

Early Vancouver

Volume Four

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2011 Edition (Originally Published 1944)

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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From the whole, I deduce that, conversation between Indians and pioneer whites, being carried on largely in Chinook, would include references to the island; that the Squamish referred to it as “memaloos Siwash illahie,” “village of the dead houses on the island,” and that whitemen would, unconsciously, interpret the expression to mean, “island where the dead are,” i.e. “Deadman’s Island” or “Dead Indian Land.”

Vancouver, B.C.
31 October 1939.

J.S. Matthews

EXCERPT, *PROVINCE*, TUESDAY, 11 AUGUST 1936.

CAPT. JOHN IRVING.

Capt. Irving knew Vancouver even before “Gastown” existed, for the famous “Gassy Jack” Deighton, after whom “Gastown” was named worked for him as a Fraser River pilot.

EXCERPT, *MAINLAND GUARDIAN*, NEW WESTMINSTER, 15 APRIL 1874, VOL. 10, NO. 12.

Item.

CAPT. DEIGHTON TAKES CHARGE.—Our citizens will join us in congratulating Capt. John Deighton, who is now in full charge of the steamer Onward, and will conduct her in future over the track that he has traversed so often in former days. We have at the same time to bid adieu to Capt. John Irving who goes to take command of the Glenora, and proceed with her to Stickeen River. We are sure that the community without exception, will wish him good fortune and long life. We cannot forget the fact that he has grown up amongst us, and that we feel as if we were parting with a member of the family. We sincerely trust that his new venture will realize his most sanguine expectations, and that she may acquit herself as the “Onward” has always done.

EXCERPT, *MAINLAND GUARDIAN*, NEW WESTMINSTER, 15 APRIL 1874, VOL. 10, NO. 12.

Advertisement.

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 with 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.

JOHN DEIGHTON,
Proprietor.

EXCERPT, *MAINLAND GUARDIAN*, 9 JUNE 1875.

DEATH OF J. DEIGHTON

We have to record the passing away of another of our pioneers. Death has been busy with us lately, and he spares none, young or old, he does his fell work without respect to age or station.

Captain Deighton was an original in his way, and his name became almost a household word with most of our citizens. Although uncouth occasionally in his language, he possessed a

good heart, and was never niggardly with his gifts when he had an object for his generosity. An Englishman by birth, he had a good deal of that bluff humor so common with his countrymen, and which rendered him famous in this district; had fortune favored him in his early years with a good education he would have been, we doubt not, a valuable and useful citizen. As it was, though restricted in his means of action he filled his position with credit. Captain Deighton was about 45 years of age when he died. He was a native of Hull, England, and followed the sea in his early years. He came to California in 1849, and mined for a number of years. When the gold fever broke out in this country, he came up here in 1858 and was for a time in the revenue service in connection with Captain Kirk.

He afterwards engaged with Captain Moore, and sailed in the *Henrietta* before and after she became a steamer. He subsequently was captain of the *Flying Dutchman* steamer, and at various times was Captain and Pilot on the river boats. He was the first, and the best pilot on the Fraser.

For some years he had been a licensed victualler at Burrard Inlet, and erected the building now known as Deighton's hotel, where he was celebrated for his good table and his warm hospitality. Although opposed to many of his neighbors in politics, he always held his own in argument, and was looked upon as a sort of authority in such matters.

With all his "brusquerie," he was really a very affectionate and dutiful son. When he spoke of his private affairs, his mother, who still lives in England, always held the chief place.

He has a brother in Victoria who resided with him for a short time at the Inlet, and sisters who are residing at his native place, Hull.

He will leave a good round sum for his relatives, but as far as we have been able to ascertain, he died intestate. It is said he made a will, but no clue can be obtained to its whereabouts. He was unmarried.

EXCERPT, *MAINLAND GUARDIAN*, 12 JUNE 1875 (SATURDAY).

We omitted to mention in our obituary of Mr. Deighton that the Rev. Mr. Turner held a service which was numerously attended, at Deighton's Hotel on Sunday evening last. The remains of Mr. Deighton were then brought to this city, and a great number of our citizens followed them to the Masonic cemetery, where interment took place, Mr. Turner officiating at the grave.

It appears that a will had been executed by the deceased, who appointed Messrs. E. Walsh and I. Johns his executors. The whole of his real and personal estate is devised to an illegitimate son, now about four years of age.

This little half-Indian son of "Gassy Jack" was, according to Mrs. Alice Crakanthorp, pioneer of 1873, "such a dear little fellow, and we called him 'The Earl of Granville.'"

FOWLS AND THEIR EGGS.

Excerpt, "Vancouver in the Days of Yore."

A clipping pasted in the rough folder given me by Mrs. Dr. H.A. Christie, which belonged to Joseph Mannion, whose daughter she is. The clipping is marked "Jan 6th 1912," "BY OLD TIMER," "Joe Mannion." It reads as though written by (Alderman) Joseph Mannion of Granville and Vancouver. If printed "Jan 6th 1912" it will probably be found in the *Province*, though it might be in the *World*.

Jack [*Deighton*, "*Gassy Jack*"] landed at his destination [*unnamed Gastown*] early in the afternoon in a light drizzle, with his family, consisting of his leman, her mother, her cousin, her big Indian who was the motive power, and on whom Jack often cast green-eyed looks, a yellow dog, two chickens, two weak-backed chairs and a barrel of whisky completed the outfit, [*etc., etc.*]