

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.

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MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH JOHN MURRAY, SON OF JOHN MURRAY, R.E., OF PORT MOODY, 20 JULY 1936.

ROWING RACES ON BURRARD INLET. ANNIE FRASER, RACING BOAT. CUM YEE.

Mr. Murray said: "The photograph" (C.V. P. Port. 238) "I gave you is the crew of the racing boat *Annie Fraser*; we christened her after Annie Fraser, the late Angus Fraser's eldest daughter who died" (1880); "she was clinker built, thirty-two feet long—not Annie Fraser, but the boat—and we never got beaten, excepting once in Victoria, when Tom Lynn, of Lynn Creek, broke his oar. We bought the race boat; she was built by Tom Maloney of Moodyville; he had a boat building yard there; built several boats. Our crew was Angus Fraser, Jim Fraser, Alex Johnston, and myself. Cum Yee, brother of Gum Yow, your old Vancouver Chinese interpreter, was coxswain."

MRS. EMILY PATTERSON. FIRST NURSE ON BURRARD INLET.

"See a long article on Mrs. Patterson in the *Province* magazine section on Saturday. Well, Angus Fraser's wife was going to have a baby, so we got the race boat, and Mrs. Patterson—she was nurse to everybody on Burrard Inlet—and brought her over to Granville from Moodyville."

DOMINION DAY. QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

"Where did we race? Why, on the Fraser River against Westminster crews; at Victoria, on Burrard Inlet against the Moodyville boat, the *Pearl*, or the *Maud*, or the *Grace Darling*; all four raceboats; the distance from Moodyville to Hastings Mill. The *Grace Darling* was built by four loggers in the Lev. Harmon's camp at Port Moody; all were clinker built. The prizes! I forget. But the first prize in Westminster was, once, one hundred dollars. We raced on Dominion Day and Queen's birthday."

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH JOHN MURRAY OF PORT MOODY, SON OF JOHN MURRAY, ROYAL ENGINEER, THAMES CITY, 1859, WHO CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, 15 DECEMBER 1936.

BROCKTON POINT. STANLEY PARK. EARLY CEMETERIES. PETER PLANT.

Mr. Murray said: "There was no official cemetery at Brockton Point; it was just a place where they buried people; there were several people buried there."

"I went over there in the spring of 1878 or 1879 to attend the funeral of a child belonging to Peter Plant. Peter's children were born and brought up in Gastown. Peter worked for Jerry Rogers for years. At the funeral there were just a few of them, and I went over through curiosity. I was young, about twenty then."

BREW'S POINT. TOMPKINS BREW.

"We all went over in a row boat, coffin and all, from the general wharf, it was called Mannion's wharf; just a float on the Gastown beach in front of Joe Mannion's Granville Hotel. Everything over there was in a rough state; no cemetery of any sort. We just rowed across the bay, and landed at what we called Brew's Point; they call it Brockton Point now; Brew lived there just inside the point; not in the Narrows, but well inside on the shore, where the old landing pier was afterwards, between the point where the Nine O'Clock Gun is and the point, both Brew's place and the grave yard was along that shore, but I could not say the exact spot now, but it was well inside the Narrows; it was just a rough place on the edge of the woods beside the beach; it was not kept up, and I was not very much interested in its location."

JACK JACKMAN, BULL PUNCHER. EARLY DEATHS.

"We had no parson with us, but there was in the group what we called in those days a bull puncher, Jack Jackman, ox teamster I suppose you would call him. There was no minister, so he read the burial service. The grave was just a hole in the ground in the bush, and as near as I can remember, there were other graves there. I was just a young fellow, and I was surprised when the bull puncher read the burial service; he was just a rough bull puncher. Just when they were going to put the child in the ground he said—there was no minister—'Is no one going to say anything,' and somebody said, 'No,' they were just going to put the child in the ground, and he said, 'If you will allow me I will.' He had a book in his pocket, and I was surprised to see a rough bull puncher pull it out and read the burial service out of the prayer book."

