

Early Vancouver

Volume Six

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

2011 Edition (Originally Published 1945)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1940-1945.

Supplemental to volumes one, two, three, four and five collected in 1931, 1932, 1934, 1939 and 1944.

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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12 September 1941.

J.S. Matthews.

CONVERSATION WITH HENRY JOHN NEWTON OF PORT HAMMOND, B.C., WHO ON A VISIT TO VANCOUVER FOR THE DAY KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES FOR A CHAT, 25 SEPTEMBER 1941.

PORT HAMMOND.

Mr. Newton said: "I came to Vancouver, that is, Burrard Inlet, that is, Gastown, I think it was in February 1880; came down by boat on the Fraser River to New Westminster; just a minute, that would be, it was a very severe winter. Leaving New Westminster I came over by stage; the stage was driven between New Westminster and old Gastown; a man named Lewis drove it, and on board the stage was Capt. J.A. Raymur, who was manager of the Hastings Mill, and Harry Harvey, who was the storekeeper at the Hastings Mill store; I worked under Harry Harvey in the store. I had come from what we now call Port Hammond in these days, but at that time we called it Katzie; that's the name of the Indian village right on the river along side of Port Hammond, to the west. All our mail was addressed 'Katzie,' and was brought up by the river boat; I'll tell you how it was delivered; the purser on board the boat got a stick of wood about that long" (about twelve inches) "and the letters and papers were tied onto it with a string, and when the captain took the boat in close to the bank, the purser would run way up on the top deck and throw it ashore."

GENEALOGY.

"I was born in New Westminster, 14th January 1864; Father, William Henry Newton, he was in the Hudson's Bay Company, Victoria; then he was up at Fort Langley, and for a while, about a year, he was in charge there. Then he went back to Victoria, and when he was at Langley the first time, he took up that land next to Katzie Village" (Indian) "and in 1871, the fall, he left the Hudson's Bay Company and moved up to Katzie, and started to farm; had a good tract of land." (D.L. 280 and 281.) (See *Colonial Pre-emptions*, F.W. Laing, page 88 and 170, preemption records 1860.) "A.O. Morrison is now on part of the land Father took up.

"Mother was the daughter of John Tod of the Hudson's Bay Co.; Emmeline Jane Tod; they had been married in Victoria by old Bishop Cridge. There were six children; I'm the fourth. Of the others one only lives now; she is Miss F.M. Newton, staying at the Elysium Hotel; she was the second. The first, she was Emmeline Frances Newton, she was afterwards Mrs. F.D. Seymour; he is still alive and I think living in Seattle; was last spring; they had no children. The third was the late Miss Ada Newton; I'm the fourth; the fifth was Georgina W. Newton; she a nurse at one time; never married; and the youngest one was my brother, William Greenshields Newton; he died when he was only twenty-six in Vancouver, in hospital, in September 1896. So that, of us all, there are two only living, and no grandchildren.

"I'll tell you what I have got at home, a photo of Mr. R.H. Alexander, when he was manager, and Ainslie Mouat, the accountant, and I was cashier, and F.W. Watson, a young Englishman who came out here some years ago; I'm not sure of the date, but it must have been around 1894, or early nineties."



2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
HASTINGS SAWMILL, July 1886																													
1	Forest beyond	6	Shack	11	Water box or troughs	16	Sawdust. Playground	21	R.H. Alexander big house	26	Ald. C.A. Faldwell's cottage	See photos C.V.P.M. 19, N.M. 2.																	
2	Smoke of clearing fires	7	Cowfield cottage	12	Library	Mechanics Institute	17	Ground stand	22	Roof of oil house	27	Road to Granville	" " P.M. 11, N.M. 12.																
3	Duck pond. invisible	8	Lap Wilson cottage	13	Fire Hall open door. Ducks	18	School roof	23	Pig sty (long building)	28	Clearings, stumps	See "Early Vancouver" Vol. III, pages 70-73, Matthews.																	
4	Rachelors shacks	9	Two cottages for up Dunlavy Ave.	14	Office	19	Two houses on Alexander St.	24	Cookhouse, bell in cupola.	29	Lumber.	City Archives 56.																	
5	"	10	Flume, water, 12" x 8" deep	15	Old old stone lodge, dance	20	Dunlavy Ave. (white fence)	25	Hastings Mill Store.	30	Burrard Inlet near.	Faldwell cottage saved 13 June See "Dakim Fire Map Nov. 1889"																	
Observe closely the water																													
flume on supports; in																													
lower left-hand corner																													
filed (Neilson Creek, West Van)																													
The First Store.																													
The "Hastings Institute" also included the library, the genesis of our cultural institutions.																													
J. S. Matthews																													

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[photo annotation:]

HASTINGS SAWMILL, July 1886

Hastings Institute Fire Engine Shed The First Store

1 Fore st beyond

2 Smoke of clearing fires

3 Duck pond, invisible

4 Bachel or shacks

5 Bachel or shacks

Observe closely, the water flume on supports; in lower left hand corner

6 Shack

7 Caulfield cottage, far

8 Capt. Neilson cottage, near

9 Two cottages, far up Dunlevy Av.

10 Flume, water, 12" x 8" deep

The white cottage with white fence is Capt. Neilson's; the saw filer. (Neilson Creek, West Vancouver.)

