

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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MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MISS M.I. KEITH, 1400 BEACH AVENUE, DAUGHTER OF J.C. KEITH, ESQ., FIRST MANAGER, BANK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, VANCOUVER, WHO CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, 31 AUGUST 1939.

HOOD POINT. INVERCRAIG. CATES COVE. D.L. 823.

Miss Keith said: "Both Father and Mother owned Hood Point; originally it was bought from the two young Simpsons, and then—I don't know exactly how—but Mr. Newland wanted to put up an hotel, and the hotel was built, and then—I don't know how—but it came back on Father's hands, and then we used it as a summer home, and we called it 'Invercraig' because it was 'between the rocks,' and we had a little gasoline launch—about forty-five feet; she is somewhere up north now, and used commercially; and we named her the *Invercraig*."

EXCERPT, LETTER, 8 SEPTEMBER 1939, D.A. MATHESON, MAYO, YUKON.

"C.P.R. TOWNSITE." CLEARING THE FOREST.

"I came to Vancouver in 1885. I cleared much of the C.P.R. portion of Vancouver Townsite; some of the work was done under contract from the C.P.R.; the balance by day labor under my supervision. Much of the timber on the townsite was cut into three foot wood for locomotive use. Mr. L.A. Hamilton was C.P.R. land Commissioner, and my work was under his department; I had over one hundred men at work."

EXCERPT, LETTER, F.W. ALEXANDER, 725 HENRY BUILDING, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, TO J.S. MATTHEWS, 12 SEPTEMBER 1939.

"You quote from my letter, June 11th 1936. As best I recall, the Alexander family was the first, and only, family owning goats.

"Miss Sweeney was the daughter of the master mechanic of the Hastings Sawmill, and the Sweeney family owned the first cow.

"After the settlement grew, Jonathan Miller, who was constable, kept a herd of cows and was milkman to the community."

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH ERNEST KELLY, SON OF JOHN KELLY, WHO CAME TO BRITISH COLUMBIA, FIRST IN THE BRITISH NAVY IN 1857, NOW OF 2926 EAST 16TH, VANCOUVER, 5 APRIL 1938.

Mr. Kelly said: "Father first came to British Columbia in the British Navy in 1857, and returned to England, then came back two years later to take charge of the Royal Naval Hospital at Esquimalt." (He was shown a tracing of the area among Admiral Hastings' papers.) "Then he went to New Westminster for seven years, to take charge of the hospital there, and he died in 1876.

"John Kelly, my eldest brother, was born in Devonshire in England in 1855; William was also born in Devonshire, in 1858. Bessy, my sister, was born in the hospital at Esquimalt in 1862, James at the Esquimalt Naval Hospital in 1867; Thomas, Frederick, Annie, and myself, Ernest, the youngest, in the Royal Columbian Hospital, New Westminster. The two eldest boys came from England with Mother. I have been trying to get information as to when Father and Mother came here, but without success. I was born in New Westminster in 1875."

CAMBIE STREET BRIDGE. LEAMY AND KYLE'S SAWMILL. GRANVILLE-3RD AVENUE BRIDGE.

"My oldest brother, John Kelly, drove the piles of the False Creek bridge—Granville-3rd Avenue—in 1888. He drove the first pile for the first bridge at Cambie Street; that was a private bridge for Leamy and Kyle. The bridge was built by Leamy and Kyle for the purpose of delivering their lumber to the city, and I have always understood from my brother that Leamy and Kyle paid for it. They afterwards turned it over to the city, but they always claimed that the city did not pay for it. I, myself, knew old Jim Leamy pretty well, and he always said the city never paid for it." (See *News-Advertiser*, 25 and 26 July 1891.)

BURRARD INLET STAGE. LEWIS'S STAGE. ELLIOTT'S STAGE. POST OFFICE.

"I saw the first train come into Port Moody, July 4th 1886. Went over to meet the train on Lewis's stage, George Raymond riding; I rode the stage with him from the first I can remember as a child.

"There were two stage lines to Vancouver from Westminster; came over the Douglas Road. Alfred Mann drove for Elliott; he is still alive, see the telephone book, he lives at 827 Royal Avenue, New Westminster; George Raymond drove for Lewis. We dropped the mail at Hastings; put the Moodyville mail off there, and came on to Gastown. One of the stage lines started in front of Elliott's barn on Columbia Street, corner of Columbia and Douglas—I think it is 4th and 6th Avenue they call it now—and Lewis's stage started at the corner of Columbia and Begbie Street—opposite the B.C. Electric depot now.

"Write John Logan of Langley Prairie, and ask if he has a photo of Elliott's old barn, the old barn, where the stage started."

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. ERNEST KELLY WHO CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, 3 NOVEMBER 1938.

STAGE BUGLES. BURRARD INLET. WESTMINSTER STAGE.

Mr. Kelly: "I find I have made a mistake; they did not have a long horn to blow on the Westminster Gastown stage.

"They tell me that Mr. Lewis, who owned the stage, or Mrs. Lewis, his wife, would blow an ordinary army bugle on the front verandah, or steps, of their place when the stage was about to leave Columbia Street, New Westminster, for Burrard Inlet. That was to assemble the passengers for the stage.

"Lewis's barn was on Columbia Street, near Begbie Street; the stable, the office, and his home, were all together, about opposite the present B.C. Electric tram station for interurban cars.

"The whole story I told you about them using a long horn on the stage was wrong; they never did.

"It was a bugle Mr. or Mrs. Lewis blew in front of the stable when the stage was leaving."

Memo by J.S.M.: Someone has told me that they have seen a bugle used in Gastown on the stage; in fact, I think two persons have told me that they have seen a bugle used in Gastown, and I think one was Minnie McCord. (See her file.)

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH RONALD KENVYN, EDITOR, VANCOUVER PROVINCE, AND ARDENT YACHTSMAN AND MARINE AUTHORITY, 27 JULY 1935.

CAPT. GEORGE VANCOUVER. LOST LAGOON. SECOND BEACH. COAL HARBOUR.

I remarked to Mr. Kenvyn that the Hydrographic Board at Ottawa were going to give me the height of the tide in "Burrard's Canal" at the time Capt. George Vancouver was here, 13-14 June 1792, as I wanted to trace his movements in the inlet, and thought I could get a further glimpse if I could disclose what Capt. Vancouver knew when he reported that its entrance was almost entirely blocked by an island.

Capt. Vancouver says in his Journal, "This island, lying exactly across the channel, appeared to form a similar passage to the south of it with a smaller island" (Deadman's Island) "lying before it."

Mr. Kenvyn: "Dr. Bell-Irving wrote once, in a book I think, that he had crossed from Coal Harbour into English Bay, passed up False Creek and back again into Burrard Inlet—somewhere up the creek—without getting out of the boat."

J.S.M.: Old Haxten, the Indian woman, now over 100, at North Vancouver, says she used to go through from Coal Harbour to Second Beach in a canoe, and Herbert Neil, Squamish Indian, in his conversation, 26 June 1935, says he used to go shooting ducks in False Creek, and crossed from inlet to creek in his canoe at Campbell Avenue, whenever the tide was not too low.