ROYAL ENGINEERS, 1859. ARTHUR M. HERRING.

"The children of the Royal Engineers of 1859 who are still living are: Hugh Murray, my brother, New Westminster. John Henry Scales, Vancouver. John McMurphy, New Westminster. John Murray, myself, Port Moody. Arthur M. Herring, New Westminster. Mrs. George Turnbull, New Westminster. Mrs. Wardell, who was Martha Morey, Sergeant Morey's daughter. Thos. Deasy died last year; William Murray, my brother, was born after we got here.

"But about Arthur Herring" (Arthur M. Herring.) "You see, there was a lady in the Old Country, and she married a man by the name of Herring, and Arthur M. Herring was her son. Mrs. Herring also had a daughter, I think her name was Sarah Herring, but don't know; she, the daughter, was also on the *Thames City*. Sarah, if that was her name, married a man, William Smith of the Royal Engineers, orderly of the Royal Engineer hospital. Smith took his discharge same as the rest of them, and opened a drug store on Columbia Street, New Westminster, where Arthur Herring got his training as a druggist, and I think he got some training in San Francisco, too, but am not sure.

"Before Mrs. Herring came out with the Royal Engineers, she again married, this time one of the Royal Engineers, by the name of Crart" (sic.) "I don't know how he spelt it, but it was Crart or Krart or something, and Arthur Herring and his sister came out with their mother and stepfather on the *Thames City*."

TILLMAN HERRING.

"Now the Herring who belonged to the Seymour Battery was not the same Herring at all; different family altogether; no relation. Arthur Herring, child of the Royal Engineers, is still living in New Westminster; so is Tillman Herring living in New Westminster.

"There was a man came to New Westminster in the early days by the name of Sam Herring, and he located across the river opposite the Penitentiary, and used to supply the soldiers in New Westminster with milk and vegetables. One of the sons was Tillman Herring, another was Sir John, after Sir John Franklin; then there was Henry, and the one daughter was Anna Mary. Tillman Herring is the man who belonged to the Seymour Battery who was at your banquet of the 'Old Garrison Artillery Association' at the Hotel Georgia on January 17th, or thereabouts, two years ago."

SCHOONER ROB ROY. ALEXANDER MCLEAN.

"There has been some discussion in the newspapers recently about Alex McLean's *Rob Roy*" (in "Over the Foreyard," Vancouver Daily *Province*) "and a Col. McMillan" (John McMillan) "has been telling about it. Well, he has made mistakes.

"Now, old Mr. McLean, Alexander McLean, came up from Australia with a schooner called the *Rob Roy*; he was an Old Country Scotchman, and he got into San Francisco about the time the Civil War was on, and there was a blockade on, and he wanted to get out, and the blockade was on and they would not allow him to leave the harbour, and he ran the blockade and came up to Puget Sound, up to Whatcom or Semiahmoo." (Mr. Murray says, "Civil War was on," i.e., about 1864, but the McLeans claim 1858 or 1859; something wrong somewhere. JSM.) "He located at Whatcom for a while, but his boarding house or hotel was burned down, and then he came on with his schooner *Rob Roy*, and after looking around Burrard Inlet and Fraser River, he settled at the mouth of the Pitt River, right where the shipyard was where they built the ships during the Great War. Well, he remained there a short while, and then he went up the river a piece to the prairie" (Pitt Meadows) "and established a farm now called the Marshall Ranch, and he went in for cattle and general farming.

"He took the fittings out of the *Rob Roy* into his home, and pulled the *Rob Roy* up on the bank of the river and there she rotted and went to pieces. About the clock which Col. McMillan speaks of. It was an old-fashioned clock; Father fetched the old clock from McLeans, an old bronze clock; it was of no use, but Father fixed it up and it ran in our house for years, until about 1881; I think it is over in Cloverdale somewhere now.

