

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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VANCOUVER WATERWORKS 1888.

Mr. Harris: "You see, we had a flag pole." (See photo No. St. 35, of a wooden flagpole supported by three sticks, a boulder, at the curve of the road at First Narrows, and a single plank seat on the opposite side of the shell surfaced Park Road.)

"We put the flag pole up when they were building the water line across the Narrows. There was no telephone, so we had flags; we had several flags, which meant what we wanted. When we wanted the boat to come across we hoisted a flag; that must have been 1888 that we put up that flagpole. I wrote the story of the building of the water works twice, once for Mr. [blank]; he's dead now, and once for Mr. [blank].

"We used to have a peg to mark where that flagpole stood, but when they widened the old" (white) "shell road" (note: the shells were taken from the old Indian midden at Whoi-Whoi, or Lumberman's Arch) "they swung the old road, and our peg disappeared."

VANCOUVER CITY BAND. MAYOR OPPENHEIMER.

[Mr. Harris:] "I joined the first band, and I've drunk David Oppenheimer's health in champagne. David Oppenheimer, Thos. Dunn, Gartney of the hardware store, [blank], [blank], and they got together" (i.e. subscribed the amount) "and sent to New York for the instruments, and when they came the band went around and serenaded them. We came up to the Hotel Vancouver, and Mayor Oppenheimer came out of the steps, and put up his glasses" (i.e. pince-nez); "he always wore his glasses on a little piece of black tape; he" (Mr. Harris imitated the gesture of throwing back his head, throwing out his chest, and peering through imaginary eyeglasses at something below him) "Mr. Oppenheimer came out of the Hotel and looked at us and said quickly, 'Come right in, come right in.' So we all went in, and everybody in the hotel drank champagne. I said to old Bill [blank], little bit of a fellow; he got us the cloth, and made the uniforms, 'How do you like this stuff,' and he replied, 'Rather have some beer or cider'; he came from the next county to me" (Cornwall.)

OAK TREES. KING GEORGE VI CORONATION. JONATHAN ROGERS. MRS. ALICE TOWNLEY.

Mr. Harris: (continuing) "On Wednesday" (Coronation Day, 12 May 1937) "we planted two oaks just outside there. Jonathan Rogers" (i.e. Rogers Building, and for twenty years park commissioner) "planted one to mark the spot where Lord Stanley opened the park, and Mrs. Alice Townley, former park commissioner, planted the one to commemorate the coronation of King George and Queen Elizabeth. They are about ten feet high."

Little Mrs. Harris, sweet little lady, then came in, and Major Matthews again repeated his recollection of her gallant son, Capt. Sidney Harris (master mariner), who served as a private in his company in the 102nd Canadian Infantry battalion, but was killed in action whilst serving with the machine guns. As the ladies were waiting in the motor car and the evening was chilly, we left the cottage in its beautiful surroundings, and said goodbye for the present to a charming old couple.

Mrs. Harris died 31 October 1938.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. AND MRS. FRANK HARRIS (OF THE STANLEY PARK PIPE LINE ROAD COTTAGE ON FIRST NARROWS), 16 JUNE 1937.

On C.P.R. *Princess* Joan en route to Newcastle Island, for the Vancouver Pioneers Association picnic (217 pioneers present.)

HAY-TULK. "SUPPLEJACK" (INDIAN). HAATSALANO.

Mr. Harris said: "Supplejack" was buried close to our cottage, in a little deadhouse just where the summerhouse stands, the little open shelter by the horse trough, just where Lord Stanley dedicated the park."

BICYCLES (WOMEN).

Mrs. Harris: "Col. Tracey" (City Engineer) "put up that little summerhouse; he put a lot of wooden racks in it for bicycles, at the time of the bicycle craze; people were cycling around the park, more and more of them, so Col. Tracey had the rack built for them to stand their 'bikes' in. I remember well when the first two women rode a bicycle; it was not considered very respectable, just a little bold, but people got used to it, and after a time there were more women riding, until it got to be quite 'the thing,' but at first, it was not considered either graceful or proper."

Mr. Harris: "Supplejack's little wooden house was raised off the ground on posts, and had a little window in the end; you could peep in, and see the dugout" (canoe) "in which he was lying; it was just a little 'dugout,' but big enough for Supplejack's body which was in it." (See conversations with A.J. Haatsalano, *Early Vancouver*, vols. 2 and 3, for details of Supplejack's grave.)

INDIAN GRAVES. STANLEY PARK.

"The Indian graves were all along there, by our cottage, and when they put the road around Stanley Park, they removed the bodies, and reburied them in the Indian cemetery on the North Shore." (Note: think Mr. Harris is wrong; think it was to Squamish they took them, but perhaps not all.)

INDIAN GARDEN. STANLEY PARK. CHIEF HAATSA-LAH-NOGH.

"The Indians had quite a little place there by our home at the end of the pipe-line road; the old fence was around it for years afterwards." (See conversations as above with A.J. Haatsalano.)

SIWASH ROCK. SKAALSH. SUNZ.

"The little rock Sunz" (one of the Siwash Rock's two wives) (see photo No. P. St. 91) "ought to be protected from destruction; it is a most interesting little thing; the little tree is still growing on it, but if it is not protected now it may not last long."

SUNZ. CHANTS.

"The old chief, Lahwa, who was chief before Chief Capilano Joe" (Mathias's father) "used to tell me two yarns about Sunz and Siwash Rock. One yarn was that if you started going from one to the other you had to keep on going, and that you could not stop; and the other yarn was that Sunz and Siwash Rock and some other rock in Stanley Park which I have never yet found, formed a perfect equilateral triangle; I never found the other rock, so cannot say."

CHIEF LAHWA.

"I have known three Indian chiefs of the Capilano reserve. Mathias, the present one; Capilano Joe, his father; and his predecessor Lahwa; you see the descent came through Joe's wife" (commonly called Mrs. Mary Capilano.) "I think Lahwa was murdered; he had a long cut on the top of his head from forehead to crown." (Note: the accepted story is that Lahwa was drowned through falling out of his canoe when it upset at Brockton Point. Haatsalano gives an account of the finding of Lahwa's body, conversation 23 November 1936.) (NOTE ADDED LATER: August Jack Khaatsalano also thinks Lahwa was murdered. See conversation, 29 July 1939.)

WATERWORKS PIPES.

"Mr." (H.J.) "Cambie used to walk around the park, and one day I showed him the wear on the pipes, due to the sand on the bottom of the Narrows scouring back and forth over the top of the pipes with the tides; the iron had worn as thin as could be. The pipes were supposed to last twenty-one years, but actually they lasted seventeen; every now and then we would get a burst.

"Mr. Cambie said those worn pipes—sections of them—were 'priceless' to civil engineers as illustrating the action of the sand, and that they should be kept, or suitably sized pieces, for samples, to show what the action of the sand was. But the city authorities just broke them up."