

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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DEIGHTON HOTEL. GRANVILLE HOTEL. JOSEPH MANNION. DAN MCNAUGHTON.

"It makes me boil when I read the stuff which is printed about 'Gastown.' There was no 'rough stuff' allowed; if you had a wallet of money you would be just as safe in one of the Gastown hotels as if you were in the Hotel Vancouver today. So far as my opinion goes, the Deighton Hotel was run just as well as any well-conducted hotel in Vancouver is today, and so far as Joe Mannion's Granville Hotel is concerned, it was run equally as well, if not better, than any well-conducted hotel is today. The Granville Hotel was a respectable first-class hotel, and the people who ran it were as good as the best. Dan McNaughton, the bartender, was respected by everybody, and had the confidence of every logger in the country, and he was well known by everybody. He afterwards ran a cigar store for years on the corner of Cordova and Carrall streets."

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH CAPT. T.J. JACKMAN, 19 OCTOBER 1936.

JOHN THOMAS. "NAVY JACK." WEST VANCOUVER.

Capt. Jackman: "'Navy Jack?' Why, I knew him quite well; a fine man; he had an Indian wife. He was the man who packed a piano weighing 200 pounds from Quesnel to Barkerville, and got one dollar a pound for doing it; packed it on his back; two hundred pounds, not one hundred, two hundred; a big, fine, strong man. He did that in 1862."

EXCERPT, LETTER, 21 MAY 1937, MRS. (MAJOR) LACEY R. JOHNSON, MONTRÉAL, TO MAJOR J.S. MATTHEWS, CITY ARCHIVIST.

"You will no doubt know that my husband laid the foundation stone, and was one with Mr. H.J. Cambie and Mr." (D.B.) "Charleson who stood in the gap when the lower part of the building was seized for debt."

Note by J.S.M.: This refers to what is known as the "Roothouse," or basement of Christ Church Cathedral (see map of it in Dakin's Fire Map, 1889); the "gap" means that the church was in financial difficulties after they left the Durham Block on Granville Street.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH (FORMER LIEUTENANT) W.H. JORDAN OF 725 JERVIS STREET, VANCOUVER, 6 NOVEMBER 1936.

JOHN DEIGHTON. "GASSY JACK." "GASTOWN."

Mr. Jordan said: "In 1925, when he was out here from Maidenhead, England, on a visit, I was talking with an old man named Hulbert; we used to stroll around the West End together; he had been out here in a warship at Esquimalt, first in 1856, and he used to delight in talking about his experiences in those early days. I always remember what he told me about coming to Burrard Inlet with "Gassy Jack" in 1864; how he came from New Westminster with him. "Gassy Jack" had heard some rumours about something; what they were I don't know, but anyway, the two of them came over to Burrard Inlet together, but my old friend, Mr. Hulbert, had to get back to his ship at Esquimalt, and did not stay; I don't know what ship it was.

"Anyway, the next year, when his warship was somewhere around here, perhaps out in English Bay, he came ashore and visited 'Gassy Jack,' and by that time Gassy Jack had got his shack built, and everything in shipshape order. Anyway, Mr. Hulbert, told me he was so taken with the location that he decided that when he got out of the navy, he would come back, and 'Gassy Jack' and he were going partners."

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH JAMES BROWN KAY, 1150 COMOX STREET, AT THE CITY ARCHIVES OFFICE, 19 FEBRUARY 1936.

I told Mr. Kay that I had that morning had a conversation with Dr. Robertson re first hospital, and had shown Dr. Robertson the photo of a gang of men laying the first street car rails on Powell Street between Heatley and Carl Avenue (passing street car siding). (See photo C.V. P. Trans. 11, N. Trans. 7.)