

Mahone Bay Museum
Fonds Description (MBMS-70)

Verna Belle Keddy fonds

1916-1917

53 pages of drawings

Verna Belle Keddy was born on June 14, 1903 in Northwest, just outside of Blockhouse, NS. Her parents were Alfred Norman Keddy and Eva Luella Eisenhauer, who lived in Northwest. Verna Belle never married. In the 1921 census, her occupation is listed as "student." She died on May 15, 1982.

The fonds consists of a "drawing book" with a very loose cover full of a child's drawings or tracings with some writing, including the alphabet and rhymes and two poems or songs on the last page. The alphabet rhymes and sketches are interspersed with pages referencing books such as Verna writing "My Playtime ABC", likely referencing the "Playtime A B C" children's book published by McLoughlin Brothers, New York, 1900. The drawings were compared to the "Playtime ABC" book to review for matches to indicate that Verna was tracing the drawings. One drawing of a boy on a rocking horse did appear to be traced from "Playtime ABC" from their drawing on the letter R for rocking horse and another drawing of two children with a kite from their page on the letter K for kite. No other matches were noticed but other drawings may still have been traced. It appears Verna was writing and drawing her own version of the alphabet books.

Verna also wrote "Babies ABC Picture Book", "Little Mothers ABC", and "The Seaside ABC", which may be referencing the 1908 "Dolly at the Seaside A B C" published by Raphael Tuck & Sons, CO. in London, England or "At The Seaside" published by F. Warne & Co, New York.

A lot of the alphabet rhymes Verna wrote uses people's names, such as Arnold, Annie, Chris, Charlie, Ernest, Ella, Isabel, Luella, Martha, Olive, Susie, and others. Later drawings of Verna's appear to be of two different dolls drawn in various clothing.

The sketchbook is dated 1916 with "Verna B. Keddy" written on the cover, along with her age of 12 years. The sketchbook was created by "The T. Eaton Co Limited" and is labeled a scribbling book and contains an advertisement on the back cover for "Eaton school supplies".

This item was found during a review of the Museum's backlog and was not accompanied with an accession record; however, it may have been donated by a local antique collector, Anne Ruel, who volunteered with the Museum. The book was accessioned 2022.2.1

Finding Aid:

Located in an archival box labeled MBMS-70 volume 1, along with MBMS-66 to MBMS-72.