

Early Vancouver

Volume Four

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Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1935-1939.

Supplemental to Volumes One, Two and Three collected in 1931-1934.

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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MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH EX-REEVE EDWARD GOLD OF THE FORMER MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH VANCOUVER, SON OF LOUIS GOLD OF THE "GOLD HOUSE," WATER STREET, GRANVILLE, BURRARD INLET, 28 APRIL 1936. (JEWISH FAITH.)

REEVE EDWARD GOLD.

Mr. Gold said: "I was born in Kentucky, U.S.A. in 1868, and came to Granville with my mother, 1873, by Lewis' stage on the Hastings Road, the End of the Road, and then by a little old ferry boat to Moodyville, and then on to Gastown, and landed at a floating pontoon owned by Joe Mannion of the Granville Hotel. I was five years old."

LOUIS GOLD, OF THE "GOLD HOUSE," GRANVILLE, BURRARD INLET. MRS. EMMA GOLD.

"Father, Louis Gold, had come to Gastown in 1872; I don't know why, but he had come to run a store; anyway he had a store when we arrived, and was catering to Indians, loggers, longshoremen, and sailors; there were only sailing ships here then; I think he had come to Victoria from San Francisco, and thence by tug to Burrard Inlet.

"His first store he rented from 'Gassy Jack'; some sort of a little building on the shore side of what is now Water Street, and there was a two-plank sidewalk to it. Then he bought three lots, sixty-six feet lots on Water Street, from the Clarkson estate, and paid \$550 for the three. These lots are now Swartz Bros., Chess Bros., and the B.C. Fruit Co. warehouse sites. Father died at Kamloops, 7th February, 1907, and is buried Mountain View Cemetery; Mother died April 20th, 1939."

M.A. MACLEAN. THE FIRST CIVIC ELECTION. 3 MAY 1886. GOLD'S BUGGY.

"MacLean was practically unknown; against him was Alexander of the Hastings Sawmill; Alexander was the 'big stick' of the mill. My father worked hard for MacLean, and that commenced a lifelong dislike of Alexander for my father. When MacLean was elected the people were so elated that they took my father's buggy, put MacLean in the seat, got in the shafts themselves and hauled him all over what there was of the little town, 'round and 'round Cordova Street and Water Street. MacLean was sitting in the buggy all by himself, looking wise and smiling. It was not dark, as far as I can recall; it was summer time."

THE FIRST VOTERS LIST.

"We had a lot of tenants living in the house boats in front of those Water Street lots I had just told you belonged to us; they all voted; they were entitled to vote. I see in recent daily papers that there were ten wards; that is not correct; there were no wards. Just ten aldermen elected at large."

ROBSON STREET AT HOWE.

"I bought the southeast corner of Howe and Robson in 1891 before Robson Street was a street; where we had a little one-storey bungalow with the wide verandah around it and the big green lawn fenced in, in front. I paid \$10,000 cash for it, 120 feet deep to the lane and 100 feet on Howe Street."

REEVE OF SOUTH VANCOUVER.

"Yes, I was chairman of finance, South Vancouver, in 1914, and Reeve in 1915."

COPY, LETTER, 10 JANUARY 1937, MRS. DAMES, DAUGHTER JOSEPH GONSALVES (ONE OF THE THREE "PORTUGUESE JOES" OF "GASTOWN"), PENDER HARBOUR, TO CITY ARCHIVIST, J.S. MATTHEWS.

Pender Harbor,
January 10th, 1937.

Dear Sir:

I received your letter inquiring about the people buried at Brockton Point.

Can't really tell you how many, but can give you a few who I know. Mr. Peter Smith's daughter; Mr. Tom Drumfield that used to carry the loggers to the camp at Howe Sound. Mrs. McFee had two daughters, but could not give you just the date; it was around the year of 1874.

And, on Dead Mans Island was Mr. John Baker. There are others, but could not give you their names; they were before my time.

Hoping this will be of some help to you.

Yours truly,

Mr. Joseph Gonsalves
Pender Harbor

Note: the letter is not in the handwriting of Mr. Joseph Gonsalves, but probably in that of his daughter, Mrs. Dames, to whom the enquiry was addressed. JSM.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH GOON LING DANG, CANTON ALLEY, PENDER STREET WEST, VANCOUVER, WHO HAS TRADED FOR MANY YEARS AS "JUNG KEE," A TRADE NAME, 6 AUGUST 1936.

The interest in this elderly and very polite Chinaman is that he is probably the earliest Chinese resident of Vancouver now living. Also, that his first wife, a daughter of Wah Chong, the only Chinaman listed under "Burrard Inlet," Williams Directory, 1882-3, was probably the first Oriental school pupil in Vancouver, as she attended the Hastings Sawmill School.

WAH CHONG. GOON LING DANG. "JUNG KEE."

Mr. Goon said, in moderately good English, but by no means fluent: "I first came to British Columbia from Canton in 1877; fifty-nine years ago. I came over in a sailing ship, and we were fifty-six days on the trip; just a small sailing ship about two-hundred feet long. I don't know why I came; I was just a young fellow, about eighteen, and wanted to go somewhere; they said Victoria was a good place to go. The fare was thirty-eight dollars, which I borrowed. When I arrived at Victoria I found it just a small place, very small place, and I had friends there. There was only fifty dollars to pay" (query: did he say that or was he referring to 1885) "then" (Chinese immigration tax) "and my friends gave me work in a laundry, washing by hand.

"Then in 1885 I came over to Vancouver, and have stayed here ever since. There are older Chinaman in Vancouver, but I do not know of one who is my age, seventy-seven, who has stayed here all that time.

"Yes, that's right. I married Wah Chong's daughter; Wah Chong had two daughters and three sons, one daughter my first wife, other daughter in China, I don't think she come back; of his three sons, one died, other two in Winnipeg. My wife died about fourteen years ago. She was the mother of our only son and only daughter. My son, same name as me, Goon Ling Dang, works in the *Chinese Times* newspaper, Carrall Street; my daughter lives on Georgia Street.

"Then I married again, and my second wife has six daughters and one son.

"I was here during the big fire in 1886; everyday I see Vancouver grow bigger and bigger.

"Jung Kee is not my name; just a store name. I have a store on Dupont Street in the old days, but the Great Northern buy the whole of it for their railway station. Not much business now. One time quite a lot of business, but no one got any money now."

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH W.A. GRAFTON OF 542 WEST 63RD, FORMERLY OF GRAFTON BAY, GRAFTON LAKE, BOWEN ISLAND, AND ETC., 20 MAY 1937.

EARLY PILOTAGE.

"At the first going off the pilots were fighting each other" (Mr. Grafton means the pilotage of ships to the Hastings Sawmill, and Moodyville Sawmill, as he first recalled it about 1887) "for business. The pilots lived in Victoria, and came over from Victoria and hired a boat from Andy Linton's" (at the foot of Carrall Street), "and went out into English Bay to meet the ships, sometimes ships coming in under their own sail, but mostly all with American tugs; the pilots would 'speak' the ships off Point Atkinson or Point Grey, and the first pilot got it. Sometimes the pilot rowed himself; sometimes hired a man."