

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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EAST SOUTH VANCOUVER SCHOOL. CARLETON SCHOOL. "PIG AND WHISTLE."

"When the East South Vancouver School was started, I attended it; it was in Peter Dubois' house; there were three in our family and the Alcock family had four or five, and a few others; there were only about eleven altogether; Martin J. Ravey was the teacher. We were there for a few months and then we moved down to John Collins' property. The first school was in Mr. Dubois' kind of a store. We had trouble getting water; we got our water from an old well in the 'Pig and Whistle Hotel,' on the north side of the road and is still standing, but our old home has gone. The 'Pig and Whistle' is in the 3300 block Kingsway; it is right on the corner of Stanford and Kingsway, on the northwest corner. They moved it around; it is now a dwelling, just a house, nothing much to look at; you would never know it had been a road house; that was all it was; they had a bar. There used to be quite a few wild cats and a few bears around. Maxwell Smith once got three bears on one day. A few cougars were around."

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH JOHN HENRY SCALES, PIONEER, 1867 OR 1868, OF BURRARD INLET, AND TODAY, 28 MAY 1946, THE EARLIEST LIVING RESIDENT IN A CITY OF FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND OR MORE, I.E., VANCOUVER.

He came to British Columbia with the Royal Engineers on the *Thames City* in 1859.

THE FIRST FREEDOM OF PARKS.

Mr. Scales in response to Major Matthews's request that he talk.

Mr. Scales: "About the freedom of the parks that the Park Board conferred upon Mrs. Scales and myself. How am I going to show anyone that I am a freeman of the parks. I might want to go for a swim in the Crystal Pool, and the fellow in charge would not let us in."

ROYAL ENGINEERS, 1859. SURVIVORS IN 1946.

Major Matthews: Mr. Scales, who is living now who came on the *Thames City*?

Mr. Scales: "Johnnie McMurphy and myself; that's all I know of; all the rest have passed away."

BURRARD INLET, 1868.

Mr. Scales: (addressing Miss Klemm, my assistant) "The first time I saw this place was when we came around Brockton Point in a row boat; there was a great big barn of a place up on the hill where Abbott Street is now; looked like a lighthouse. And then I remember when I saw the first railway locomotive; it loomed up above me like a great big thing; it seemed huge; but of course by our ideas of today it was just a little thing. Our ideas of size were different then."

(Addressing Major Matthews) "These strikes are playing the mischief with everything; I don't know what we'll have pretty soon; won't have anything to eat. I think these strikes are a regular nuisance; I think going too far; lots of people here are getting big wages but they are not satisfied. Different ones are getting one hundred and fifty and two hundred a month and yet they are not satisfied. When we got two and a half dollars a day we thought it was big wages, and lived fine."

"First job I had here on Burrard Inlet was fifty cents a day for eleven and a half hours work; wheeling sawdust at the Moodyville Mill. And when I got the money, I thought I was somebody."

LYNN OF LYNN CREEK.

"Lynn of Lynn Creek came out with us on the same boat. He was as good hard working fellow; good big healthy people. After we left here Father got work in Moodyville, that is, after we left the beach at the foot of Cambie Street now, and then he went over to Moodyville."

COAL BOXING. ABBOTT STREET. STAMP'S MILL.

Major Matthews: Mr. Scales, tell me the story of the old coal bore cabin again. Where was it? Where you lived first?

Mr. Scales: "You see when we came around Brockton Point in the row boat, Father and I, we saw the three shacks on the distant beach, and we made for the big one; it was the nearest; the middle one; it

was, they tell me, about where the foot of Abbott Street is now. It was a great big square barn, board and batten, that was all it was. When we got there we found nothing; empty barn, that's all."

GRANVILLE, 1868. FIRST DOCK OR WHARF.

"Father said, 'We won't stop here; we'll go down to the next one.' It was about the foot of Carrall Street. Couldn't find out anything there about who owned the empty barn. Father said to him, that is, Gassy Jack, 'Can you tell me who owns that empty barn up there?' Gassy Jack said, 'I don't know; go up to the mill'" (pointing towards Stamp's Mill) "and see the superintendent.' Father found the superintendent and says, 'Can you tell me who owns that big barn down there'" (pointing) "and he replied, 'No, I can't tell you,' he says, 'What do you want it for?' So Father says he would try and find out who it belonged to, and get lumber and put in petitions. So the superintendent said that if Father would come up and get it, he could have all the lumber he wanted. So after a while Father went up and borrowed some tools, and took the tools down in the row boat and towed the lumber after it; no roads then; there was no clearing in Granville Townsite then. It looked like the rest of the forest along the shore. There was no log float in front of the barn; there was a big tree fell out in the water and I nailed some boards on the top of it so as to make myself a nice little landing for our boat; we could follow the tide in and out."

FIRST BATHING BEACH.

"Mother used to tell us when we would go out on the beach, 'Don't take off your shoes and stockings, or you'll have feet like Indians.' So we used to go a little piece below the house and take off our shoes and stockings where we were out of sight, and wade around the beach all day, climb big rocks and everything else, and take a tin and catch little crabs, and see who would get the most. There were no amusements here for us; just Will and Lizzie and George and myself; that was all of us that was here then. The barn, now our house, was in a little piece of the beach, in the trees, and not always in sight; the bushes hid it."

As narrated to me, 28 May 1946.

J.S. Matthews.

After tea and cake, I took Mr. Scales to his home, 3520 Main Street, in a taxicab.

GRANVILLE, NOT "GASTOWN."

"Gastown prisoners tied to stumps." By B.A. McKelvie, *Province*, 8 June 1946.

GRANVILLE, BURRARD INLET. "GASTOWN." CAPTAIN JOHN DEIGHTON. "GASSY JACK."

Conversation over the telephone, 20 June 1946, with A.M. Whiteside, Esq., K.C., pioneer, 1879:

Mr. Whiteside: (to Major Matthews) "I got your invitation and medallion; thank you." (Issued by the Diamond Jubilee Committee to those here sixty years.) "Very nice.

"Why don't you stop those people" (newspaper men and historians) "calling this place 'Gastown.' Nobody ever called it 'Gastown'; nor spoke of 'Gassy Jack.' If you had asked anybody in those days where 'Gastown' was they wouldn't have known what you were talking about."

EXCERPT, EARLY VANCOUVER, MATTHEWS, VOL. 5.

Conversation with Mrs. Norman Emerson Lougheed, 2891 West 45th Avenue, Vancouver.

Mrs. Lougheed, née Paull, whose father owned Lot 2, Block 3, Old Granville townsite, purchased 12 December 1877, now Cordova Road West.

"He says the place was called 'Gastown.' It wasn't called Gastown. We never called it Gastown; we always called it Granville."

Note: there are several other instances of protestation by residents of Granville that they did not know it as Gastown.