

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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CAPT. J.P. PATTERSON'S HOUSE, 1873. ABINGTON H. RIDLEY.

"Our house at Hastings Mill was two storey; just east of the mill store and behind Alexander's; the way Mother knows it was built in 1873 is that it was built for them just after they came up from the Columbia River; at first they lived in a shack while it was building. The Ridleys were Americans, and always remained Americans. Mother tells me that old Mrs. Ridley used to get Oscar Ridley's daughter to take her up to the American Consul—she was old—to report every now and then so that she could retain her American citizenship.

"After we moved over to Moodyville, the Ridleys moved into our house; it was board and batten, with a stove pipe; they pulled it down when the C.P.R. came, or soon after. I think it was on the right of way, or close to it."

CAPT. MACAULAY OF RED ROVER.

"Capt. Macaulay of the *Red Rover* had two girls with him on the ship; one was his sister and was a girl about 14; the other was his daughter, and younger. My elder sister Abbie was about the same age as the elder, and Mother was about the same age as his daughter Bella, about nine, and Mother remembers that it was the first year they were here that our house was building because the two elder girls used to play 'house' in our house whilst it was building, and would not let the two younger girls inside, which annoyed them. Then Aunt Abbie said she would teach Capt. Macaulay's sister how to dance, and there was a dance called the 'Seven Steps Schottische,' and the big girls used to make Mother stand up and sing for them to dance to. Mother says she remembers Mr. Stephen Burns' mother, Bella Macaulay, very well, because she was her playmate whilst the *Red River* was in; she was here loading for a long time, and Bella Macaulay attended the first class in the first school with Mother."

ABINGTON H. RIDLEY.

"Mother says that it is quite correct that Mr. Ridley set out for the Columbia River from the Hastings Mill in an Indian canoe when Leon, their second, but eldest living child, was very ill, and it must have been about 1871 because Mother recalls that Ridleys had lost their first son, Gideon, and they feared for the second, Leon; Mother was living near Ridleys down in Oregon" (Ranier) "and she remembers Mr. Ridley arriving, but she does not think he went in the canoe via Flattery, but down to Olympia, or Stellacoom, and rode from there on horseback, for he arrived on horseback, but she does not actually know."

(Memo: it is strange that Harold Ridley told me his father went to the *mouth* of the Columbia River in a canoe. In view of the fact that ferry boats were running from Victoria to Port Townsend, why did he not take a ferry boat to Victoria from New Westminster, thence to Port Townsend, and thence to Stellacoom, and Portland? Why did he take a "crew of Indians" in the canoe?)

In 1938, Mrs. Isabella Ann Burns, née Macaulay, 22 Nicholson Road, Stornoway, Scotland, and Mrs. Alice Crakanthorp, 586 East 59th Avenue, Vancouver, are the only two known surviving pupils of the first school class, 1873, Hastings Mill School.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. ALICE CRAKANTHROP, 586 EAST 59TH AVENUE, VANCOUVER, WHO VISITED THE CITY ARCHIVES THIS AFTERNOON, 7 JULY 1938, IN COMPANY WITH HER DAUGHTER, MISS MURIEL.

HASTINGS SAWMILL. DOMINION DAY. KANAKAS. FIRST GRANDSTAND.

Mrs. Crakanthorp: (looking at a small watercolour of Hastings Mill painted about 1876 by Mrs. Richards, wife of Lieutenant-Governor Richards) "I think this must have been some Dominion Day; see the flags on the ships. We used to have sports on the sawdust. I used to sit on the 'grandstand'; just a few boards nailed, tier on tier, on the north side of the old store, afterwards the warehouse." (See photo C.V. P. Mi. 19, also *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3.)

PIGS.

"We used to put all the pigs in the pen beside the cookhouse" (photo C.V. P. Mi. 19) "—there were hundreds of pigs—and then we would have the Dominion Day sports: running, jumping, putting weight, and greasy pole, out on the sawdust; the man who got the flag on the end of the pole got a pig; one

greasy pole was over the sawdust; then we had another greasy pole off the end of the wharf—the Kanakas usually won; they used to go out on that in their stocking feet; they were such excellent swimmers; they got a purse of money for the greasy pole over the water. Then there were games, and canoe races, for the Indians and their klotches. Tins of hard tack, gallons of molasses, and such things were all laid out down the wharf for prizes; the klotches would cry if they did not win, but they all got something—and about the same—to take home with them. I recall one time we had races for the children, and the prizes were big buns off the ships for the big children, and little buns for the smaller children.”

FIRST BRASS BAND ON BURRARD INLET.

“The Indians at the ‘Mission’ on the north shore had the first brass band on the inlet; that must have been about 1884, because there was no band when Lord Dufferin came in 1876, nor when the Marquis of Lorne came in 1882; the first time they played—that I can recall—was when the bishop came. He went over there by boat, and landed on the shore in front of the Catholic church on the Reserve, and” (laughing) “they met him on the beach with their band, and what do you suppose they played, ‘Johnny Comes Marching Home.’”

(Note: a maker’s name plate cut from one of the original brass instruments of the first band on Burrard Inlet is in the City Archives.)

DR. WALKEM.

“Dr. Walkem lived in the little cottage next the office.” (See photo C.V. P. Mi. 16.)

RED ROVER BARQUE.

Excerpt from letter, 1 June 1938, Stephen Burns, son of Isabella Ann Macaulay, daughter of Capt. Macaulay, master of the *Red Rover*, 1873, and in 1938 one of the four surviving pupils of the first class of Hastings School, 1873, to Mrs. A. Crakanthorp.

My mother made me laugh in her letter about Sambo, the black cook of the “Red Rover,” who got into disgrace there by stealing a lot of clothes from the clothes lines of different people of the settlement—your mother—the Raymonds, another, school mistress Richards—apparently he was a good old soul; a great cook, but a born thief. How he was found out I don’t know, but I shall quote from my mother’s letter to show you how she remembers.

“It would take pages to tell you, but it was funny how he was found out, and how the Police Flag went up on the mast of the “Red Rover” to get them on board. Sambo was cooking the tea in the galley, and saw the Bobbies pass the window. He made a dash just as he was, great bare black feet, down the forehold on to the planks of wood at her bows, and up on to the long trail. He could be seen ‘for miles’ it seemed racing for his life through the bush! All the lovely clothes were packed in his camphorwood box, and were handed back to the ladies. Grandma” (that was my mother’s mother; Mrs. Macaulay) “was presented with the box from the police. I had that box for years, and even in Australia.”

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. ALICE CRAKANTHROP, PIONEER OF 1873, NOW OF 586 EAST 59TH AVENUE, AT HER HOME DURING AFTERNOON TEA WITH HER, AND HER DAUGHTER MISS MURIEL, 29 JULY 1938.

FIRST ELECTRIC LIGHT. MOODYVILLE.

Mrs. Crakanthorp said: “Moodyville Sawmill had the first electric lights on Burrard Inlet. I do not know when it was, but it was after I was nineteen; not before, and before I was twenty, and I was born in 1864. I think those lights were the first electric lights I ever saw; we all went down to see them; they looked lovely. I don’t know how many lights there were” (1885 directory says twelve) “but there was one over where the logs came up, and one over the chute where the lumber went down.”