

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, OVER THE PHONE, WITH MRS. J. DODD ALLAN, "BAINSMORE APARTMENTS," CORNER ELEVENTH AVENUE AND HEMLOCK STREET, VANCOUVER, 31 MAY 1940.

WILLIAM HAILSTONE. FRANK MARRION.

Mrs. Allan phoned respecting an item in the Vancouver Daily *Sun*, of today, 31 May 1940, under the caption of "Romance of Vancouver," reading in part as follows:

In 1881 the first "old timer" returns to the [Burrard] Inlet. Sam Brighthouse leases his farms on the Fraser, and come back to the future "West End." Shortly before he arrives, Hailstone's third is reported sold, and William vanishes from our sphere of interest forever, with "a mere pittance" for his property.

ALWAYS "NEAR" SUCCESS.

Poor Hailstone—he seems to have been the type of likeable but unimpressive fellow who is forever "just missing" success. The return of Brighthouse is significant. [Etc., etc., etc.]

Mrs. Allan said: (obviously annoyed) "That is not true; William Hailstone died rich; there was the property he sold, and his relatives in England are still in possession of his competency, and living on it. I have returned from there recently."

Major Matthews: There was a similar reference in the *Sun* of Saturday, May 25th which read:

Hailstone on the other hand seems to have lost his opportunity shortly after this time, for we hear little more of him than that in later years he is living retired in England in moderate circumstances, and under the impression that he was "swindled out" of his potentially valuable stake in the so far unmaterialized city of Vancouver.

I can assure you, Mrs. Allan, that I strongly disapprove of what has been published, and in more than one instance, remonstrated with the author.

Mrs. Allan: "Mrs. Frank Marrion" (Frank Marrion, formerly of City Hall staff) "and I are nieces of William Hailstone; William Hailstone married my mother's sister; it was my mother's money which started William Hailstone on his trip, the first to British Columbia."

Approved by Mrs. Allan after reading, 4 June 1940. J.S.M.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. J. DODD ALLAN, "BAINSMORE APARTMENTS," ELEVENTH AVENUE AND HEMLOCK STREET, VANCOUVER (NIECE OF WILLIAM HAILSTONE, OF THE "WEST END") WHO, TOGETHER WITH HER OLD FRIEND, MRS. WALTER M. GOW, NÉE COUGHTERY, BOTH PIONEER DAUGHTERS OF VANCOUVER, CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, 4 JUNE 1940.

WILLIAM HAILSTONE. GENEALOGY. FRANK MARRION.

Mrs. Allan said: "My uncle, William Hailstone, was brother-in-law to Mrs. Christopher Arkle; that is, Mrs. Arkle and Mrs. Hailstone were sisters; both had been the Misses Wilburn" (sic.) "Mr. Hailstone married Miss Wilburn, and her sister married Mr. Arkle. I was Miss Arkle, and married Mr. J. Dodd Allan; my sister married Mr. Frank Marrion, formerly of the City Hall staff.

"We came out here in 1888 as a result of Mr. Hailstone's representations; that is, my father, Christopher Arkle, and mother, Esther Dorothy Arkle, and with Father and Mother came four children" (in order of birth):

1. Ettie, now Mrs. Frank Marrion.
2. Lucy Kate, who married a Mr. William Middler. She died in Vancouver about 1905.
3. Christopher Arkle, who died in Vancouver just before the first Great War.
4. Florence, that is, myself, Mrs. J. Dodd Allan.

"Father died in Vancouver when he was fifty-four, and is buried in Mountain View; Mother died in Vancouver after the Great War, about 1920, and is also buried in Mountain View.

"My children are:

1. Dalton Dodd Allan, who married Miss Lydia Brown; there are no children.
2. John Eric Allan, also married; no children.
3. Florence Josephine Marjorie Allan; unmarried, and now aged twenty-one.

"All living now" (1940) "in Vancouver."

MRS. HAILSTONE. HAILSTONE ESTATES. WEST END. D.L. 185.

"It was my aunt's" (Mrs. Hailstone) "money which was loaned to her husband, William Hailstone, to take up some land, some crown grant; I presume it was the 'West End' preemption. Mr. and Mrs. Hailstone had two daughters; the oldest, Maud Mary Hailstone, now Mrs. Prescott, and Dora, her sister, now" [blank.]

"We, that is, Mr. Allan, myself and our daughter, have just come back from a visit to England; we left England two weeks after the war broke out" (3 September 1939) "on the *Duchess of Atholl*. My son Eric came back two weeks ago.

"I left my cousin," (Maud Mary) "Mrs. Prescott, in Northwood, Middlesex; she is without children. Dora, Mr. Hailstone's youngest child, died in Scarborough, England, about 1918. Dora was in Vancouver just after the Great War, and she donated money or something to some tubercular institution; perhaps it was the Rotary Clinic; anyway, they put her name in bronze letters on something somewhere. Now, here in these articles here in the *Sun*" ("Romance of Vancouver," 31 May 1940) "the writer says that Uncle Hailstone died very poor." (Positively and somewhat scornful) "*He didn't*."

"I don't know how much they had; my mother got a quarter of Dora's estate" (when Dora died) "to use right away, and the other sister, Maud, had the remainder of Dora's estate for her lifetime, and then it comes to my mother's sister.

