

**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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**Contact Information**

City of Vancouver Archives  
1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9  
604.736.8561  
archives@vancouver.ca  
vancouver.ca/archives



Gastown, make great big hotel" (and she waved her hand upwards); "after a while she sick, my aunt, Gassy Jack's wife, and she die; long time ago; I not stop long Gastown; be about twelve when I was Gassy Jack's wife; then Gassy Jack die, too, and I come over to here" (North Vancouver); "then come to my brother and my sister. Very poor now; no money, no clothes; cannot go to sell my baskets; can make good basket, but cannot go sell them; eyes getting blind."

By this time the two others had returned with the cherries. I tried my glasses on her eyes, but she did not seem to see any better. I asked if they had a photograph of her; they said, "Yes, up at Squamish." I asked if I may come again; they said, "Yes," and after handshakes all 'round, I departed.

It was a satisfactory visit only in that I had seen and conversed with the second wife of Gassy Jack, an old, worn and faded Indian woman of undoubted intelligence and character; gracious and kind, who in earlier years must have been of womanly strength, and, perhaps, prepossessing—I imagine so. It was an unusual visit inasmuch as in this year A.D. 1940, it was still possible to listen to the tongue, and touch the person, of a wife of John Deighton, alias "Gassy Jack" of Gastown, the historic whiteman to establish himself in Granville, now Vancouver.

J.S. Matthews.

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. G.F. UPHAM, WHO VERY KINDLY CALLED AT THIS CITY ARCHIVES THIS AFTERNOON, 20 JUNE 1940, AS HE PROMISED ME HE WOULD DO SO YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AT THE VANCOUVER PIONEERS ASSOCIATION PICNIC, HELD IN STANLEY PARK YESTERDAY.**

**A.G. FERGUSON. FIRST FERGUSON BLOCK. THOS. DUNN, ALDERMAN. JAMES HARTNEY.**

Mr. Upham said: "I know this. I came here January first, 1885; got off the stage from New Westminster—Douglas Road at the Granville Hotel; had a meal; fifty cents, and took a stroll to the corner. And at that time the Ferguson Block, on the southeast corner of Carrall Street and Powell Street, was up; a brand new building, and it is just possible the top floor was not finished at that time. Tom Dunn, hardware man, and Jim Hartney, had just moved in to the ground floor stores; the other stores in the building were empty at that time. Anyway, I know the building was up when I came on New Year's Day 1886. And the building next to it, next east, was being built soon after because I remember them building it. This photo, No. C.V. P. Dist. 8, N. 5" (Vancouver looking west from about corner of Westminster Avenue and Hastings Street) "was taken about the time I came; before or after."

**F.W. HART, UNDERTAKER. QUEEN BROS. TEA SWAMP. FRASER AVENUE. MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY.**

"I remember one time I was pall bearer at a funeral, and there was a pool of water in the low spot at the foot of the hill by the Tea Swamp" (North Arm Road, Cemetery Road, Fraser Avenue) "and Frank Hart's hearse was supposed to keep on the corduroy road over the swamp, but it didn't; it got off the corduroy, and the horses couldn't pull it back on; the hearse was heavy. So we all had to get out and help them, and gracious, what a mess I was in when I got home. Frank Hart was the only undertaker at that time."

Note: the exact spot was 100-200 yards south on Fraser Avenue from the present Kingsway. JSM.

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH EX-ALDERMAN T.H. CALLAND, POINT GREY ROAD, COMING HOME IN THE STREET CAR THIS EVENING, 28 JUNE 1940.**

**JOHN LYNN. LYNN CREEK. D.L. 204. EDWARD MAHON.**

Mr. Calland said: "I must tell you a queer real estate story. Edward Mahon" (Mahon, McFarland and Mahon) "went over by ferry, and walked over to see Mrs. Lynn, Lynn Creek. I went in and asked her how much she wanted for the property. She said, 'Sixty-five thousand dollars.' I told her I would go out and see the man who wanted to buy it and see if he would pay \$65,000. So I closed the door and went out.