

**Early Vancouver**

**Volume Three**

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**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**

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### **SAWMILL AT EAGLE HARBOUR.**

“Caulfeild, who lived in this cottage” (Bailey photo) “and Mowatt, our account, started to build a mill in that little double cove just around Point Atkinson; they got it about half built, and then, I don’t know exactly what happened, but it never ran.”

### **THE MILL HOUSE.**

“At first we lived in the little cottage, then we went to live in the house shown here in this C.P.R. map” (Cambie, 22 February 1886) “and finally we built our third house on the southeast corner of Dunlevy and Gore Avenue; it is still standing.”

### **INDIAN SLAVES.**

“There was a rumour once that the Cape Mudge Indians were down and were ‘outside’” (English Bay.) “Our Indians were alarmed and stayed pretty close in; they were afraid. We had an Indian boy, Douglas, by name; both his parents were slaves, in slavery up north somewhere.”

### **15 DECEMBER 1933 – CONVERSATION WITH FRED W. ALEXANDER, SON OF R.H. ALEXANDER, OF THE HASTINGS SAWMILL (MANAGER), AND AFTER WHOM ALEXANDER STREET IS NAMED.**

#### **MOODYVILLE RIFLE RANGE.**

“Dr. Bell-Irving used to go over to the old Rifle Range to shoot—and shot Mrs. Lynn’s cow.” (Lynn Creek.) “Don’t just know how he did it, got impatient or something, and let go; anyway, he ‘got’ the cow, and I believe paid her” (Mrs. Lynn.)

(Note by J.S.M.: The old Moodyville Rifle Range was not fenced, but just a couple of targets set up, and the small bushes on the flats between Seymour and Lynn Creek, cleared away. I was often over there about 1900; if there were any firing points, then they were very primitive ones; my recollection is that riflemen fired from clear spots in the grass at the different distances.

The Moodyville Rifle Range was never used by the militia—they used Brownsville or Central Park until they got Richmond in 1904. Occasionally an officer of the militia or the visiting warships might have an afternoon’s practice over there, but for years it was the private range of the Vancouver Rifle Association, a very early semi-military organisation.)

### **MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH HAROLD E. RIDLEY.**

(See Genealogy form.)

#### **STANLEY PARK, SECOND BEACH. VERY EARLY SQUATTERS.**

“I asked Mr. Ridley what he thought of the stories of the Cariboo Miners camping for a few days or weeks at Second Beach owing to the Fraser River being in flood and the mosquitoes ‘awful’ in the spring and summer of 1858 when the van of the gold rush started.” (See Joe Sievewright.)

Mr. Ridley: “A long time ago there was an old log cabin, built entirely of logs, which stood, perhaps, about three hundred yards from Second Beach, and about fifty yards from the water, on the west side of Lost Lagoon, about where Haro Street would touch if produced. When the Parks Board put a road through there, they destroyed it—it was still standing then—I presume because it looked ugly; it was just a tottering wreck then; and was between the road the water. The Parks Board did a lot of cleaning out in there. It was just a small log cabin; it was very old even when I first remember it. I often wondered who built it, but never knew.” (See R.W. Harrison.)

#### **WARSHIPS. CANNON SHOT.**

I asked Mr. Ridley what he thought of the muzzle-loading cannon shot, seven-inch diameter, eighteen inches long (about), weight 111 pounds, with six brass or bronze rifling studs, found on the beach near the Nine O’Clock Gun, Brockton Point, 27 January 1934, where it had seemingly rolled out of the bank on to the shore. (See Otway Wilkie and Shells – Cannon Shot.)

**H.M.S. SWIFTSURE. H.M.S. TRIUMPH. ADMIRAL SEYMOUR.**

Mr. Ridley: "The first warship I ever saw the H.M.S. *Swiftsure*, a great big square rigger, steam propelled, in English Bay. I was just a kid then, and don't remember much about her, except that we all went over to see the wonderful ship. I remember quite clearly Admiral Seymour and H.M.S. *Triumph*; they used to salute with 21 guns on May 24<sup>th</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup>, on Burrard Inlet. But what they would be doing firing seven-inch shell I do not know; they were not firing at Indians; the Indians gave no bother; there was never a shot fired on Burrard Inlet at any time to impress the Indians."

**OPPENHEIMER WAREHOUSE. CEMENT. THE GREAT FIRE.**

"At the time of the fire the foundations of the Oppenheimer warehouse at the southeast corner of Powell and Columbia Avenue were just in, but it was all stone; there was no cement used in those days; just stone and mortar. There was a basement, oh yes, fairly deep, too, but the walls were of stone; I remember it so well because after the fire I saw the carcass of a cow still in it." (See Frank W. Hart, and the using of the basement for shelter during the fire.)

**MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH HAROLD E. RIDLEY, 1956 VENABLES STREET, 28 SEPTEMBER 1933.**

**GASTOWN. THE RIDLEY PHOTO OF GASTOWN.**

Mr. Ridley brought down, and loaned for copying, an early photo of Gastown. It is the one which was afterwards etched as "Gastown, 1882," original of etching being in the files of the *Province*. The different buildings are named. It was probably drawn at the instance of the late Cecil Carter-Cotton, an early reporter, son of the Hon. F.L. Carter-Cotton, of the *News-Advertiser*, and, at the time of his death, a reporter on the *Province*.

The same picture was published in the *Sun* at some unknown date, and is captioned "Water Street in 1875." Mr. Ridley was looking at the photograph.

Mr. Ridley: "I was born at the Hastings Sawmill in 1875. *My people told me that this photo was as Gastown looked when I was born.* I do not know when the photograph was taken, and the fact that it is marked 1875 or 1882 proves nothing."

**GASSY JACK.**

"On the left is the entrance to the Deighton House. Gassy Jack had a previous building to this one. It stood to the east and nearer the shore than the southwest corner of Carrall Street and Water Street. It was just a barn of a place, board and batten uprights. I recall it quite well. We were told it was moved from where it was because it was probably on the Hastings Mill property, but I guess you are right when you say it was probably moved because it was in the middle of Carrall Street" (see Trutch's Map of the "Town of Granville, 1870") "after Granville was surveyed. We did not know actually why it was moved."

**FROM THE MAINLAND GUARDIAN OF 1874.**

**DEIGHTON'S  
HOTEL  
Granville**

This newly constructed and commodious Hotel, is situated close to Hastings Sawmills, on Burrard Inlet.

The establishment is replete with all the comforts of a home. The furniture and everything connected the fittings are new. The large and comfortable parlors, single and double bedrooms, extensive dining-rooms are furnished in every respect with care, and are under the experienced management of Mrs. Thos. DEIGHTON.

Granville is in daily communication with New Westminster by Steamer and Stages.

For Invalids or Sportsmen, no better location can be found in the province, and the charges will be found to suit the times.