

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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white bow under her chin, and two children in front of them; in the photo of the house, you will, with the aid of a magnifying glass, find these four figures grouped in the doorway, wearing the same hats, white bow, etc., and on the right are grouped some of the ladies of the picnic party, whose hats can be identified as some of those standing on the scow in the other photo, showing that all three photos were taken on the same day. Again, looking at the picture of the tug and scow with the magnifying glass, you can identify the house in the distance as being the same house as in the companion photo. There is not doubt that it is the old Dalgleish" (or Fraser) "house.

"The paddle-wheel tug beside the scow is the *Richmond*; owned I am told by a Capt. Robertson, who is looking out of the wheelhouse.

"I knew the Jericho Beach and flats well, as during the winter of 1890-91 I used to go there by boat to shoot duck and snipe on the swamps at the weekends; in fact, that was the way I came to know Mr. and Mrs. Dalgleish, and afterwards, between November 1892 and December 1894, I often saw them during that time when I played gold over the nine-hole course which the Vancouver Golf Club constructed on the flats as sub-tenants of Mr. Dalgleish, who had a lease from the Admiralty."

Statement by F.M. Chaldecott, 15 August 1935.

"The above is correct.

"(Signed) F.M. Chaldecott."

For photographs, see C.V. P.Be. 17, 40, 41.

FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH F.M. CHALDECOTT, 15 AUGUST 1935.

FIRST CUSTOMS HOUSE.

"The Hamilton Building, owned by L.A. Hamilton of the C.P.R., on the southeast corner of Hastings and Granville streets, where the Canadian Bank of Commerce is now, was occupied by Berteaux, the grocery man of the corner, the Customs House, where Capt. Worsnop, afterwards Colonel, was next up Granville Street, and John Reid next down Hastings Street; upstairs was Dr. A.M. Robertson—he was single and still is—in his office and rooms; Dr. Robertson was in charge of the first hospital."

FIRST HOSPITAL.

(See Dr. Robertson, C.P.R. doctor in Vol. 3.)

"The Springer and Braemer" (?) "block was across the street; I think Harvey Haddon who gave the park at Kitsilano Beach, owned the corner where the Royal Bank is now. Ask Calland about it. The pile of white broken boulders might be the foundation of the Delbruck Block." (See photo P. Str. 17, N. Str. 5.)

[OAK TREE.]

IF the oak tree referred to is the oak tree inside Brockton Pt. Athletic Grounds just behind the cricket pavilion, then I think the writer of the article is in error. For the reason that the tree I refer to was planted by Mrs. Hamersley [*the wife of A. St. George Hamersley, who was then president of the Brockton Point Association*] in August 1902 in commemoration of the coronation of King Edward. I was a member of the board of the Brockton A. Assn. at the time, but was not present at the planting of the tree, but I well remember that it was a small seedling in a flower pot at the time as it was August.

Of course there may have been another oak tree planted by the present king, but I have no recollection of the ceremony, but it could well have taken place without my knowledge. I think my memory is correct about the Coronation Oak, and an account of the ceremony probably could be found in the "News-Advertiser," or "Province," in the first issue after the date of coronation in 1902. All this may be quite unnecessary if it is an error of the writer of the article.

Yours sincerely,

F.M. Chaldecott.

Of course my memory may be at fault, but that can be settled by looking up the newspapers of both 1901 and the 1902 August.

(See photo No. C.V. P. Tr. 11, N. St. 14.)

JOHN MOLE. HUGH MAGEE. F.M. CHALDECOTT.

Excerpt, letter, 21 April 1937, F.M. Chaldecott to City Archivist.

“In order to give access to his farm D.L. 315 and 321, Hugh Magee and I gazetted this road” (Magee Road, now 49th Avenue West) “which was cleared by Hugh Magee, who made the first rough wagon road, which saved Mr. Mole and himself several miles haul for their milk wagons.”

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH F.M. CHALDECOTT, SOLICITOR, ONE OF THE ORGANISERS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH VANCOUVER, 15 AUGUST 1935.

TWIGGE ISLAND, NORTH ARM, FRASER RIVER.

“Twigge Island was not named after S.K. Twigge, or General Twigge, his brother, but after the nephew of both, that is, Conley Twigge, who owned it, and had a milk ranch on it. He was there in 1890 or 1891; how much before that I do not know.”

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. J. CHARTERS, 2725 STEPHENS STREET, KITSILANO, VANCOUVER, BAY. 3382Y AT ARCHIVES OFFICE, CITY HALL, 20 FEBRUARY 1936.

SIMON FRASER RELIC.

Mrs. Charters brought to the office an inlaid needlework box, probably of walnut, inlaid with pearl, about nine inches by twelve inches and six inches deep, with little boxes, done in pink silk lining, inside for needlework accessories. The box is undoubtedly early Victorian.

On the bottom of the box is written—outside bottom—the following inscription:

A GIFT TO JANE S. WARD FROM HER DEAR KIND OLD FRIEND GRACE MARIA FRASER
AUGUST 19th, 1864 COTEAU DE LAC

and below the above, in writing of later date:

FROM JANE WARD TO HER DEAR DAUGHTER ON HER 21st BIRTHDAY, PORT HOPE, OCT.
1868

(Note: Major J.S. Matthews has since—March 1936—purchased the sewing box; it is now in City Archives.)

Mrs. Charters said: “It belonged to Grace Fraser, sister of Simon Fraser, and was presented to Jane Ward. Miss Ward was her friend, but was probably no blood relation.

“I” (Mrs. Charters) “am a close friend of Mrs. Mary Miller, and am acting for her in the disposal of her relics of which this is one, as Mrs. Miller is contemplating breaking up her large home at 3968 Beatrice Street, South Vancouver, preparatory to going east. Mrs. Miller is a widow and is now about—approximately only—say, 70; no descendants. Her husband, S.L. Miller, was a teacher in the King Edward High School here. Miss Winnie Ward, who is now 89, and living at Port Hope, is a daughter of Jane Ward, to whom the box was originally presented by Simon Fraser’s sister.

“The Wards originally lived at Coteau du Lac in the home of Simon Fraser, which they purchased, and in which Simon Fraser, his sister, Grace, and Mary Miller, were all born.

“Jane S. Ward was sister to Mrs. Mary Miller’s father, Capt. Michael Wilkes Bailey, who also owned Fraser’s old home.

“Her dear daughter is Miss Winnie Ward of Port Hope, now aged 89.”