

Early Vancouver

Volume Five

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Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1936-1945.

Supplemental to volumes one, two, three and four collected in 1931, 1932 and 1934.

About the 2011 Edition

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"Well. It happened about half an hour after I left Sam. Sam took after them with an axe, and drove them off. So they got into the boat, and came back to the Royal City Planing Mills, and that ends that episode.

"Sam was not prosecuted."

FURTHER MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. A.A. LANGLEY, 1600 ROBSON STREET, WHERE HE IS STILL LIVING WITH HIS DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER, NOW AGED 70, BUT ACTIVE, 20 OCTOBER 1937.

Mr. Langley will be 79 on 11 January 1938. He is getting feeble; has lost the sight of his left eye, and is losing the sight of the right; is entering the General Hospital today for a slight operation to his eye.

HASTINGS, B.I., 1884. MOST FASHIONABLE WATERING PLACE IN B.C.

Mr. Langley said: "This is a photo of Hastings looking west along the beach from George Black's. It is about 1884. I can tell by this wharf here in the foreground; you can see it is in process of construction, is unfinished. I went to Hastings in 1883, and it was not there then, but when I came back from Salt Spring Island where I spent 1884, that is, I came back in 1885, the wharf was built. So as this photo was taken in the summer, perhaps on the 24th May celebration, you can see it is summer time by the people on the beach in summer clothing; I should say it was taken in 1884.

"This is a lumber scow on the beach; it has probably brought the lumber to build the wharf; you can see some of the lumber on the beach; the C.P.R. afterwards ran around this steep bank in the distance. This projection on the right here, in the distance, is Moodyville." (Photo No. P. Dist. 17.)

JACK FANNIN. WAH CHONG. SLAUGHTER HOUSE. GEORGE BLACK.

"Jack Fannin lived in a little cottage on the hillside west of, and above George Black's. The slaughter house was about eighteen by thirty feet, and over the beach, and over a little hollow, sort of creek hollow, just about one hundred yards or so west of the hotel." (See C.P.R. survey map.) "That was Black's first slaughter house; he afterwards moved to False Creek."

DAVID WITHROW. PERRY. MAXIMILLIAN MICHAUD.

"David Withrow was running George Black's; he went bankrupt; he had trouble with his wife, so I was asked to take over from him, which I did, and I did not leave there finally until 1887. Perry was running Michaud's old place; a little building which was moved across from its old site to a new one over the beach just west of George Black's."

C.P.R. CONSTRUCTION. JOHN HARPER. PIONEER PLACE. BLACK BLOCK.

"John Harper owned the land at Pioneer Place, Carrall and Hastings Street, and when the C.P.R. cut across Hastings Street on their way to the roundhouse on False Creek, they cut up his property, so they gave him in exchange sixty-six feet where the Flack Block is now at the corner of Hastings and Cambie Street. The C.P.R. said to John Harper, 'We are cutting off the corner of your property,' so they gave him sixty-six feet where the Flack Block is; at that time, of course, the C.P.R. owned everything."

COMMERCIAL HOTEL. METROPOLE HOTEL. ALEX JOHNSTON. L.A. HAMILTON.

"John Harper sold it, and a piece at the back was used to build the Commercial Hotel on; the hotel stands on the back part; the same property; things were changing every day in those days, and it is hard to recall just how it all happened. Same things with other properties, for instance. Alex Johnston had just immediately east of the lane on Cordova Street" (Oppenheimer Street) "where about McLennan, McFeely's is now, he had lots there. L.A. Hamilton went to him and told him the C.P.R. line to the roundhouse would cut up his property, and to pick out other property, so he picked out eighty-six feet on Cordova and Abbott, and built the Metropole Hotel on it; it is where Woodward's department store is now. Oh, Hamilton gave those people property worth twice what he took; in some cases three times."

J.S. Matthews
18 November 1937