

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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they skinned him in Victoria, you could tell how many times the rope was around his body. He was fat, and the rope left its mark in his fat.”

LEG IRONS.

“There was no leg irons in the melee, or whatever you call it, at all. That story about the leg irons is all ‘bunk.’ I have told you the correct history of the bear, and you can sign my name to it, if you like.”

ANOTHER BEAR STORY. DUCKS. HENS. PIGS.

“One day, R.H. Alexander, Ainslie Mouat, George Black and myself came over with some cattle, and when we got to the slaughter house, there was no poultry, pigs, ducks or anything to be seen; everything was as silent as a graveyard. The bear had got loose, and there had been a general slaughter; chickens, pigs, ducks; you could see pieces of them all over the place—and the bear was up a tree.”

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH JOHN MURRAY (THE SON) OF PORT MOODY, WHO CAME TO B.C. IN 1859 WITH ROYAL ENGINEERS ON *THAMES CITY*, 10 NOVEMBER 1938.

STAGES. STAGE BUGLES.

Mr. Murray said: “This is all nonsense about the Westminster-Burrard Inlet stage blowing horns or bugles.

“I have seen stages leaving for the Cariboo, and the stage leaving Victoria for Esquimalt, and the Westminster stage leaving for Burrard Inlet. W.R. Lewis, who operated the Burrard Inlet stage, was the only man who ever sounded a note, and he blew on a bugle, a military bugle, I suppose it was—never a horn—on the departure of the stage for Burrard Inlet, to warn the passengers the stage was about to leave.

“That was the only horn or bugle of any description in connection with stages I ever saw in British Columbia.”

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH JOHN MURRAY (JR.) OF PORT MOODY, WHO WAS BORN AT SEA ON THE *THAMES CITY*, 14 MARCH 1859, WHILST EN ROUTE TO BRITISH COLUMBIA WITH HIS FATHER, JOHN MURRAY, ROYAL ENGINEER.

He is now almost 79 years old.

Mr. Murray has served his city of Port Moody well. He surveyed the forest into streets, has been an alderman, police commissioner, and is now police magistrate, and has never taken a cent of remuneration for his public services. He is quick, active despite his age; walks with agility, clear of eye, and has quite a lot of grey, almost white, hair; in appearance and movement he appears to be ten years younger than he is. JSM.

FOREST FIRES. GASTOWN.

Mr. Murray said: “About this letter you wrote me about early forest fires. Well, I’ll tell you. The first fire of any account around Gastown was in the middle June 1880, and it was between what is now Pender Street and what was then False Creek shore, down where the C.P.R. yards are on Pender Street, and it ran up the hill we now call Beatty Street towards the Cambie Street grounds, etc. It did no property damage, but it burned for several weeks. I was working for George Black, butcher; he had a lot of cordwood stored in there in the forest, but we got it out before it was burned. I got out the last load, and then took ill with typhoid, and went home to my parents in New Westminster, until I got better. That is how I know it was in June 1880.”

FALSE CREEK ROAD.

“In the same month there was a bush fire on the old False Creek Road—what is called Kingsway—it burned several weeks too; just an ordinary bush fire; no damage done; it ran all over the country about Central Park, this side of Royal Oak, straddled the False Creek Road, and went down in the hollow towards Deer Lake; it was two miles wide, at least, across the road, or trail, as we called it.”