

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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MEMO OF CONVERSATION, 7 MAY 1946, WITH MRS. THOMAS (CATHERINE) FITZPATRICK, PIONEER OF VANCOUVER, 3 SEPTEMBER 1886, AND HER DAUGHTER, MRS. JAMES H. (MARY ANN) GALBRAITH, ALSO PIONEER OF VANCOUVER, WHO VERY KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES THIS AFTERNOON FOR A CHAT, AND STAYED FOR A CUP OF TEA AND PIECE OF CAKE.

For her advanced years, Mrs. Fitzpatrick is very well preserved, and a vivacious conversationalist, walks without assistance, and has tolerably good eyesight, and a very good memory—she does not hesitate.

GENEALOGY. MRS. THOMAS FITZPATRICK.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick: "I was married in Cleveland, Ohio, at the Catholic Cathedral on Euclid Avenue. Mr. Fitzpatrick, my husband, was in Canada two years before I was. I left Ireland on an Allan line steamer for Montréal from Ennis, County Clare, and went to visit friends in the United States. It was in the fall of the year. I had relatives 'by the dozen' all over the United States, so I took six months off and visited them all. From Montréal I went to New York, and from New York to Wilmington, Delaware, and stayed two months with my aunt; that would be about September 1885; then I went to visit more relatives at Cleveland, Ohio. During that time Mr. Fitzpatrick was working on the C.P.R. construction work, and as soon as navigation opened, he came down by Great Lake boat to Cleveland; we were married and I went back with him to Port Arthur, Ontario.

"Then, after that, we came all the way out here to Port Moody, got off the train at Port Moody, and came down to Vancouver by boat; I think it was the old *Yosemite*. Mary Ann was born at Port Arthur, 3rd May 1886, my eldest child, and she was about three months old when we arrived at Port Moody, 3rd September 1886. Mr. Fitzpatrick continued to work for the C.P.R. We got off at the old Hastings Sawmill store wharf."

POWELL STREET, 1886.

"We went to live on Powell Street in the three hundred block, but there were no house numbers then; it was afterwards numbered 326 Powell Street, south side, and quite close to the St. James' Church and the residences of the Bell-Irvings, Capt. William Soule, and Mr. R.H. Alexander, but at that time there was lots of bush around. The house was a storey and a half, was built right up to the street, and had a little verandah across the whole of the front. You can see it in this photo here" (No. C.V. Str. N. 140, P. 226) "about the middle here, of the photo." (Note: the ground plan appears in Dakin's Fire Map, November 1889, folio 12.) "The Secord Hotel was near."

WATER FROM WELLS. BLACKBERRIES. FIREWOOD.

"We had to sink a well to get our water; so did the Bell-Irvings on Alexander Street; the well was in the back yard; at first we hauled water up in a bucket, but afterwards we got a pump, and pumped it up; the pump was out in the yard over the well. It was very good water; we had a good spring; the well was only about ten feet deep. When I needed water I just hauled it up. We did not have to worry about wood; there was all kinds of it around; you could pick up all the wood you wanted. And there was all the wild blackberries for jam, or fresh fruit you could pick; the Indians used to come selling a great big salmon for twenty-five cents, and for vegetables we had our little garden."

CEDAR COVE. VICTORIA DRIVE. VANCOUVER IMPROVEMENT CO.

"Then we moved from there to Cedar Cove, and Mr. Fitzpatrick started taking contracts for clearing land for the Vancouver Improvement Company surrounding where we lived; all about Victoria Drive at the end of Powell Street. We lived at Cedar Cove about ten years, and then we went to Hastings; we were in the logging business then. Mr. Fitzpatrick leased about six hundred acres of land from the Joseph" ("Joe") "Martin Estate and we logged off that land. We had a sawmill there. Mr. Fitzpatrick ran the sawmill; it was right on the corner of Renfrew and Charles streets, and he cut both lumber and shingles. Then about that time my husband died of pneumonia, and he is buried in Mountain View Cemetery."

