

Early Vancouver

Volume Three

By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.

2011 Edition (Originally Published 1935)

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

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

About the 2011 Edition

The 2011 edition is a transcription of the original work collected and published by Major Matthews. Handwritten marginalia and corrections Matthews made to his text over the years have been incorporated and some typographical errors have been corrected, but no other editorial work has been undertaken. The edition and its online presentation was produced by the City of Vancouver Archives to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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Antony Silvey, Reid Island.

(See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2 and Vol. 3—in preparation.)

HISTORICAL.

“The marriage and dates can be found at St. Mary’s Mission, Mission, B.C., in Rev. Father Fokkia’s Books. My father, Joseph Silvey, came here from the Californian gold excitement to take in the Cariboo. When he came back, he settled down at Brockton Point, Burrard Inlet. That is where I and my brother Domingo were born; that was 1874 and 1877. Mrs. J. Walker and Mrs. S. Anderson were half-sisters to us. They have over sixty grandchildren. Vancouver was called Gastown at that time.” – Mrs. M.A. Buss, a daughter of Mrs. Watson, who died in late July or early August, 1934.

PORTUGUESE JOE.

Excerpt from a letter of Theo. Bryant, Ladysmith, son of Rev. Cornelius Bryant of Granville, 28 September 1934.

“Mrs. Jos. Silvey passed away only a few weeks ago in the person of Mrs. Jos. Watson, leaving Jos. Silvey at Sechelt, Domingo and Antonio at Reid Island, near Portier Pass, Henry, don’t know residence, and Mrs. Jas. Walker living in Vancouver with a big family. The Silveys of Sechelt are of Reid Island stock.”

15 OCTOBER 1934 – GENEALOGY OF MRS. MARY ADLAI BASS.

Residence: Egmont, B.C.

Place and date of birth: Gastown, Vancouver, B.C., 24 May 1877.

“I am the daughter of Portuguese Joe Silvey and Lucy Silvey.” (Watson.) “These are four of my children; the oldest is dead:

“Dexter Sidney Brown, born at Frake, B.C., 7 October 1902.

“Ida Brown, born at Lund, B.C., 1905.

“Kenny Brown, Mission City, B.C., 7 October 1907.

“Arthur G. Buss, born at Chemainus, B.C., 25 December 1914.”

PERSONAL SERVICES.

“My father, Portuguese Joe Silvey, used to have gill nets and rent them out to the Indians and every Indian on the coast knew him. That’s how they all came to call him ‘Portuguese Joe.’ He had a little trading store and traded with Indians. That Gregorio Fernandez was my godfather.

“My oldest daughter, Mrs. Laura Harris, was killed on Hastings Street in 1914, and my oldest son was drowned with my brother, Manuel Silvey, in the Narrows at Brockton Point; they were run down by the tug *Magoon* on 16th December 1916. Two of my other daughters died in Alberta.

“One of Mrs. S. Anderson’s sons is here with us. Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Walker are our half-sisters, but Portuguese Joe Silvey’s oldest daughters.”

HISTORICAL.

“I am the Mary A. Silvey that you refer to and the daughter of Lucy Silvey Watson and Portuguese Joe Silvey, my father. My mother was a native or Indian, if you wish to call her that. My father was married when he first came to this country, to Mrs. Walker’s and Mrs. S. Anderson’s mother, who died in Gastown in 1865. Then Father married my mother so as to raise the two girls, Elizabeth and Josephine, now Mrs. J. Walker and Mrs. Steven Anderson. Mrs. Walker is now Mrs. Harry Armstrong; she lives on Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C.—I don’t know the number—and Mrs. Anderson is dead. Father had a store in Gastown and when the C.P.R. was surveying the road he had some dispute about moving his house back; the water used to be up close to where W.H. Malkin’s Building now stands. Father went in with Ladner, canning salmon, and he was the Portuguese Joe that the Indians speak of. So please get this

straight: I am Portuguese Joe's daughter and Mrs. Lucy Silvey Watson was my mother, and she was Portuguese Joe's wife."

PORTUGUESE JOE.

Excerpt from Letter of Theo. Bryant, Ladysmith, son of Rev. Cornelius Bryant of Granville, 28 September 1934.

"I remember about 35 years ago the collector of customs telling me of a Silvey being known as 'Portuguese Joe.' Of course, all those kind of fishermen were at any port around the gulf, and commonly known."

CHILDREN OF JONATHAN MILLER OF GRANVILLE.

Authority D. Todd Lees, 5 June 1934.

1. Ada. Born Middlesex Co., Ontario, 1860, died 1900; buried Mountain View Cemetery; married (1) Capt. Trimble, master of merchant ship coming to B.C. in logging days—he was lost at sea; (2) Joe Huntley, dropped out of sight—never heard of again. (See *Early Vancouver*, Matthews.) Ada had one child, Katherine, who married 1 June 1915, Dr. W.W. Kennedy, M.D., Vancouver.
2. Carrie. Born Middlesex Co., Ontario, 1861; married D. Todd Lees, 24 September 1895 at St. James Church, Vancouver—both living in June 1934. No issue.
3. Frederick Jonathan. Born New Westminster, 22 February 1865; was sometimes secretary Vancouver *Daily World*—killed in action 1916; no issue. (See Howay's *History of B.C.*)
4. Ernest. Born New Westminster, 1868; barrister; died about 1926; buried Mountain View Cemetery; married Jean Ross, daughter of minister of Gospel, at Grand Forks, B.C. Two children, Helen and Ross, now in San Francisco.
5. Alice. Born New Westminster in the 1870s; died in Vancouver about 1916; buried Mountain View; married (1) Harry Berry, manager Guerneby Cab Co., and has issue, Frank, Archie and Jonathan (two sons now—1934—in Vancouver, one in San Francisco) and about 1906 married (2) Louis D. Taylor, now Mayor of Vancouver; no issue.
6. Edward. Born in Granville in 18—; accidentally killed in San Francisco about 1912. Unmarried.
7. Frank. Born Granville about 1880; was in Post Office Department; living in Vancouver in 1934; unmarried.
8. Walter. Born Granville about ?; living in Vancouver in 1934; unmarried.
9. Greta. Born in Granville, 1881; married (1) A.C. Hirschfield in Vancouver about 1902, and had a child who died in infancy; married (2) Hilton W. Philpot, son of a physician; residence—San Francisco in 1934.

Note: Mr. Lees says, "All personal records, if any, of Jonathan Miller, were destroyed when the Great Fire of June 13, 1886, destroyed his residence and office" (Provincial Government Building) "on Water Street.

"The only grandson bearing the name Miller is Ross Miller."

As narrated by D. Todd Lees, 5 June 1934.

(Signed) J.S. Matthews, City Archivist.