

## **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**

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 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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because of the spines all over them. My two brothers live on this property at present, that is Charles on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue East and George on 3029 Woodland Drive.

A memo, written in January 1939 by Mrs. E.E. Trites, a widow, daughter of C.C. Maddams of "Maddams" Ranch, China Creek, False Creek, 1888. Mr. Maddams built the first house in that district, 7<sup>th</sup> and St. Catherines.

J.S. Matthews, January 1939

## **MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. E.E. TRITES, NÉE MADDAMS, 10 JANUARY 1939.**

### **MADDAMS RANCH. FALSE CREEK.**

Mrs. Trites said: "The fertiliser for our garden on Seventh Avenue at China Creek was received in a unique manner. Father was a very versatile and practical man, and invented a labour saving device; it was a double truck flat car which ran on a track of wooden rails running up and around the garden; pulled up hill by a horse, which dumped the fertiliser equally around the ranch garden. The stable manure was brought to our place on a small flat scow, and the scow was tied to a small wharf which we built at the foot of our garden; right on the False Creek shore; today it would be 200 yards east of the foot of St. Catherines Street, although of course, there was no sign of a street there then. We used to get the manure from Hayes and McIntosh, and the B.C. slaughter houses—there were two of them—half a mile below us on False Creek, and quite close to Westminster Avenue.

"My father often had to go out at two or three in the morning to catch the tide, and he used to pole the loaded scow along, and the tides helped him. You see, False Creek east of Westminster Avenue was very shallow, and used to run dry at low tide, and no tug could get in there, so it was necessary to pole the manure scow from the slaughter house to our ranch, and then pole the empty scow back again."

### **WILD DUCKS.**

"My brother Charlie used to shoot wild ducks on False Creek; there were an awful lot of wild ducks on the creek in those days; all kinds, mallard, pintail, teal, butter balls, hell divers, (but we never killed hell divers), cranes, but they never used to shoot the cranes, but the Chinamen used to eat the cranes; the Chinese would ask us to shoot a crane for them to eat. You see there were no restrictions in those days, you could shoot all you liked; the ducks were not 'fishy' eating; not fishy tasting at all; we used to give them away.

"We had a canvas canoe for shooting in; it was cigar shaped with oak ribs; in fact, while we lived there, there were three canoes made; they rotted in time, and had to be renewed. The canvas was oiled and painted, and was decked at both ends, just like a kayak, with an open space in the centre for two persons to row or paddle. I have gone on a moonlight night out to the marsh grass in front of our place—there was a lot of sea grass out in front of us which the tide used to cover at high tide—to paddle the canoe while my brother was shooting. We went out one night and got stuck in the mud, which shows how shallow the head of False Creek was. He is still a good shot, as is my younger brother, who was the captain and crack shot in the school team, and won a couple of medals, at the Alexander School on Broadway."

