

Early Vancouver

Volume Three

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Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1933-1934.

Supplemental to Volumes One and Two collected in 1931-1932.

About the 2011 Edition

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. J.E. MICHAUD, 26 APRIL 1934.

Mr. J.E. Michaud: "Maximilian Michaud of Burrard Inlet" (Hastings) "was my great-uncle. My grandfather's name was Joseph; he had seven children. My father's name was Zatique" (pronounced Zetic). "I never knew anyone with the initial 'H.' Michaud." (This name is found on page 187, of the Directory of B.C., 1885.)

MAXIMILIAN MICHAUD.

"Maximilian owned property which was later taken over by Joseph. I think Maximilian and Marcellin are the same people, as the two words look so much alike. He died rather young. He had not much schooling, but he learned English at school in the East. He came on foot to British Columbia—across the Prairies and over the Rockies, but when, we do not know. I have heard my father and aunts speak of it almost ever since I can remember. I know that he walked over, but I can't say that he came with the group of Overlanders in 1862. I have often listened to the story that the party he came with suffered intense privation and were several times driven to desperation by starvation. Several perished on the way. Maximilian had no children.

"I have heard that Maximilian was married, but I never heard anything of his wife. He was born in Québec, approximately about 1850, and is supposed to have married on some return trip to Eastern Canada, but who the bride, if any, was, we do not know—we do know that Maximilian died childless."

MAXIMILIAN'S PROPERTY.

"Maximilian died intestate, but it was understood that he would leave the property to his brother, Joseph, my grandfather. Some of the property had been paid for, but Joseph had to pay for the rest. As he died intestate, we thought the property would go to his wife. There was trouble back east, and some of the people wanted to sell the Hastings (B.C.) property. Joseph did not want to, but the others were in the majority, and he had to."

ZATIQUE MICHAUD.

"Zatique was born at Point Levis, across from Québec City. My father was a Catholic, and there is a saint called St. Zatique, and I think my father was called after him. He came out with his mother and father" (Joseph) "by the Horn some time after Maximilian. I do not know which year, but I think it must have been about 1874. Zatique is now 63 years old."

15 FEBRUARY 1934 – GENEALOGY OF MAXIMILIAN MICHAUD.

Residence: "Maxies" of Hastings, B.C.

Place of birth: Québec. Arrived from Québec in British Columbia about 1850.

Avocation: Property Investor, Hotel Keeper.

Marriage: Marriage took place on return trip to the East. Bride unknown by name.

CHILDREN.

On the authority of Tilman Willard Herring, who joined the Seymour Battery in New Westminster in 1871 or 1872, and who attended a banquet of the Original Garrison Artillery Association at the Hotel Georgia, Vancouver, 20 January 1934, Maxie Michaud had no children; the Michaud brothers (three) of Langley, are, he says, the children of Maxie's brother.

OTHER SURVIVING MEMBERS OF FAMILY.

Three Michauds at Langley, B.C. in 1903: Joseph, the father, and Zatique and Maximilian (commonly called "Maxime"), his sons—all farmers. J.S. Matthews, 1934.

PERSONAL SERVICES.

Very little is remembered of Maximilian Michaud, save that he was one of Vancouver's first hotel men; was a staunch Catholic, and patriotic citizen; spoke English well, but with a decided French-Canadian accent; and was a congenial and popular figure with the earlier pioneers. (J.E. Michaud.)

LANDED ESTATE, ETC.

Subtly foreseeing the extraordinary prospects of Vancouver and its harbour, he acquired a considerable portion of the property fronting Burrard Inlet, and along what is presently known as Hastings Street. Among other valuable sites, he purchased six hundred acres in the valley, comprising Langley Prairie, half of which was bought up by Joseph Michaud Sr., a nephew, and upon the latter's death willed to his two sons, Zatique and Maxime, now both retired and living in Langley Prairie. (J.E.M.)

T.W. Herring says, "Maxie worked as cook for Greely Bros. at first; then Joe Arnand bought the Colonial Hotel, New Westminster, from the Greelys and Maxie remained as cook until he moved to Hastings.

"It was Maxie who gave the land at Langley to the children of his brother." (J.E.M.)

HISTORICAL.

Maximilian Michaud, with a group of Easterners, traversed Canada to British Columbia. Many interesting incidents have been cited. Several members of the party starved en route, and they were exposed to innumerable hardships and heartrending discouragements.

In the last years of his life, Mr. Michaud built a home in New Westminster, where he owned considerable property. This home still stands, facing Columbia Street, the first residence next to Saint Peter's Church.

Upon his death he failed to leave a will—his wife had predeceased him—and having had procreated no children, consequently all his property, as provided by law, was to be divided amongst the closest of kin. Joseph Michaud Sr. was the only member of the family in the West. His remonstrations with his co-heirs in the east, who demanded the sale of everything, failed to retain the property on Hastings and elsewhere, which sold for a fraction of its present value. Thus death not only robbed Maximilian Michaud of enjoying the fruits of his plans, but also failed to remunerate even his heirs. (J.E.M.)

15 FEBRUARY 1934 – GENEALOGY OF JOSEPH MICHAUD OF LANGLEY PRAIRIE; BROTHER, MAXIMILIAN MICHAUD OF HASTINGS, B.C.

Residence: Langley Prairie, B.C.

Place of Birth: Québec City, Québec. Arrived in B.C. from Pt. Levis, Québec, in 1874.

Avocation: Farmer.

Marriage: At Québec City, to Georgina Morin.

CHILDREN.

Seven (all living).

Florence, now Mrs. Jas. J. Doyle, of Langley Prairie; no children.

Zatique, now retired farmer, of Langley Prairie; one son, J.E. Michaud.

Maximilian, now farmer, of Langley Prairie; two sons.

Mary, now Mrs. Geo. Freeman, of Bellingham, Washington; one son, two daughters.

Laura, now Mrs. L.R. Layton, of Langley Prairie; no children.

Lena, unmarried, of Langley Prairie.

Josephine A., unmarried, of Langley Prairie.

PERSONAL SERVICES.

Joseph Michaud was a farmer—he held no known public office. He was of the Roman Catholic denomination.