"Col. McMillan says that the masts were standing in 1894 or 1896; he is wrong; he must be wrong, because I was there all the time from 1873, and there was nothing of the *Rob Roy* visible after 1875 or 1876; she was all full of mud, and the last you could see of her was a few of the ribs.

"But the spot where she lay, where she disappeared, was on the west bank of the Pitt River about three quarters of a mile below the present C.P.R. railway bridge, and about two hundred yards up river from the McLean dwelling."

EARLY CATTLE.

"But this story about 250 head of cattle is all a yarn; he had nothing like that number. I remember he had a bull, but he never brought 250 cattle on the *Rob Roy*."

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH JOHN MURRAY OF PORT MOODY (SON OF JOHN MURRAY, ROYAL ENGINEER), ONE OF THE CHILD PASSENGERS OF THE *THAMES CITY*, 1859, SATURDAY, 20 AUGUST 1938.

He was at the City Hall waiting when I arrived this morning at nine; he had just come from Port Moody.

ROYAL ENGINEERS, UNIFORM.

Mr. Murray said: (holding leather pouch with pointed flap, 4" x 3", pipe-clayed, brass button, and button hole, and stamped 814, D. BRA) "This is one of the pouches belonging to the Royal Engineers. I imagine they carried it on their waist belt, and I think it was to hold the percussion caps; they used large, very large, percussion caps; used them on the Enfield rifle; short Enfield rifle; it is one of the Royal Engineer pouches; I swear it is. Father had a whole lot of them in a barrel."

Major Matthews: Well, when the R.E. went away, didn't they take all their accoutrements with them?

"THE CAMP," ROYAL ENGINEERS. SAPPERTON. ENFIELD RIFLES. SCABBARD (SWORD BAYONET.)

Mr. Murray: "Those who went back to the regiment did. But there was a whole lot of uniforms, accoutrements, short Enfield rifles, stores, which were left behind; that remained at 'The Camp.' All the equipment they left behind remained at 'The Camp' for years. We lived next door; that was why Father was looking after those stores."

Major Matthews: Well, I thought he left the Royal Engineers when they went back.

Mr. Murray: "So he did, but the uniforms and equipment was in the old store next to our place; in the old abandoned Royal Engineer store building. Some of the stuff got stolen; I don't know how; nobody did, but the Indians, somehow or other, always managed to get a rifle, but when we found them with one, we always took it away from them; that is, the rifle someone had stolen out of the old store building. I have part of a scabbard belonging to Father's sword" (old name for bayonet); "I cut the tail off it, and made it into a hunting knife scabbard."

SEYMOUR ARTILLERY UNIFORMS. B.C. GARRISON ARTILLERY.

(Holding a leather belt, pipe-clayed, square brass buckle with broad arrow, W.D., 8, also B.C.G.A.)

Mr. Murray: "No. This is not a Royal Engineer belt left behind. I don't know exactly what it is, but it is not a Royal Engineer belt."

"Just previous to Governor Seymour arriving, there was a company formed called the Seymour Artillery, and the belts, pouches, sword" (bayonet) "and rifle formerly belonging to the Royal Engineers, which had been left behind, were served out to the Seymour Artillery. I know, because Father was one of the principals in the Seymour Artillery, and I saw it done."

SEYMOUR'S ARCH, 21 APRIL 1864.

"I remember when the uniforms were made by one of the tailors in New Westminster, Tommy Walsh, Thomas Walsh, who had been in the R.E., and they" (Seymour Artillery) "were the ones who received Governor Seymour on his arrival at 'The Camp'; that was where the arch was erected for him to pass under; they made it all kinds of flags, evergreens, but this is not one of the Royal Engineer belts."

(Note by J.S.M.: The belt, and the pouch were given me by L.B. Lusby of New Westminster. He told me the belt belonged to the B.C. Garrison Artillery in New Westminster, and the pouch he obtained from an outhouse adjoining John Murray Sr.'s home at Port Moody; he found it there whilst they were camping