### **CHINESE GARDENS. CHINA CREEK.**

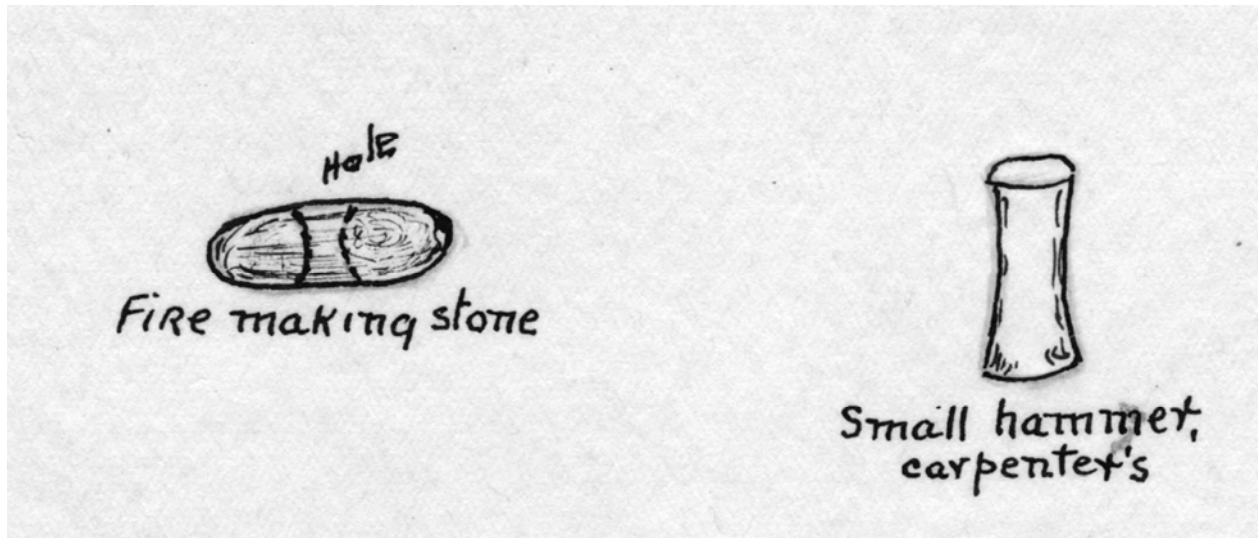
"The Chinese used to bring garbage over for their pigs, in boats, and land right in front of our place."

### **COAL.**

"There were seams of coal on our beach, black lignite coal."

### **INDIAN IMPLEMENTS.**

"We found a couple of stone tools in the earth of our garden. There are some like them in the museum; one was a round flattish stone with a small hole in the centre" (for making fire or perhaps sinking fish nets) "and the other" (a small size carpenter's hammer) "was a small oblong stone, about five inches long, and round, more than an inch in diameter; like this."



Item # EarlyVan\_v5\_019

Read and approved by Mrs. Trites, 24 January 1939.

J.S. Matthews.

These two small Indian implements are in City Archives. For method of use, read August Jack Khahtsahlano's conversation, 22 August 1938.

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH CHAS. J. MALTBY, OF 1105 WEST 10<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE (CORNER SPRUCE), IN CITY ARCHIVES, 4 NOVEMBER 1937.**

**GOSSE OF FISHERMAN'S COVE.**

Mr. Maltby said: "Capt. Macargo married Nancy, Alexander MacKay's only daughter; Macargo was Scotch; they had a daughter, Miss Macargo, who married a Mr. Johnstone, my grandfather" (same family as Johnstone straits) "and their daughter Miss Agnes K. Johnstone married C.M. Maltby, my father, and I was married in Toronto to Mary Gosse, and have two sons, one, the eldest, 16. I served with the American Army Medical Corps in the Great War, and had two brothers in the C.E.F., and a lot of cousins, too. I married Mary Gosse, daughter of Richard Gosse, who came from Newfoundland; you know all about him, and Fisherman's Cove, out West Vancouver; Mark Gosse married my father's sister; married a lady of the same name as himself; they were related or something. Get it correct. My mother was Miss Johnstone, daughter of Mrs. Johnstone, née Miss Macargo, who was daughter of Miss Nancy MacKay of Fort Garry, only daughter of Alexander MacKay, my great-great-grandfather."

**GREER OF GREER'S BEACH.**

"Fred Greer, son of Sam Greer, of Greer's Beach" (Kitsilano Beach) "is my brother-in-law.

"Alexander MacKay" (of Fort Garry) "married the daughter of the Hudson's Bay factor of Fort Garry; she had a little Indian blood in her; he left two children. Tom, the eldest, and Nancy, who married Capt. Macargo; those two were all he had in the way of children."

**TONQUIN MASSACRE.**

"Alexander MacKay was one of the partners of the North West Trading Co., and as such was part of the *Tonquin*, and he was killed by the Indians on the Pacific Coast when they raided her in 1811; I have been told by my mother that Alexander MacKay warned the captain not to let more than ten Indians aboard at one time. Then, about 1814, MacKay's widow married Dr. John McLoughlin, the celebrated Hudson Bay official; my mother has told me all about it lots of times."