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH. CITY HALL, POWELL STREET. REV. FATHER PATRICK FAY. REV. FATHER NEWMAN. POLICE STATION. MASS. PRESBYTERIANS.

"Of course, when we came here first the City Hall was being built, and the Police Station in the same building on Powell Street. There were no churches, and we were allowed to hold services in the upstairs

of the City Hall; there was no other place to hold them, so we held them upstairs, over the Police Station. The Rev. Father Fay was the priest; he held mass there; the congregation would be about thirty men, women and children. That only lasted a little while, until they built the first little Holy Rosary Church on Richards Street. Father Newman succeeded Father Fay. I think the Presbyterians held their services in the Council Chamber upstairs of the City Hall, just as we did."

GENEALOGY.

"I had fourteen children; all lived except one. Out of the thirteen, I have lost three in the last few years, so that there are five boys and five girls now living; every one was born in my own home; our doctors were Dr. Langis or Dr. Robertson. There are thirty grandchildren, and twenty great-grandchildren, but, as yet, we have not go as far as any great-great-grandchildren.

"I think that's enough for now."

CHARLES WOODWARD. WOODWARD DEPARTMENT STORES.

Previously to my commencing to type, Mrs. Fitzpatrick told me that she recalled when Mr. Charles Woodward, founder of the Woodward Department Stores, and whose original store was on the northeast corner of Harris (now Georgia Street East) and Westminster (now Main Street) Avenue, had but one girl helping in his store. She said she (Mrs. Fitzpatrick) retained his friendship right up to the time of his death, and that about three weeks before he passed away, he complained to her of having a severe cold.

As told to me.
J.S. Matthews
7 May 1946.

CONVERSATION WITH MR. CHARLES ALEXANDER BATTISON, OF 6100 BATTISON STREET, SON OF WILLIAM JOHN AND ANN BATTISON, IN WHOSE HONOUR BATTISON STREET, VANCOUVER, IS NAMED, 17 MAY 1946.

Mr. Battison is one of the few babies born in Vancouver during 1886, having been born on Oppenheimer Street, now Cordova Street, between Westminster Avenue and Gore Avenue, north side, 2 October 1886. His delayed registration of birth was effected in May 1946.

BATTISON STREET. W.J. BATTISON. C.W. BATTISON.

Mr. Battison: "Father came to Vancouver with Mother and one child, Frank, via Port Moody, and on the first train to arrive. Father told me that when they arrived, there was a big delegation from Victoria and Vancouver to meet them, and the boat was so heavy-loaded with people he thought it was going to upset. Then Father and Mother went to Victoria and lived in a tent down on the waterfront, and then came back to Vancouver. Then they met two fellows from New Brunswick; they were tired of Vancouver so they bought their place on the north side of Oppenheimer, now Cordova Street West, between Gore and Westminster Avenue, where Charles was born.

"After that there were other children born, but I doubt if any of them were born there as they moved over to let Father be near his work at the Leamy and Kyle Mill on False Creek just west of the Cambie Street bridge. We lived right back of the mill in a little house right beside a tiny bridge which crossed the creek west of the mill about one hundred yards. Harry was born in that house. Then we moved over to Fourth and Columbia Avenue. I can recall the move, and there one other son, Fred, was born, and one sister, Ivy, now Mrs. Murray, was born; then we moved out to Westminster Road, now Kingsway, and Father preempted seven acres under the 'Small Holdings' arrangement, and he stayed there. The original seven acres was subdivided and sold; the family own none of the original grant now. There were two children born out on the Seven Acres, Wilfred and Florence, also a Mrs. R.M. Murray.

"Father was a planerman in the Leamy and Kyle Mill, and afterwards, when we went to live on" (Battison Street) "out Westminster Road. He walked in night and morning to the Leamy and Kyle Mill—seven miles—and worked ten hours. Mayor Baxter and Reeve Churchill of Point Grey also worked in the mill."