

Early Vancouver

Volume Five

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2011 Edition (Originally Published 1945)

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

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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was, they tell me, about where the foot of Abbott Street is now. It was a great big square barn, board and batten, that was all it was. When we got there we found nothing; empty barn, that's all."

GRANVILLE, 1868. FIRST DOCK OR WHARF.

"Father said, 'We won't stop here; we'll go down to the next one.' It was about the foot of Carrall Street. Couldn't find out anything there about who owned the empty barn. Father said to him, that is, Gassy Jack, 'Can you tell me who owns that empty barn up there?' Gassy Jack said, 'I don't know; go up to the mill'" (pointing towards Stamp's Mill) "and see the superintendent.' Father found the superintendent and says, 'Can you tell me who owns that big barn down there'" (pointing) "and he replied, 'No, I can't tell you,' he says, 'What do you want it for?' So Father says he would try and find out who it belonged to, and get lumber and put in petitions. So the superintendent said that if Father would come up and get it, he could have all the lumber he wanted. So after a while Father went up and borrowed some tools, and took the tools down in the row boat and towed the lumber after it; no roads then; there was no clearing in Granville Townsite then. It looked like the rest of the forest along the shore. There was no log float in front of the barn; there was a big tree fell out in the water and I nailed some boards on the top of it so as to make myself a nice little landing for our boat; we could follow the tide in and out."

FIRST BATHING BEACH.

"Mother used to tell us when we would go out on the beach, 'Don't take off your shoes and stockings, or you'll have feet like Indians.' So we used to go a little piece below the house and take off our shoes and stockings where we were out of sight, and wade around the beach all day, climb big rocks and everything else, and take a tin and catch little crabs, and see who would get the most. There were no amusements here for us; just Will and Lizzie and George and myself; that was all of us that was here then. The barn, now our house, was in a little piece of the beach, in the trees, and not always in sight; the bushes hid it."

As narrated to me, 28 May 1946.

J.S. Matthews.

After tea and cake, I took Mr. Scales to his home, 3520 Main Street, in a taxicab.

GRANVILLE, NOT "GASTOWN."

"Gastown prisoners tied to stumps." By B.A. McKelvie, *Province*, 8 June 1946.

GRANVILLE, BURRARD INLET. "GASTOWN." CAPTAIN JOHN DEIGHTON. "GASSY JACK."

Conversation over the telephone, 20 June 1946, with A.M. Whiteside, Esq., K.C., pioneer, 1879:

Mr. Whiteside: (to Major Matthews) "I got your invitation and medallion; thank you." (Issued by the Diamond Jubilee Committee to those here sixty years.) "Very nice.

"Why don't you stop those people" (newspaper men and historians) "calling this place 'Gastown.' Nobody ever called it 'Gastown'; nor spoke of 'Gassy Jack.' If you had asked anybody in those days where 'Gastown' was they wouldn't have known what you were talking about."

EXCERPT, EARLY VANCOUVER, MATTHEWS, VOL. 5.

Conversation with Mrs. Norman Emerson Lougheed, 2891 West 45th Avenue, Vancouver.

Mrs. Lougheed, née Paull, whose father owned Lot 2, Block 3, Old Granville townsite, purchased 12 December 1877, now Cordova Road West.

"He says the place was called 'Gastown.' It wasn't called Gastown. We never called it Gastown; we always called it Granville."

Note: there are several other instances of protestation by residents of Granville that they did not know it as Gastown.