"When Billy Hailstone died, he left his estate in England in his wife's name; he was afraid he was going to lose out here, so he put it in his wife's name, and she made a will leaving it to him for his life, and then to his children. He was very careful with his money; his wants were few; he was no spender, and he made a fortune out of the interest; he just let it accumulate. At any rate, when he died, his two daughters were left very well off."

JONATHAN ROGERS.

"My mother and I stayed at Uncle Billy's place at Jesmond Dean, where he lived; that was about 1900; I was 20 then and I am sixty now. While we were there, Jonathan Rogers of Vancouver came to visit us, and we had New Year's dinner together in Newcastle. Jonathan Rogers was not married then, but was going to be.

"Uncle Hailstone did not have a stroke; at least, if he did I never heard of it; he fell down stairs, and broke his neck, or something like that."

HAILSTONE, MORTON, BRIGHOUSE CABIN.

"I have heard, too, that they built the first shack on Burrard Inlet, and that Uncle William got a lump on his shoulder from carrying lumber, and had to have it operated upon by a doctor."

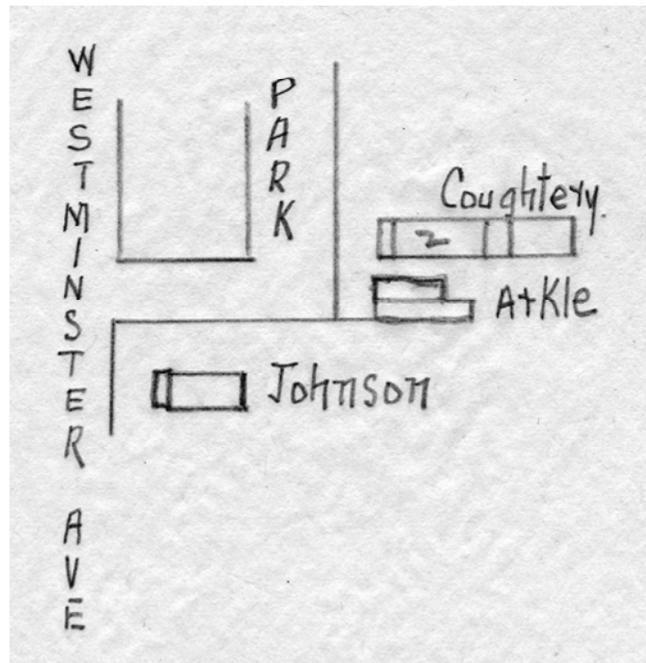
PARK AVENUE. CHRISTOPHER ARKLE. MRS. W.M. GOW, NÉE COUGHTERY.

"We used to live, when we were children, next to each other" (Mrs. Gow.) "We lived on Park Avenue, a short street near the False Creek bridge, just east of Westminster Avenue; Mrs. Gow" (then Miss Cougherty) "lived next door to the north. Our house was not exactly over the water, but Father had a boat and he used to tie it under the house. You can see our house in almost any photo of Vancouver taken from about Seventh Avenue, Mount Pleasant, looking north over False Creek, and it is shown on Dakin Fire Map, November 1889, sheet eighteen, a one-storey dwelling" (SWG, BC) "with brick chimney, facing

west, right at the end of a short street joining Westminster Avenue and Park Avenue, and looking down the short street.

“Alex Johnson, who ran the Victoria Hotel afterwards, lived on the southeast corner of Westminster Avenue; one storey, little verandah in front, on Westminster Avenue, and looking west; just in front as we looked from our house down the short street.

“What you have written here, as a conversation with me, 31st May 1940, is quite correct.”



Item # EarlyVan_v5_044

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. DONALD ALEXANDER MATHESON, OF MAYO, YUKON, AND OF THE IRWINTON APARTMENTS, 777 BURRARD STREET, VANCOUVER, WHO KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, CITY HALL, VANCOUVER, 7 JUNE 1940.

Mr. Matheson was born at Dundas, P.E.I., 15 June 1869, sixth child of the family of eleven of Malcolm Matheson and Catherine, née McDonald, both of whom were born on the Island of Skye, Scotland. They came to P.E.I. early in life, were married on Prince Edward Island.

Mr. D.A. Matheson married Miss Adolphine Schock, of San Francisco, at Dawson, Y.T., on 31 October 1906, in first Presbyterian Church, and by the Rev. John Pringle (Col. the Rev. John Pringle, D.S.O.) They have one child, Malcolm Alexander Matheson, married to a Scotch lady from Dawson, and they also have one son, Gordon Alexander Matheson. Mr. Malcolm Matheson is in charge of his parents' former business in Mayo, Y.T., consisting of general store and telephone exchange owned and controlled by them.

CLEARING “C.P.R. TOWNSITE.” FIRST C.P.R. ROUNDHOUSE. L.A. HAMILTON.

Mr. Matheson said: “I came here in 1885 indirectly from Toronto, Ontario. I spent a few months in Toronto, came to Seattle by rail, then over to Victoria by steamer. I thought I was a man, and just started out. I stayed a couple of months in Victoria, worked at building the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway. Then I got the idea I would go over to Burrard Inlet. I came over on the side wheel steamer *Yosemite*; landed at the only dock, the Hastings Sawmill dock; that was in the summer, July or August, 1885.”

THE GREAT FIRE, 13 JUNE 1886. C.P.R. TOWNSITE.

“Patterson, Stevens and McCraney had the contract for slashing the townsite from the C.P.R. Then came the big fire in Vancouver, 1886. I was living in a cabin at the back of Carter's hotel on Water Street” (near