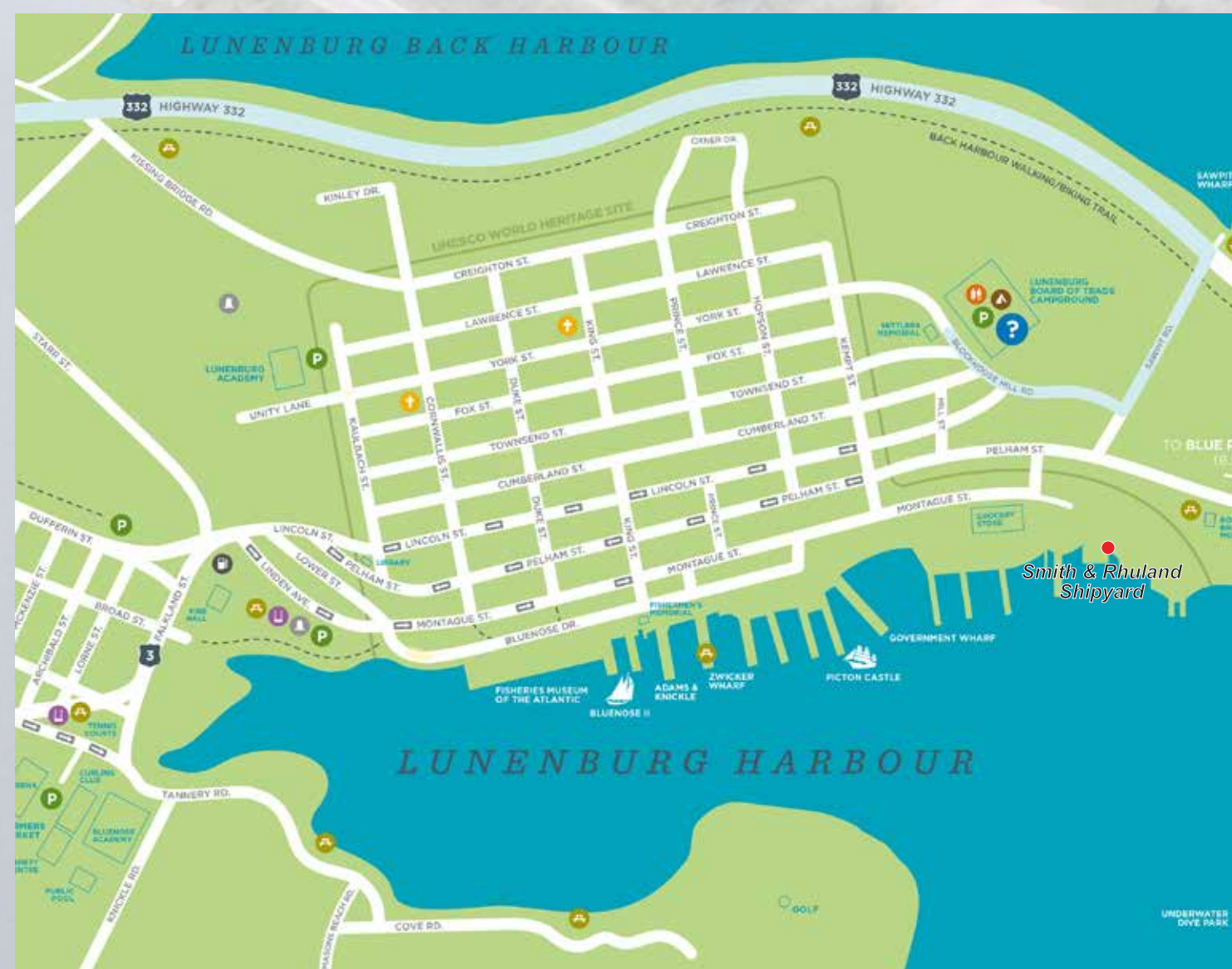
In 1899 Dick took over the shipyard from his father David Smith. The following year as senior partner, he entered into a partnership with George Rhuland to create the Smith and Rhuland shipyard which moved in 1905 to the yard begun by Peter Young and that site remained its permanent home. Smith and Rhuland ships sailed the world and over the years made great contributions to Maritime trade and fishing along the Atlantic coast.

In the early years, the firm's chief output was terns and other large sailing ships. The last three-master, the "Hillcrest" was built in 1916. The partners then concentrated on two-masted schooners, both salt bankers and coastal freighters. The great achievement of the Twenties was the building of the famous Bluenose, launched March 26, 1921 and christened by Dick's daughter, Audrey Smith. His brother-in-law Angus Walters was the captain of the Bluenose. A less publicized but significant contribution to shipping of that era was the construction of rum runners, including the famous "I'm Alone". The partnership of these master builders lasted a productive 42 years and during that period hundreds of craft of various types and dimensions were constructed. Dick, aged 71, and George sold the firm to George's sons John and Fred in 1942.

George died in 1950 and Dick in 1954. In an editorial, the Halifax Chronicle Herald noted that, "With their passing, we see the end of an era in Nova Scotia shipbuilding."



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Bluenose Birth - March 26, 1921
Undeafed champion of International Fisherman's Trophy Race
Date of Passing: January 29, 1946 - Wrecked off the coast of Haiti