

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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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.

"The children used to cry to be allowed to go on board, but parents would never allow it. But one day, Miss Redfern, the school teacher, did go on board. She said she wanted to go for history's sake, but Mrs. Alexander scoffed, and said she could not understand what Miss Redfern wanted 'to go on a thing like that for.' Miss Redfern went on the deck only; she had not the courage to go below.

"I do not know the vessel's name; I think the [blank] but I am not sure."

[LETTER FROM F.W. ALEXANDER.]

Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau
Seattle, Wash.

June 23, 1936.

Major J.S. Matthews,
City Hall,
Vancouver, B.C.

My dear Major:

Referring to your conversation with Mrs. Crakanthorp relative to the wreck which lay on the beach near the Hastings Sawmill store.

The vessel was a French bark which loaded lumber at the Hastings Sawmill and was the first and only vessel that endeavored to sail out of Burrard Inlet. She got through the first narrows safely but the wind died, when half way across English Bay, and the tide carried her up into Howe Sound where she went ashore, her forefoot was knocked off and several holes punched in her. She was towed back into the harbor and her cargo discharged. This happened before the Atlantic Cable was laid, and the owners, no doubt receiving little information, abandoned her. Her fittings, etc., were auctioned off, and the hulk lay on the beach until wreckers burned it to recover the copper.

I cannot recall her name but know it was not the "Stella." It might have been the "Jean Pierre" but I have a feeling that was the name of another French vessel which loaded several times at the Hastings Mill.

Very truly yours,

F.W.

Alexander

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. ALICE CRAKANTHROP (SHE CAME TO BURRARD INLET, 1873), 31 JULY 1936.

LARD PAILS.

City Archivist: You know, Mrs. Crakanthorp, when the school children were putting on that performance at the Empress Theatre last spring, they had the sawmill employees at Hastings Mill carrying lunch pails, and thermos bottles in them.

Mrs. Crakanthorp: (with a toss of the head) "Good gracious; there were no lunch pails and thermos bottles in those days; that was before they were invented; lard pails was what we put their lunches in."

CAPT. W.H. SOULE OF BURRARD INLET. HUGH SPRINGER OF MOODYVILLE.

"Hugh Springer was a Richards; and Capt. Soule's name was not spelt that way originally."

Note by J.S.M.: I don't know exactly what Mrs. Crakanthorp meant that "Hugh Springer" (manager, Moodyville Sawmill) "was a Richards," unless it is that he was the son of Mrs. Richards, afterwards Mrs. Springer.)