

**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 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

**Copyright Statement**

© 2011 City of Vancouver. Any or all of *Early Vancouver* may be used without restriction as to the nature or purpose of the use, even if that use is for commercial purposes. You may copy, distribute, adapt and transmit the work. It is required that a link or attribution be made to the City of Vancouver.

**Reproductions**

High resolution versions of any graphic items in *Early Vancouver* are available. A fee may apply.

**Citing Information**

When referencing the 2011 edition of *Early Vancouver*, please cite the page number that appears at the bottom of the page in the PDF version only, not the page number indicated by your PDF reader. Here are samples of how to cite this source:

Footnote or Endnote Reference:

Major James Skitt Matthews, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3 (Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011), 33.

Bibliographic Entry:

Matthews, Major James Skitt. *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3. Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011.

**Contact Information**

City of Vancouver Archives  
1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9  
604.736.8561  
archives@vancouver.ca  
vancouver.ca/archives



(Note: Mrs. W.E. Draney, daughter of Angus Fraser, says, "He was a genial gentleman who carried himself with propriety; not exactly a leader among men on account of his somewhat retiring disposition.")

### **THE "MAYOR OF GRANVILLE."**

"He was colloquially known as the 'Mayor of Granville,' although, of course, no such office existed.

"This photo, No. ?, taken by Hacking, before 1909, shows the profusion of hair—mouse-coloured, he himself jokingly referred to it. Grey-blue eyes, imperial beard, and of a healthy, not ruddy, complexion. He appears in the oil painting by John Innes, of the first meeting of the First City Council of Vancouver.

"My children are Hubert Mannion, born 24 May 1911, and Nora Patricia, born 13<sup>th</sup> March 1914; both born in Vancouver."

Note: Mr. Mannion's first wife was an Indian, and their daughter, Mrs. H.A. Christie, was at the age of three years, sent to the Catholic convent in New Westminster, and educated there. They also had a son, De Vere, now supposed to be in Australia—an engineer. His Indian wife having died, Mr. Mannion married again, and of the other three children, two of them, both sons, were drowned. The third, Nora, now Mrs. Wilmot of Woodstock, Ontario, has issue.

After the Great Fire of 1886, Mr. Mannion went to live at his farm at Deep Cove, Bowen Island, where the children had a governess (no school available.) This farm later known as Terminal Farm—Terminal Steam Ship Company, Capt. J.A. Cates—is now a tourist resort of Union Steamship Company.

## **17 SEPTEMBER 1934.**

### **NATIVE DAUGHTER DIES.**

A native daughter of British Columbia who had resided in this province all her life, Mrs. Lucy Silvey Watson, aged 75, of Reid Island, died suddenly early this morning, according to advice received in Vancouver.

Mrs. Watson is survived by her husband, Joseph Watson, of Reid Island; four sons, Domingo and Antony Silvey of Reid Island, and Joseph and Henry of Jervis Inlet; and three daughters, Mrs. J. Walker of Vancouver, Mrs. H. Buss of Egmont, B.C., and Mrs. F. Beale of Vancouver.

Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

(From a newspaper of 13 August 1934.)

### **GENEALOGY OF MRS. LUCY SILVEY WATSON.**

Residence: Reid Island.

Place of birth: Sechelt, B.C.

Avocation: Fisherman, Sechelt B.C. Joseph Silvey of Granville, 1870.

Married at Sechelt, B.C. (Catholic.)

Bride: Lucy Anthony; Bridegroom: Joseph Silvey of Granville, 1870.

### **CHILDREN.**

Domingo Silvey, Gastown, Vancouver, B.C., 1874.

Mary A. Silvey, Gastown, Vancouver, B.C., 24 May 1877.

Joe Silvey, Reid Island.

Henry Silvey, Reid Island.

Lena Rose Silvey, Reid Island.

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 16<sup>th</sup> 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