

**Early Vancouver**

**Volume Five**

**By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.**

**2011 Edition (Originally Published 1945)**

*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**

The 2011 edition is a transcription of the original work collected and published by Major Matthews. Handwritten marginalia and corrections Matthews made to his text over the years have been incorporated and some typographical errors have been corrected, but no other editorial work has been undertaken. The edition and its online presentation was produced by the City of Vancouver Archives to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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**CAPILANO CREEK. WATER WORKS. CAPILANO RANCHERS.**

“When they started to build the water pipe line up the Capilano Creek, a man named Gilley, and his Indian wife, towed the workmen backwards and forwards in a Columbia River fishing boat from Andy Linton’s float at the foot of Carrall Street, and he would sail, or row, right up the creek—he could get up far enough to land them.

“If they ever did built a wharf for the Capilano Ranchers” (see *News-Advertiser*, 25 March 1890, page 8) “then I do not know where they built the float or wharf; the only place I can think of would be up at Tom Turner’s or at the present ferry wharf at North Vancouver; I don’t recall the landing anywhere down towards the First Narrows.”

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. W.A. BAUER (NÉE MISS RUBY SPRINGER OF MOODYVILLE) AT CITY ARCHIVES, 12 APRIL 1940.**

**MRS. JONATHAN MILLER. COL. BENJAMIN SPRINGER. COL. TRACY.**

Mrs. Bauer said: “This photograph, which I will present to the City Archives, is of Mrs. Jonathan Miller, in her early sixties. She was the daughter of Colonel Benjamin Springer, one of the first civil engineers in Canada—Col. Tracy, formerly, City Engineer, Vancouver, was one of his pupils—Col. Springer served in the Riel Rebellion.

“Mrs. Miller’s two sisters married; one to Dr. Tufford, and the other, Dr. Flood. Of her brothers, one was Dr. Frank Springer, and the other, Rev.” [blank] “Springer, of Grace Church, Philadelphia, who died on the steps of his church.”

**MRS. BENJAMIN SPRINGER OF MOODYVILLE, B.C. MRS. RICHARDS OF HASTINGS MILL. MISS FRANCES NIAS.**

“This card, which I will also present to you, is what you see; let me read what it says:

THE GOVERNOR REQUESTS  
THE PLEASURE OF MISS NIAS’S COMPANY  
ON TUESDAY EVENING, THE 24<sup>TH</sup>  
INSTANT AT 9 O’CLOCK

Government House  
14<sup>th</sup> May 1890.

An answer is requested.

“Well, Miss Frances Nias was married at the age of 17 to Mr. Richards, and was a widow at eighteen, with one child, Louis, afterwards legally adopted as Louis Springer. The Nias family came to Victoria in 1858 when Frances, or ‘Fanny’ Nias, my mother, was five years old; they were English people, came from California, where Mr. Nias had been the editor of one of the first newspapers in San Francisco. I am told that, in 1859, he started a newspaper in Victoria, but I do not know the title it went under. Mr. Nias’s brother was Rear Admiral Sir Joseph Nias, and lived on Park Lane, London, England.

“I am giving you this card as from the Springers; that is, Mrs. Watkin Boulton (Miss Mabel Springer), “Miss Eva Springer; Herbert” (Bob) “M. Springer, my brother, and myself” (Mrs. W.A. Bauer, née Miss Ruby Springer.)

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. JAMES WALKER, ELDEST DAUGHTER [OF] JOSEPH SILVEY (“PORTUGUESE JOE NO. 1”) AT CITY ARCHIVES, 22 APRIL 1940.**

**EIHU. KANAKAS. COAL HARBOUR.**

Mrs. Walker said: “Eihu was a Kanaka, looked Hawaiian, and talked that language, and he had an Indian wife. He lived down at the little ranch in Coal Harbour. They had a lot of vegetables, and apple trees, and my stepmother, Lucy Silvey, Indian, used to go there to buy vegetables and took me with her. I heard the women say she had two husbands; one week she stayed one house, and the next week she stayed at