

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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muster,' that means that we all dig up together, it's a nautical term, and we raised the \$500 and covered the bet. This was in the forenoon. When Dave came to his lunch at one o'clock it was a customary thing for him to go to the bar and buy a drink for who was there. He saw me standing there, and he said, 'Come on over and join us'; he whispered in my ear, 'I heard you made a bet today. If you lose it I will make good.' That will give you an idea of the type of man Dave Oppenheimer was. All that I can say that if there ever was a good fellow, Dave Oppenheimer was one."

FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH CAPT. T. JACKMAN, 2 MAY 1936.

H.B. ABBOTT. SUNNYSIDE HOTEL. C.P.R. OFFICES, GRANVILLE, BURRARD INLET. THE GREAT FIRE, 1886.

"I was an employee of Alderman Harry Hemlow at the time of the fire; he was lessee of the Sunnyside Hotel; I was chief factotum; general manager they would call it in these days of high sounding titles, but just 'boss' in those days. The staff of the C.P.R. in Vancouver at that time was just three men" (not quite correct); "Mr. Abbott, his secretary Mr. Turine" (sic) "and a man named Smith, and when the fire came down on us, I was just clearing out when Mr. Turine" (?) "came rushing across the square from the Ferguson Block" (southeast corner Carrall and Powell) "where the C.P.R. had their offices on the upper floor, with three big bundles of notes" (money), "and wanted me to put them in our safe. I rushed back, and put them in the safe, but the fit was so tight I had to jam them in with my foot before I could close the safe. The safe was in about the middle of the building."

DEPTH OF WATER UNDER SUNNYSIDE HOTEL.

"When the hotel burned the safe fell through the floor and there was about ten feet of water below; it fell into that, and was the only safe in town which came through the fire unharmed." (Disputed. J.S.M.)

"Other safes survived in more or less damaged condition; one or two nothing more than so much amalgam, but, except for being wet, the contents of the Sunnyside safe were as good as ever."

MAJOR GENERAL J.W. STEWART, C.B.

"I have just been up to see my old employer General Stewart in his office on Granville Street; he is getting older. I worked for him on the Skeena River during construction days, was master of a river steamer, and so on. He was a splendid man to be associated with."

Original signed, "O.K.—T.J. Jackman."

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH CAPT. T.J. JACKMAN, RITZ APARTMENTS, GEORGIA STREET, 29 AUGUST 1936.

JOHN THOMAS. "NAVY JACK."

Mr. Jackman said: "When I first came here in 1882, 'Navy Jack' was living in a shack by the 'Hole in the Wall' at the foot of Abbott Street, in a shack behind the 'Parsonage'; he also had a place on the west side of the Capilano Creek across the Narrows, and was living with an Indian woman.

"'Navy Jack' was a man about five feet eight or nine, good complexion, very good, almost florid, weighed about 160 or 170, with a mustache, square shoulders, heavy built man, and he would be about 50 or 55 then. He died soon after—about a year or two—probably 1884 or 1885, anyway before the fire, and may be buried on Deadman's Island or in the park at Brockton Point.

"I used to talk to him quite a lot. He had been up in the Barkerville country in the early days; in the early sixties. He had been master of a boat running from Soda Creek to Quesnel. I was a very young man, he was much older, but he was always very agreeable to me. He liked the ladies; very fond of ladies; liked their company.

"To me he was just an ordinary man; used ordinary language; never coarse. I was mate on the *Etta White* at the time, and when we came over from Moodyville I would meet him on the beach or around the saloons; there was no other place—other than the saloons—where we could meet. He was just an ordinary westerner; nothing outstanding about him."