

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 WITH WILLIAM MACKIE, 8698 WEST MARINE DRIVE, MARPOLE, WHO ATTENDED THE VANCOUVER PIONEERS ASSOCIATION PICNIC (S.S. *PRINCESS JOAN*) TO NEWCASTLE ISLAND, 14 JUNE 1939.

SIWASH ROCK. WILLIAM MACKIE (THE UNCLE.) INDIAN LEGENDS AND CUSTOMS. "BRITISH SIBERIA."

Mr. Mackie: "I must tell you about the ghosts at Siwash Rock. Uncle told me; his name was William Mackie, too; I've told you about him. Well, Uncle was cutting spars over at Moodyville; he cut spars over at Oyster Bay" (now Ladysmith); "there was a fellow over there they called 'British Siberia,' but I'll tell you about him after. Well, Uncle was cutting spars back of Moodyville, and for some reason one day he was passing Siwash Rock in an Indian canoe with an Indian lad; just the two of them; and as they got near to Slalacum Rock, that's Siwash Rock, the Indian lad in alarm says, 'Keep away from that rock.'

"Uncle said, 'Why,' and the Indian lad said, 'Because there's slalacums there' that is, ghosts, or dragons, or something like that.

"So Uncle said, 'They won't come near whitemans,' but the Indian lad lay down in the bottom of the canoe and pulled a blanket over him; got under the blanket.

"So they kept getting closer and closer to the rock, and the boy stayed under the blanket, shivering—with fright, I suppose—so Uncle shouted at the rock, 'Klatawa' (go away); 'no siwash here,' to delude the ghosts, no Indian was in the canoe.

"Anyway, two or three days later, Uncle was at Moodyville, and saw the Indian boy with another Indian boy, and the Indian boy he had in the canoe pointed with his finger at Uncle, and said to the other Indian lad, 'Hiyu' (big) 'teeth; hiyu' (big) 'tipsi' (hair), referring to the 'terrible beast' at Siwash Rock, at Slalacum Rock, which Uncle, the whiteman, had defied."

Memorandum: Mr. Mackie was wearing in his buttonhole a very fine rose bud, of the kind he said was called "shot silk." He said his garden on Marine Drive, tended by himself, was full of roses just now; that he had counted 492 roses. He very graciously took the bud from his buttonhole, and handed it to Mrs. Matthews.

It is extraordinary to reflect that Mr. Mackie planted the first garden on the south shore of False Creek—in the centre of the forest, at Fraser's logging camp in the muskeg, now Douglas Park. See his conversation of "cabbages and onions," 14 June 1937.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH JAMES A. MACKLIN, 777 BURRARD STREET, AT CITY ARCHIVES, 3 FEBRUARY 1939.

GENEALOGY.

Mr. Macklin said: "I came to Vancouver in October 1888 from Toronto, and via the C.P.R. I was born on the 20th March 1873 at Agincourt, Ontario, son of James and Elizabeth Macklin, farmers, U.E.L. on Mother's side. The whole family of eight children and mother and father; all came together. The idea was a 'better chance in a new land'; we lived in the 400 block on Cordova Street. Father died in 1922; Mother died in 1911; and is buried in Mountain View. We were the only family of the name. Then I worked for the city, in the water works department, for twenty years; I joined in 1913. There are lots of Macklins here now, all relatives."

LEAMY AND KYLE SAWMILL. CAMBIE STREET BRIDGE. SAWDUST ROADS.

"Leamy and Kyle furnished the material to build the Cambie Street bridge. I think there was a sort of arrangement that the city supply the labour, the engineer plans, the ironwork, etc., and the mill supplied the lumber. The reason was that before the bridge was built, the Leamy and Kyle Sawmill had only one outlet to the city, and that was down the sawdust road over the wet ground between their mill and Westminster Avenue. That sawdust road would be about Dufferin Street" (Second Avenue.) (Note: the early sawmill in Fairview stood at foot of Ash Street, at mouth of creek.)

WATER WELLS.

“When we lived on Cordova Street in the 400 block, before the Capilano water came, we got our water from a well owned by Alderman G.S. McConnell on Jackson Avenue.

“There was another well on Powell Street at the Blue Grocery—Patterson’s—it is still standing, in the 400 block. Some places we used a pump; at other places, a pail.

“After the Capilano water came there were several occasions when the water failed; the reason was there was no reservoir in the park then.”

MOODYVILLE WATER. WATER SCOW.

“Then, they used to bring water from the flume at Moodyville Sawmill. They had a great big scow; it was not Spratt’s Ark; some other scow, and it had a steam pump on it, and they filled it with water at the Moodyville flume, and brought it over to the City Wharf at the foot of Carrall Street and pumped it out into the sprinkling cart, or into barrels, and sent out a crew of four or five men to distribute it to the houses. The men used to take the water to the hotels; that was their favourite call; they had as many saloon bars in Vancouver then as they have beer parlors now—I don’t know how many, but I should think about sixty, at one time or another.”

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. EDITH TRITES, WIDOW, OF 1715 WEST ELEVENTH AVENUE, VANCOUVER, DAUGHTER OF C.C. MADDAMS, PIONEER OF 1887, AND HERSELF A PIONEER OF MOUNT PLEASANT, 1890, WHO VERY KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, 7 DECEMBER 1938.

C.C. MADDAMS, 1887.

“My father, Charles Cleaver Maddams, came to Vancouver from Victoria in 1887. When he got here, he got employment with Harry Abbott of the C.P.R.; then with the Marpoles, and then with the Canadian Pacific Railway, and remained with them fourteen years; he left them in 1901.

“At first we lived on Cordova Street, between Richards and Homer Street. Jonathan Miller, the postmaster, had his post office on Hastings Street right back of us; I remember the Miller boys used to throw rotten apples down at us below.”

TERMINAL BUILDING SOCIETY.

“Mother belonged to the Terminal Building Society; she was one of the first. George R. Gordon and T.F. Neelands, afterwards mayor, belonged to it, too, and Mother won a drawing; I think it was two thousand dollars—you had to pay back so much per month—and with that money we were able to build a home.”

MOUNT PLEASANT, 1890. WATER WELLS.

“After about, I think 1890, we went to live in Mount Pleasant, not exactly, but five and one half acres we bought for \$400 on the shore of False Creek; a triangular piece of land bounded by Seventh Avenue on the south, False Creek on the north, and the present St. Catherines Street on the west; Windsor Street ran into our property, but did not cross it; that five and one half acres is now probably the only section in Mount Pleasant which has not been subdivided. We built a large nine-room house; it was the first house out in that district; that was before the fall of 1890. We got our water from a wonderful natural spring. There was black lignite coal on the beach.”

CHINA CREEK. CHINESE GARDENS.

“Then we went out there first the whole thing was green trees. It was wonderful soil, fine loam, and Father let some Chinamen have the land rent free to clear it, and after they had cleared a section, rented it to them. There were other Chinese gardens just a little further on, across the creek to the east; we called it China Creek, and it is China Creek to this day; there is a big sewer running through there now.” (Note: it was probably a former Indian camping site. J.S.M.)

SALMON. TROUT LAKE.

“China Creek from Trout Lake came down right in front of our place, and ran out into False Creek; we used to go out at night with a pitch fork and spear the salmon in the creek; they were going up to spawn.”