

Early Vancouver

Volume Five

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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 125th anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH T. BOTTERELL, 734 WEST 13TH AVENUE, VANCOUVER, B.C., 1 MARCH 1940.

CHIEF CAPILANO JOE.

Mr. Botterell: "Here's a snapshot of Capilano Joe with his band, at some hop-picking yard. I was with Joe one day and something happened, and he said to me, 'Why you say "hot as hell" and "cold as hell"; what you mean?'

"So I replied, 'Where is hell, Joe?' And Joe answered, 'I don't know; it's some place whitemans carries round with him in a book.'"

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH W.A. GRAFTON OF GRAFTON LAKE, BOWEN ISLAND, NOW OF 542 WEST 63RD AVENUE (OVER THE PHONE), 5 APRIL 1940.

SCHOONER C.D. RAND. DEAD WHALE. COAL HARBOUR. F.W. HART. CENTRE AND HANNA. DEAD WHALE.

Major Matthews: Mr. Grafton. What boats were used to catch whales off Bowen Island?

Mr. Grafton: "Harry Trim had a two-masted schooner, but he used a Columbia River fishing boat covered in on the bow. You've heard about the whale they towed into Coal Harbour; the one they used for exhibition purposes. Well, I used to know Capt. Westerlund, he was on the sealing schooner *C.D. Rand*, and I used to go aboard. So one night it was very dark, I was in my boat to Coal Harbour to go aboard the *C.D. Rand*, she was anchored in Coal Harbour, and I bumped into something which looked like a black balloon tied to the *C.D. Rand*; it was the dead whale. They paid Centre and Hanna two hundred dollars to embalm it."

Note: Ronald Kenvyn, writing in the *Province*, Saturday, 4 May 1940, under caption "HOWE SOUND WHALING," says F.W. Hart embalmed the whale, and I think Mr. Kenvyn is correct. J.S.M.

He says Hart bought up all the embalming fluid in Vancouver, Victoria, and Westminster, and pumped it into the whale with a bicycle pump. Hart was a pioneer Vancouver undertaker.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH W.A. GRAFTON, OF "GRAFTON LAKE" AND "GRAFTON BAY," BOWEN ISLAND, NOW OF 542 WEST 63RD AVENUE, AT CITY ARCHIVES, 10 APRIL 1940.

HARRY TRIM. PETER SMITH. WHALING AND WHALES. FROLANDER. SKUNK COVE. WEST VANCOUVER. MOODYVILLE SAWMILL.

Mr. Grafton said: "You were talking about Pete Smith, and whaling. If Pete Smith ever went whaling, it was before I came in 1887; you see, the only whaling done was done by Harry Trim. Then Harry quit, came to my place on Bowen Island, picked up a load of cedar posts for his ranch on Westham Island. He had a schooner, and took them away on her."

Note: A.J. Khahtsahlano says, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3, that Peter Smith speared whales, and gives brief account of where and how.

"In 1887 there was one man only living on the north shore from the First Narrows to Point Atkinson, and that was Navy Jack, and that will show you how lonely it was along that shore, but the Moodyville Sawmill Co. were hauling logs east of Navy Jack's and dumping the logs in that lagoon" (Indian name "Swywhee") "three quarters of a mile east of the Hollyburn landing."

SQUATTERS.

"You see, all those people who squatted along there were working either at Moodyville or Vancouver. Frolander, the old man, (that cook, Frolander, I gave you a picture of him, was the son of the original owner of Skunk Cove, Frolander, the old man), he was millwright at the Hastings Sawmill, but he never lived on his land. So long as you did not leave your land for longer than three months it was all right, so that the squatters who were working used to go down once in a while, and live there, and go away again."

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 24TH
INSTANT AT 9 O’CLOCK

Government House
14th 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