

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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Footnote or Endnote Reference:

Major James Skitt Matthews, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 5 (Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011), 33.

Bibliographic Entry:

Matthews, Major James Skitt. *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 5. Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011.

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MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH WILLIAM MACKIE, 8698 WEST MARINE DRIVE, MARPOLE, WHO ATTENDED THE VANCOUVER PIONEERS ASSOCIATION PICNIC (S.S. *PRINCESS JOAN*) TO NEWCASTLE ISLAND, 14 JUNE 1939.

SIWASH ROCK. WILLIAM MACKIE (THE UNCLE.) INDIAN LEGENDS AND CUSTOMS. "BRITISH SIBERIA."

Mr. Mackie: "I must tell you about the ghosts at Siwash Rock. Uncle told me; his name was William Mackie, too; I've told you about him. Well, Uncle was cutting spars over at Moodyville; he cut spars over at Oyster Bay" (now Ladysmith); "there was a fellow over there they called 'British Siberia,' but I'll tell you about him after. Well, Uncle was cutting spars back of Moodyville, and for some reason one day he was passing Siwash Rock in an Indian canoe with an Indian lad; just the two of them; and as they got near to Slalacum Rock, that's Siwash Rock, the Indian lad in alarm says, 'Keep away from that rock.'

"Uncle said, 'Why,' and the Indian lad said, 'Because there's slalacums there' that is, ghosts, or dragons, or something like that.

"So Uncle said, 'They won't come near whitemans,' but the Indian lad lay down in the bottom of the canoe and pulled a blanket over him; got under the blanket.

"So they kept getting closer and closer to the rock, and the boy stayed under the blanket, shivering—with fright, I suppose—so Uncle shouted at the rock, 'Klatawa' (go away); 'no siwash here,' to delude the ghosts, no Indian was in the canoe.

"Anyway, two or three days later, Uncle was at Moodyville, and saw the Indian boy with another Indian boy, and the Indian boy he had in the canoe pointed with his finger at Uncle, and said to the other Indian lad, 'Hiyu' (big) 'teeth; hiyu' (big) 'tipsi' (hair), referring to the 'terrible beast' at Siwash Rock, at Slalacum Rock, which Uncle, the whiteman, had defied."

Memorandum: Mr. Mackie was wearing in his buttonhole a very fine rose bud, of the kind he said was called "shot silk." He said his garden on Marine Drive, tended by himself, was full of roses just now; that he had counted 492 roses. He very graciously took the bud from his buttonhole, and handed it to Mrs. Matthews.

It is extraordinary to reflect that Mr. Mackie planted the first garden on the south shore of False Creek—in the centre of the forest, at Fraser's logging camp in the muskeg, now Douglas Park. See his conversation of "cabbages and onions," 14 June 1937.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH JAMES A. MACKLIN, 777 BURRARD STREET, AT CITY ARCHIVES, 3 FEBRUARY 1939.

GENEALOGY.

Mr. Macklin said: "I came to Vancouver in October 1888 from Toronto, and via the C.P.R. I was born on the 20th March 1873 at Agincourt, Ontario, son of James and Elizabeth Macklin, farmers, U.E.L. on Mother's side. The whole family of eight children and mother and father; all came together. The idea was a 'better chance in a new land'; we lived in the 400 block on Cordova Street. Father died in 1922; Mother died in 1911; and is buried in Mountain View. We were the only family of the name. Then I worked for the city, in the water works department, for twenty years; I joined in 1913. There are lots of Macklins here now, all relatives."

LEAMY AND KYLE SAWMILL. CAMBIE STREET BRIDGE. SAWDUST ROADS.

"Leamy and Kyle furnished the material to build the Cambie Street bridge. I think there was a sort of arrangement that the city supply the labour, the engineer plans, the ironwork, etc., and the mill supplied the lumber. The reason was that before the bridge was built, the Leamy and Kyle Sawmill had only one outlet to the city, and that was down the sawdust road over the wet ground between their mill and Westminster Avenue. That sawdust road would be about Dufferin Street" (Second Avenue.) (Note: the early sawmill in Fairview stood at foot of Ash Street, at mouth of creek.)