

NAME:BERCHEM, FREDERICK W. PARISH: London UK ENTERED SERVICE:

DATES: ca. 1902 -+

Appointments & Service

Outfit Year*: Position: Post: District: HBCA Reference:

*An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31

1917-1918	Crew lists for S.S. <i>Baytigern</i> , Oct. 1917 & Apr. 1918, show Berchem as an apprentice			RG4/17/1
1920	Fourth Officer [Apprentice]	<i>Nascopie</i>		A.105/54
1921	Third Officer	<i>Baychimo</i>		A.105/54
1922	Second Officer	<i>Bayeskimo</i>		A.105/54
1923-1925	Chief Officer	<i>Bayeskimo</i>		A.105/54
1926-1930	Chief Officer	<i>Nascopie</i>		A.106/5/8
1931, March 31 st	Service terminated as <i>Nascopie</i> was to be laid up for the 1931 season			A.92/16/20, fo 12-15

*In his letters to *The Beaver* (Jan./Feb/ 1986; June/July 1986; Aug./Sept. 1988) Berchem gave the dates of his HBC career as 1916 to 1931. He claimed 15 years service in 1931 (A.92/16/20, fo.15) There is no reason to doubt this but so far it has not proved possible to trace the names of all the ships in which he served.

Family information: His father was Alphonse H.E. Berchem, who was employed at Worthington-Simpson Limited.

A.92/Misc./33,47,68

By 1926 Berchem had moved to Saltcoats, Ayrshire, near Ardrossan, the *Nascopie*'s home port. His letters to *The Beaver* in the late 1980s were written from Saltcoats.

A.92/36/4

Comments on (1922): "The Captain [Falk of the *Bayeskimo*] gives an excellent account of this young man and recommends him for promotion. He served as an apprentice in the "Bay" steamers and has now made several voyages to Hudson's Bay in "Nascopie", "Baychimo" and "Bayeskimo". He requests permission to be given the time to sit for his Chief Mate's Certificate [granted time with pay]."

A.105/54

+There is a collection of Berchem's photo albums in the McCord Museum, Montreal. A snapshot in one, showing apprentices on the *Baytigern*, Indian Ocean 1917, gives his age as 15.

Filename: Berchem, Frederick W. (fl. 1916-1931) Anne Morton Nov./2004

