

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

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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“Joe Mannion, of the Granville Hotel, was father of Mrs. Dr. H.A. Christie. Well, he sold the Granville Hotel, and bought the property on Bowen Island from Bill Eaton; then he moved up there. He had two boys by his second wife, and they started out in a row boat from Deep Cove for Vancouver; never heard of again. Joe Mannion was a well-educated man; very decent fellow; he was educated for the ministry.”

“HOLE IN THE WALL.” PETE DONNELLY. JOHN A. ROBERTSON.

“Pete Donnelly ran away from the Navy; that is, when he first came. Then he went away, and got married, and came back John A. Robertson.”

ISAAC JOHNS. CUSTOMS HOUSE. LOUIS GOLD.

“In 1882, Ike Johns lived on what is now Carrall Street, next to Angus Fraser and Simon Fraser. Ike Johns had a family; they all had families; all three of them together. Then he moved over somewhere back of Water Street.

“The Customs House was next door—at that time—to the ‘Hole in the Wall,’ next door towards the east; Louis Gold’s store was next east again; Sullivan’s was still further eastwards.”

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. A.A. LANGLEY, WHO KINDLY CALLED FOR A FEW MOMENTS CONVERSATION AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, 20 FEBRUARY 1939.

He is getting feeble, and his eyesight very poor.

HAND-SPLIT SHINGLES. HASTINGS, B.I. MAXIE’S.

Mr. Langley said: “At the time I was at George Black’s at Hastings, there were four separate men working in the woods near there making shingles. All shingles were made by hand in those days; it was before the shingle machine came.

“They cut their shingles right in the woods where the cedar tree fell; drew them with a draw knife, and sat on a ‘horse’ while drawing the knife; sixteen inch shingles, and got a dollar a bundle for them. They were better shingles than the sawn shingle; the sawn shingle roughens up the grain; cuts through it; sawn shingles are not as good as hand-split.

“George Black afterwards bought the other hotel, Maxie’s old place, and there were hand-split shingles on that which were twenty-five years old, and as good almost as the day they were made.”

LACROSSE, FIRST IN VANCOUVER.

See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 1, W.H. Gallagher, re naming of “Salmonbellies.”

See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2, Jas. A. Smith re organisation of lacrosse in Vancouver.

See photo of lacrosse team at Brockton Point, June 1899.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH JAS. A. SMITH, 5826 SPERLING AVENUE, NOW RETIRED MOVING PICTURE CENSOR, 29 MAY 1936.

VANCOUVER LACROSSE CLUB. “SALMONBELLIES.” “GREYBACKS.” COLOURS, SENIOR AND JUNIOR TEAMS.

“The original lacrosse team wore a blue sweater with the word ‘VANCOUVER’ in white block letters across the chest; the letters were sewed on for us by Mrs. Alexander Godfrey” (Godfrey and Sons, early sporting good firm.) “But the blue sweater looked so badly after we had been rolling around in the mud, that we changed it to grey; I forget what the trimmings were.

“As you know, the Westminster men were known as ‘Salmonbellies,’ and they, in retaliation, nicknamed us ‘Greybacks’” (cooties) “on account of the colour of our sweaters; irritating ‘little insects.’

“Ask Billy Templeton, or George Matheson.”