

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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Gastown, make great big hotel" (and she waved her hand upwards); "after a while she sick, my aunt, Gassy Jack's wife, and she die; long time ago; I not stop long Gastown; be about twelve when I was Gassy Jack's wife; then Gassy Jack die, too, and I come over to here" (North Vancouver); "then come to my brother and my sister. Very poor now; no money, no clothes; cannot go to sell my baskets; can make good basket, but cannot go sell them; eyes getting blind."

By this time the two others had returned with the cherries. I tried my glasses on her eyes, but she did not seem to see any better. I asked if they had a photograph of her; they said, "Yes, up at Squamish." I asked if I may come again; they said, "Yes," and after handshakes all 'round, I departed.

It was a satisfactory visit only in that I had seen and conversed with the second wife of Gassy Jack, an old, worn and faded Indian woman of undoubted intelligence and character; gracious and kind, who in earlier years must have been of womanly strength, and, perhaps, prepossessing—I imagine so. It was an unusual visit inasmuch as in this year A.D. 1940, it was still possible to listen to the tongue, and touch the person, of a wife of John Deighton, alias "Gassy Jack" of Gastown, the historic whiteman to establish himself in Granville, now Vancouver.

J.S. Matthews.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. G.F. UPHAM, WHO VERY KINDLY CALLED AT THIS CITY ARCHIVES THIS AFTERNOON, 20 JUNE 1940, AS HE PROMISED ME HE WOULD DO SO YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AT THE VANCOUVER PIONEERS ASSOCIATION PICNIC, HELD IN STANLEY PARK YESTERDAY.

A.G. FERGUSON. FIRST FERGUSON BLOCK. THOS. DUNN, ALDERMAN. JAMES HARTNEY.

Mr. Upham said: "I know this. I came here January first, 1885; got off the stage from New Westminster—Douglas Road at the Granville Hotel; had a meal; fifty cents, and took a stroll to the corner. And at that time the Ferguson Block, on the southeast corner of Carrall Street and Powell Street, was up; a brand new building, and it is just possible the top floor was not finished at that time. Tom Dunn, hardware man, and Jim Hartney, had just moved in to the ground floor stores; the other stores in the building were empty at that time. Anyway, I know the building was up when I came on New Year's Day 1886. And the building next to it, next east, was being built soon after because I remember them building it. This photo, No. C.V. P. Dist. 8, N. 5" (Vancouver looking west from about corner of Westminster Avenue and Hastings Street) "was taken about the time I came; before or after."

F.W. HART, UNDERTAKER. QUEEN BROS. TEA SWAMP. FRASER AVENUE. MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY.

"I remember one time I was pall bearer at a funeral, and there was a pool of water in the low spot at the foot of the hill by the Tea Swamp" (North Arm Road, Cemetery Road, Fraser Avenue) "and Frank Hart's hearse was supposed to keep on the corduroy road over the swamp, but it didn't; it got off the corduroy, and the horses couldn't pull it back on; the hearse was heavy. So we all had to get out and help them, and gracious, what a mess I was in when I got home. Frank Hart was the only undertaker at that time."

Note: the exact spot was 100-200 yards south on Fraser Avenue from the present Kingsway. JSM.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH EX-ALDERMAN T.H. CALLAND, POINT GREY ROAD, COMING HOME IN THE STREET CAR THIS EVENING, 28 JUNE 1940.

JOHN LYNN. LYNN CREEK. D.L. 204. EDWARD MAHON.

Mr. Calland said: "I must tell you a queer real estate story. Edward Mahon" (Mahon, McFarland and Mahon) "went over by ferry, and walked over to see Mrs. Lynn, Lynn Creek. I went in and asked her how much she wanted for the property. She said, 'Sixty-five thousand dollars.' I told her I would go out and see the man who wanted to buy it and see if he would pay \$65,000. So I closed the door and went out.

"I told Mr. Mahon what sum she had mentioned, and then added, 'I think I can get it for you.' Then I went back and told her that he (the prospective buyer) said he would give her \$21,000 if she would throw in those three calves.

"She ejaculated, 'He can't have the three calves; I won't.'

"The end was, well, we put her in a buggy and drove over to the bank, and gave her the twenty-one thousand dollars, and she seemed well pleased with it; it was a reasonable price."

Major Matthews: But he didn't get the three calves.

Mr. Calland: "No. I never heard what happened to the three calves."

Major Matthews: Did Mr. Mahon get the whole district lot?

Mr. Calland: "Yes."

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH JOHN MURRAY, SON OF JOHN MURRAY, ROYAL ENGINEER, PORT MOODY, WHO VERY KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES THIS MORNING, 29 JUNE 1940.

MAXIE'S. JACK FANNIN. HASTINGS, B.I. "ROMANCE OF VANCOUVER." FIRST ROLLER SKATING.

Mr. Murray said: "Maxie's hotel was, excepting the stable on the west bank of the creek, the furthest east building at Hastings; it was only a few yards from the stable; it had a tall flagpole beside it. It had a bar, bedrooms, and was one storey, not two storey, and it had a dance hall; the dance hall was used for roller skating. At the back was a bit of a garden; not much.

"Next, to the west, was another of Maxie's stables, but I think it was pulled down when they built that two-storey building to the west of Maxie's, about fifty feet west; but that was built in recent years, long after my time.

"Then next was Jack Fannin's: one-storey cottage where he made boots; it had a bit of verandah in front of it. And there was a fence to the west of his place, but you did not have to go through the fence to get into his cottage; his cottage was almost directly across from George Black's Brighton Hotel, but not quite directly; Jack Fannin was across the road, but a little farther east than George Black's hotel, just a few feet. Behind Jack Fannin's fence was field."

BEARS.

"I have been reading that 'Romance of Vancouver'" (serial) "in the *Sun*; lots of mistakes in it; that stuff about the bear is all wrong; I've told you about it."

Major Matthews: I don't think much of that "Romance of Vancouver"; nobody does.

Mr. Murray: "Some of it is correct. The rest, pooh."

Major Matthews: How are you feeling now.

Mr. Murray: "Not very good; legs done. No longer magistrate; was defeated, but I'm a policeman, and an honorary one at that."

A.R. HOWSE.

Mr. Murray: (looking at *Port Moody Gazette*, and advertisement of "A.R. Howse.") "There's a Royal Engineer. He had a son, Charlie Howse. He lived up at Dollarton for a while."

Note: this is the missing Howse, I suspect. The one John Scales says was living in John Morton's cabin when he and his father came to Burrard Inlet in a boat about 1869. J.S.M.