

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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Refer, City Archives episode, Christmas week, 1938.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. ALICE CRAKANTHROP, 1622 CHARLES STREET, GRANDVIEW, AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, CITY HALL, 22 MAY 1936.

Mrs. Crakanthorp is accepted as the first authentic white birth on Alberni Canal (Stamp's Mill), her mother being Mrs. Emily Susan Patterson, the "Heroine of Moodyville." She was accompanied by her only daughter (unmarried).

"PORTUGUESE JOE." JOSEPH SILVEY. JOSEPH GONSALVES.

City Archivist: Who were the two "Portuguese Joes"?

Mrs. Crakanthorp: "Joseph Silva." (See his letter 1868 applying for lease of land, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2, which he signs with an "X" for his mark and a signature, "Silvy," although "Silvey" being now used by his descendants.) "Joseph Silva, he was 'Portuguese Joe'; he had a general store in Gastown; the other 'Portuguese Joe' was Joseph Gonsalves, now of Pender Harbour, and he was a fisherman and longshoreman, and lived with his family at Brockton Point." (See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3.)

GREGORIS FERNANDEZ.

City Archivist: Well, who was Gregoris Fernandez who advertises in the *Mainland Guardian* about 1874 that he sells the best coffee in British Columbia at Granville?

Mrs. Crakanthorp: "I never heard of him. Joe Silva was well established when we came in 1873. I remember, because when I was about nine years old—I was born in 1864—Mother gave me fifty cents for Christmas; it wasn't much, but we thought it was a lot, and we all went down there to buy a Christmas treat. My sisters bought ribbons for their hair, but I bought a pack of cards and a string of beads; Joe was well established then as a general store."

PORTUGUESE JOE'S DEATH. JOSEPH SILVEY'S DEATH.

"He got into a fight with someone; I don't know who—had a bad fight, and he got stabbed, I think in the leg, and gangrene set in, and he died. I don't know where he was buried, but I think it was Deadman's Island; that was long, long before the Fire." (Something very inaccurate here. J.S.M. Perhaps my mistake; or she may mean Fernandez.)

DR. MASTERS OF GRANVILLE.

"He was a good doctor and a nice man. He came from the Channel Islands. It was sad about his death. Mrs. George Black was very fond of him, and when he took ill, he had to be taken by stage to New Westminster on the old Douglas Road, and of course they passed Mrs. Black's hotel. He wanted her to ride on the stage with him—to hold his head up—but she declined as she did not think 'it would look well.' He died in New Westminster."

HASTINGS SAWMILL SCHOOL. MISS SWEENEY. MRS. RICHARDS, MRS. BENJAMIN SPRINGER. FIRST SCHOOL TEACHERS. MRS. PETER CORDINER. MISS REDFERN.

"The first school teacher was Miss Sweeney; I do not recall her. We did not reach Hastings Sawmill until April 1873, but I was attending school there before 10th May. I recall Mrs. Richards very clearly; she was a big woman with a slightly aquiline nose, very neat, ambitious, held a teacher's third class certificate, sang, and understood singing, owned, and played upon, the first piano in what is now Vancouver; she played quite nicely. Originally she was a Methodist, but after her marriage to Benjamin Springer—he was bookkeeper when she married him, but afterwards manager of the Moodyville Sawmill—she attended the Anglican church" (St. James.) "She gave quite delightful garden parties, house parties, and afternoon teas; played tennis, and, on one occasion, gave a very elaborate entertainment at her elegant home on the cliff of Moodyville, above the mill, and had an orchestra over to it; it was quite an affair which attracted much notice, and many attended. Mrs. Peter Cordiner came after Mrs. Richards; she was a first-class teacher, and remained a long time; then came the first male teacher, Mr. Johnson, and finally, the last, Mr. Palmer. I do not know Mr. Stainburn, whom you say was here in 1882; I think he must have been the teacher who remained but a very short time. Oh, I have forgotten Miss Redfern; she came after Mrs."

Richards, for a short time; she sang nicely; her father was mayor of Victoria. Miss Emily Gardiner, and Miss Agnes Dean Cameron, the Canadian authoress, both taught for a short time in the early eighties.”

FIRST DRUG STORE. MCCARTNEY.

“The first drug store was McCartney’s, Fred and William, brothers and partners. William’s mother was an Englishwoman, but Allan McCartney, the third brother, who was tallyman at the Hastings Mill, was of dark blood; both Fred and Allan had dark wooly hair on their heads. Their grandfather was quite ‘great’; he was governor of some island, perhaps Bermuda, but I think it was Jamaica; Mrs. McCartney was an accomplished musician, with a diploma for singing and teaching.”

JERRY ROGERS OF JERICHO.

“Jerry Rogers was a roughish diamond; tanned by the weather, and once, there was going to be a great ball, and they said he had to go to it. He did not want to go, but they said he must. His complexion was well tanned by weather, through so much outdoor work; he washed his face in buttermilk for weeks before the ball.”

At this point, the conversation was broken off due to the arrival of Mrs. W.C. Duncan (Nora Duncan), poetess of 154 East Windsor Road, North Vancouver, author of the poem “The Heroine of Moodyville,” published in the *Vancouver General Hospital Nurses’ Annual*, 1936, and also in the *Chatelaine* for June 1936. Mrs. Duncan was introduced to Mrs. Crakanthorp, daughter of the “Heroine of Moodyville,” and her daughter, Miss Crakanthorp. (See below.)

SENATOR (LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR) NELSON. THE “BIG HOUSE,” MOODYVILLE. BENJAMIN SPRINGER. MRS. SPRINGER (MRS. RICHARDS.)

Looking at photo of Benjamin Springer’s residence, No. P. Bu. 2 N. Bu. 51, on cliff above sawmill at Moodyville, lawn sloping, wide verandah on three sides, trees of forest behind, Mrs. Crakanthorp continued:

“That house was built when I was about eleven, that is, in 1875, and for Senator Nelson; Mr. Springer lived in it after he became manager. We called it the “Big House,” and so it was to us in those days. The tug *Senator* was named after Senator Nelson.

“Mrs. Springer had very lovely hair; Mr. Springer was a fine man.”

The above read and approved by Mrs. Crakanthorp, and so stated to me, 2 June 1936.

J.S. Matthews.

WRECK OF BARQUE BEACHED AT HASTINGS MILL.

Theo. Bryant of Ladysmith has been writing the *Province* about a wreck beached near the old Hastings Mill. “I cannot remember her name, but she was a barque which broke her forefoot coming from Victoria, and was beached alongside of the Mill Store at Hastings Mill; lay there for several years until the beachcombers had nearly pulled her to pieces for the iron. She was there until 1878 or 1879, and the men who took the ship to pieces sold the little cannon to the Indians at North Vancouver; they” (the Indians) “used to fire them off once in a while. She afterwards rolled right over on her side in the mud, broke up, and went to pieces.”

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION, 18 JUNE 1936, WITH MRS. ALICE CRAKANTHROP, 1622 CHARLES STREET, WHO CAME TO BURRARD INLET IN APRIL 1873.

CORNELIS WRECKED BARQUE, 1871. HASTINGS SAWMILL.

Mrs. Crakanthorp said: “The ship which appears in the photo which Miss Lawson of Victoria has sent you, was lying on the beach by the Hastings Mill wharf when we came to Burrard Inlet in 1873. It was lying on its side” (as shown in the photo) “deep in the mud of the beach close up to the wharf and south of the Hastings Mill store. One story was that it had been purposely put there and abandoned; the other that it had drifted in on the tide; we children did not know what to believe.