

The Duryee Family's Y Story

Modified from "The First 100 Years" by Lawrence E. O'Donnell

Long before the YMCA of Snohomish County became a cornerstone of our community, it was a bold idea sustained by people willing to invest their time and leadership. One of those people was Dan Duryee Sr.

At just 19 years old, Dan was elected temporary secretary during the first meetings of December 1899 that would establish the Everett Y. While others saw the potential for a new organization, Dan saw the opportunity to build something that would strengthen generations of young people and families.

For decades, Dan helped shape the Y's future, serving as president of Board of Directors from 1906 to 1918, the longest tenure in the association's history.

During a period of remarkable growth for both Everett and the Y, his steady leadership helped establish an organization rooted in service, community, and opportunity. He is credited for stepping in at critical times to keep the association afloat.

The Duryee family's connection to Everett stretched back to the city's earliest days. Dan's father, Schuyler Duryee, managed the Everett Land Company in 1891 when the city began.

Later, Dan's son, Dan Duryee Jr., continued the family's unwavering devotion, serving as Chair of the Board of Trustees longer than anyone in YMCA history from 1940-1988. After his passing in 1990, his wife Mary and daughter Maureen carried that commitment forward through their continued support of the YMCA's mission.