

## 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

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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."

**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.)