

## **Early Vancouver**

### **Volume Five**

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

**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**

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**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH CALVERT SIMSON, ABOUT 14 FEBRUARY 1938.**

Mr. Simson said: "When they were surveying the line from Port Moody, it was raining pretty hard, the rain was getting on the instruments, on the notebooks, and was a big nuisance, so the surveyors bought some of those great big umbrellas on a pole sometimes used to keep the sun off at fairs, picnics, etc, and sent the bills to Winnipeg.

"Just what impression the bills caused at the accountant's or purchasing agent's offices can be judged by the fact that a message was received asking why surveyors had umbrellas to work with; presumably they thought that surveyors were 'tough' enough to work out in the open.

"Explanations were made, and the bills paid, but the little incident throws a light on how the surveyors worked—in the wet forest, downpour of rain, etc., etc."

J.S.M.

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH CALVERT SIMSON, FORMER STOREKEEPER, HASTINGS SAWMILL, 26 MAY 1938.**

**CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY. R.M.S. ABYSSINIA.**

Mr. Simson said: "I am positive the *Abyssinia* came in about midnight, because when I heard her siren going, 'Whoooo, whoooo, whoooo,' I thought it was the dogs; we had some dogs on a scow, tied up on a scow, and I got up and looked out of my bedroom window, and I could see her lights ablaze; it was about midnight."

J.W. McFarland tells, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2: "While I was in that cottage, one night I heard a moaning sort of howl, and went outdoors to 'murder' the supposed cat, but it was the C.P.R. *Abyssinia* coming in; the first steamer from the Orient. We were not accustomed to such noises in those days."

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN CALVERT SIMSON, THIRD STOREKEEPER, HASTINGS SAWMILL; AUGUST JACK KHAHTSAHLANO, INDIAN, GRANDSON OF CHIEF KHAHTSAHLANO, FROM WHOM KITSILANO TAKES IT NAME; AND MAJOR J.S. MATTHEWS, CITY ARCHIVIST, 16 DECEMBER 1938.**

**SALMON. DUCKS. FALSE CREEK.**

(All three are at the corner of Broadway and Cambie Street, awaiting a street car.)

Major Matthews: See that hole across the street. (Southwest corner.) There used to be lots of salmon go up that creek.

Mr. Simson: "Yes, and the North Vancouver creeks were full of dog salmon."

August: "And down in the creek that ran through the swamp back of Kitsilano beach; the pools were full of them."

Mr. Simson: "There used to be two or three acres of ducks swimming off the Hastings Mill wharf eating the herrings; the water was just black with them."

August: "And at night, on False Creek, they made such a noise you could not sleep" (at Indian village of Snauc.)

**CARRALL STREET.**

Mr. Simson: "We used to carry a boat over from False Creek to Burrard Inlet at Carrall Street. I have helped to carry over a four-oared boat; four of us carried it; it wasn't far; a little more than a long block. Of course, when the tide was high, that was a pretty wet place.

"I used to know your stepfather, August. 'Jericho Charlie'" (Chinalset) "was a fine man. He used to come through the Narrows in his big canoe, and take a canoe load of barley and supplies down to Angus Fraser's camp at Jericho. One week, when the tide was right, he used to come through the Narrows; next

week, when the tide was running out, he would come into the bit of wharf at the south end of Carrall Street, and we would send the supplies down to him on a wagon. He was a fine man.”

**“HOWE SOUND JIM.” “MOWITCH JIM.” “JIMMY JIMMY.” “JIM GROUSE.” “CHARLIE HUNDRED.” “JERICHO CHARLIE.” “PIE FACE.”**

Major Matthews: August, were “Howe Sound Jim” and “Mowitch Jim” two different men?

August: (smiling) “Yes, too many Jims. ‘Mowitch Jim,’ ‘Howe Sound Jim,’ ‘Jim Grouse,’ and ‘Jimmy Jimmy,’ but” (laughing) “his father’s name was Jack” (Tow-who-quam-kee.) “And ‘Faithful Jim.’ Too many Joes too.”

Mr. Simson: “And Charlies. I named Jim Grouse; he was always ‘grouching’” (i.e., grumbling.) “Charlie Hundred lived down in the rancherie east of the mill; he always had lots of money; if ever we wanted change at the mill store, we would send down to Charlie Hundred’s wife” (Indian), “and she always had change.”

Major Matthews: Why did you call him “Hundred.” He was an Indian, too, like the others.

August: “He would save up until he got a hundred dollars, and then ‘blow it in.’ ‘Pie Face’ had a face that looked like a pie; his real name was Saits-kul-tun; he lived on the False Creek Reserve.”

#### **TOO MANY JOES.**

See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3. (One copy of the four only.)

“Joe Silvey, Joe Gonsalves, Joe Fernandez, all ‘Portuguese Joes.’ Joe Mannion, Capilano Joe, Joe Humphries, Lockit Joe, ‘Holy Joe,’ Joe Huntly, etc.” Hyas Joe, Isaac Joe.

#### **FOREST FIRES. CLEARING THE FOREST AWAY.**

In answer to a question, Calvert Simson, who came to the Hastings Sawmill in 1884, tells me that he does not recall any forest fires anywhere about Vancouver until after the Canadian Pacific Railway came.

J.S. Matthews.

#### **MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. DONALD ROBERT SMITH, NÉE McCORD, 914 PENDER STREET WEST, VANCOUVER, SEY. 53930, AT CITY ARCHIVES, CITY HALL, 20 JULY 1936.**

Mrs. Smith is the only child of Benjamin Campbell and Margaret McCord, pioneers of Coal Harbour; her parents and grandparents settled on about three acres of land at the foot of Denman Street in very early days, and appear to have been the first settlers—other than John Morton, et al.—in that region of the “West End.” It is stated three acres were originally preempted, but in the final settlement, made in 1895, they secured one lot only, 66 feet by 125 feet, being the northeast corner of Georgia and Denman Street, and numbered 1789 Georgia Street West, and sold to a Mr. Crane, for use as a shipyard, for \$23,500.

#### **MR. EIHU. KANAKAS.**

Mrs. Smith said: “Mr. Eihu, my maternal grandfather, was a Hawaiian, and worked for the Hudson’s Bay Co. at Langley Fort; he married a Cowichan Indian woman, a chief’s daughter, whose name I do not know, but I do know that they were married at Fort Langley by the factor. Then, later, my grandfather, Mr. Eihu, came to work at the Hastings Sawmill; his Indian wife came with him. My mother, Margaret Eihu, was born in New Westminster, what year I don’t know; the only other child they had was uncle William.”

#### **BEN C. McCORD. MARGARET McCORD. INDIAN CHURCH. METHODIST CHURCH. FIRST CHURCH IN VANCOUVER.**

“My father” (Mr. McCord) “came to British Columbia during the gold rush to Cariboo; then he too came to Burrard Inlet, and went logging for Jerry Rogers at Jericho Beach. He was married to my mother by the Rev. Thos. Derrick at the little church on what is now Water Street; I think you know it as the Indian church, or Wesleyan Methodist church; anyway, it was the first church we had in what is now Vancouver. I am their only child, and was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1877. Subsequently I was christened in the same