

Early Vancouver

Volume Four

By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.

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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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Contact Information

City of Vancouver Archives
1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9
604.736.8561
archives@vancouver.ca
vancouver.ca/archives



MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH W.A. GRAFTON OF GRAFTON BAY, BOWEN ISLAND, NOW 542 WEST 63RD, WHO CALLED AT CITY ARCHIVES CARRYING A HEAVY LOGGING JACK-SCREW, 27 JULY 1939.

PARK ROAD, STANLEY PARK. CAPTAIN WESTERLUND. LOGGING SCREW JACK.

Mr. Grafton said: "Capt. Westerlund, an old time captain who was the third master of the sealing schooner *C.D. Rand*, had a subcontract for the clearing of the Park Road around Stanley Park, and he used this screw-jack for removing logs and stumps on the present park driveway around Stanley Park. When he was through with it, I gave him \$15 for it. Where he got it from I don't know, but it was an old one when I got it, and except for the two bolts, it is exactly as I got it; I think it must have been made by some local blacksmith; I had it rolling logs and clearing land at Grafton Bay, Bowen Island. We hired horses to drag our logs to the water."

LOGGING OFF THE FOREST. MULES. OXEN.

Major Matthews: What would you consider a good haul for a string of horses?

Mr. Grafton: "Oxen were the best; they're steady, don't jerk; but we had eight horses to a string team; three big logs; biggest one first, and the others tailing off in size. There was only one string team of logging mules on Burrard Inlet that I ever saw; Moodyville Sawmill had them."

WEST VANCOUVER. CYPRESS PARK. SKUNK COVE.

"Captain Westerlund had a place out between Erwin's" (now Cypress Park) "and Flowander was in Skunk Cove. Capt. Westerlund staked east of Skunk Cove, and he did not get his land; Flowander and Westerlund had some dispute over land, and Westerlund did not get it, so he married Flowander's daughter instead. Westerlund did a lot of travelling and traded with the Indians."

D.L. 559, 582, 583, 771. MURRAY THAIN. LARSON'S BAY.

"Murray Thain staked D.L. 559; Erwin staked D.L. 582; in those days you drove your stakes, and measured back twenty or forty chains—how you wanted it—back from the water. This was what Erwin did, but the shore line bulged outwards, and that gave him thirty acres more than the hundred and sixty" (preemption.) "Thain, who was next on the east, wanted him to move over a little, but Erwin said he was there first. The land department at Victoria said he had to move, but Erwin wrote back that we were not in Russia and would not move. So the Victoria land office, to get even with him, took 30 acres off the back of D.L. 582, and that is how D.L. 583 is such a peculiar shape."

"There was another dispute of the same sort over the bulge of the shoreline in Pete Larson's preemption D.L. 771, but there was no dispute, and he got a good many acres over the 160."

NAVY JACK. JONES TENT AND AWNING CO.

"Old Mr. Jones, the founder of the Jones Tent and Awning Co., was married, the second time to a Miss Wynne" (sic) "and there was a daughter. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jones are dead. When Mr. Jones started, he started up over Creighton & Fraser, ship chandlers, corner Carrall and Water streets, next to the Alhambra Hotel. He had quite a loft."

"Miss Wynne" (sic) "was housekeeper to 'Navy Jack'" (John Thomas) "before she married Mr. Jones; she kept house for 'Navy Jack' at what is now Hollyburn, and in 'Navy Jack's' original home. 'Navy Jack' had an Indian wife and quite a bunch of children, and Miss Wynne was at 'Navy Jack's' while he was up the Cariboo. He died there, and that broke up the Thomas home. Mr. Jones had two sons, at least I knew two, but by a former marriage."

TEXAS LAKE ICE COMPANY. FIRST ICE.

"I helped unload the C.P.R. car which came in with the first ice, and put it in the Texas Lake Ice Co.'s shed on Pender Street. Jack Dorman was in charge. It was only thin ice about six inches thick; we unloaded it with tongs at a skid, but it came in without sawdust. But there was sawdust in the ice warehouse."