11 Water box or troughs

12 Library & Mechanic's Institute

13 Fire Hall, open door. Ducks

14 Office

15 Old old store. Lodge, dances

At 11, the flume goes underground to cookhouse

16 Sawdu st. Playground

17 Gran dstand

18 School roof

19 Two houses on Alexander St.

20 Dunlevy Ave (white fence)

The two distant houses are for Dr. Bell-Irving and Henry B-I 308-310 Alexander St.

21 R.H. Alexander big house

22 Roof of oil house

23 Pig sty (long building)

24 Cookhouse, bell in cupola

25 Hastings Mill Store

The Hastings Institute also included the Library, the genesis of our cultural institutions.

26 Ald. C.A. Coldwell's cottage

27 Road to Granville

28 Clearing; stumps

29 Lumber

30 Burrard Inlet near

Coldwell's cottage saved, 13 June

See "Early Vancouver," Vol. III, pages 70-73 [*of original volume*], Matthews.

City Archives. J.S.M.

See Dakin Fire Map, Nov. 1889

J.S. Matthews

FIRST HASTINGS SAWMILL STORE.

"You see this old two-storey building with the flag pole in front of it" (P. Mi. 19, N. Mi. 2) "and upright board and batten construction; I believe that used to be the first mill store.

"I think there was a man named Webster who ran that store; I'm not quite sure, I'm almost sure it was a store; of course, in my day it was a warehouse for all sorts of rubbish, and the upstairs was used for a meeting place for the A.O.U.W. This over here on the right, this long building, is the pigsty, and behind it the cookhouse."

COOKHOUSE BELL. CHURCH SERVICE.

"They used to ring the bell on the cookhouse for church in the old school house; I used to ring it; you went in the cookhouse and there was a rope down to the kitchen. And the bell was rung for the meals in the cookhouse."

F.W. ALEXANDER'S HOUSE.

"When I first went to the Hastings Mill, the Alexanders were living in a one-storey cottage" (see photo C.V. P. Mi. 27, N. Mi. 17); "afterwards, when I came back in the fall of I think 1884, the big house on the hill had been built for the Alexander family. You see, I came in 1880, and stayed about a year, and went away for three or four years, and came back about 1884, I think the fall of 1884."

LEAVES HASTINGS MILL STORE.

"I left the Hastings Mill store to go to the office before 1890, and stayed in the office until the end of March 1906; then I went up to part of the land my father took up at Katzie" (Port Hammond) "and farmed there for a few years, about spring of 1925, and then, after a rest, in May 1926 I went up to Abernethy and Lougheed's logging camp as fire warden on the run from Marks to Loon Lake, and stayed for six months, and then went to work for them on the railway and was there until the end of March 1929, and then I bought out Harry Fraser's small store on the corner of the Laity Road and the Dewdney Trunk Road. I was there until the end of March 1932, and when they opened up the new Lougheed Highway which was opened up in 1931, I moved down to the corner which I bought, the Lougheed Highway and Laity Road, which is now Third Avenue. Laity was an old timer there; he took up land in the 1870s; sons and grandsons are there yet. I still have the store."

GENEALOGY. MRS. WHATMOUGH.

"In 1896 I married Mrs. Whatmough; she was head nurse at the old City Hospital on Beatty Street, the first hospital the city built. She died in January 1932."

DOMINION DAY. YACHTING. PETER CORDINER. GREASY POLE.

“You know the sawdust spit here in this picture; from this building out to the north of the store, and back to the mill, all covered with sawdust. We used to have the races on Dominion Day on the sawdust. And the sailing races between boats. There was one of the boats, sail boats, belonging to Peter Cordiner—he was afterwards an alderman on the first Council—he got some blue jackets, I think, off the warships to sail his boat, but he did not win the race; they went around the buoy the wrong way, and say, wasn't he mad about it. His boat got in first, too. And out from the mill store wharf, they ran out a greasy pole with a little flag on the end; you had to walk out on this pole to the end. I suppose the pole would be out twenty feet or so.”

TROUT LAKE. BEAVERS.

“We used to get our water from Trout Lake; I was only up there once; we walked up the flume; there were beavers up there; just a little lake in the bush. The flume ran out from the Hastings Mill along the shore, and then almost in a direct line, as near as possible to the lake. The flume was open top, just a wood flume; flume all the way; there was not an awful lot of fall; some places it was over ravines and high up; others it would be close to the ground, and when it froze they would send a man to clear the ice out.”

“DUMPS” BAKER.

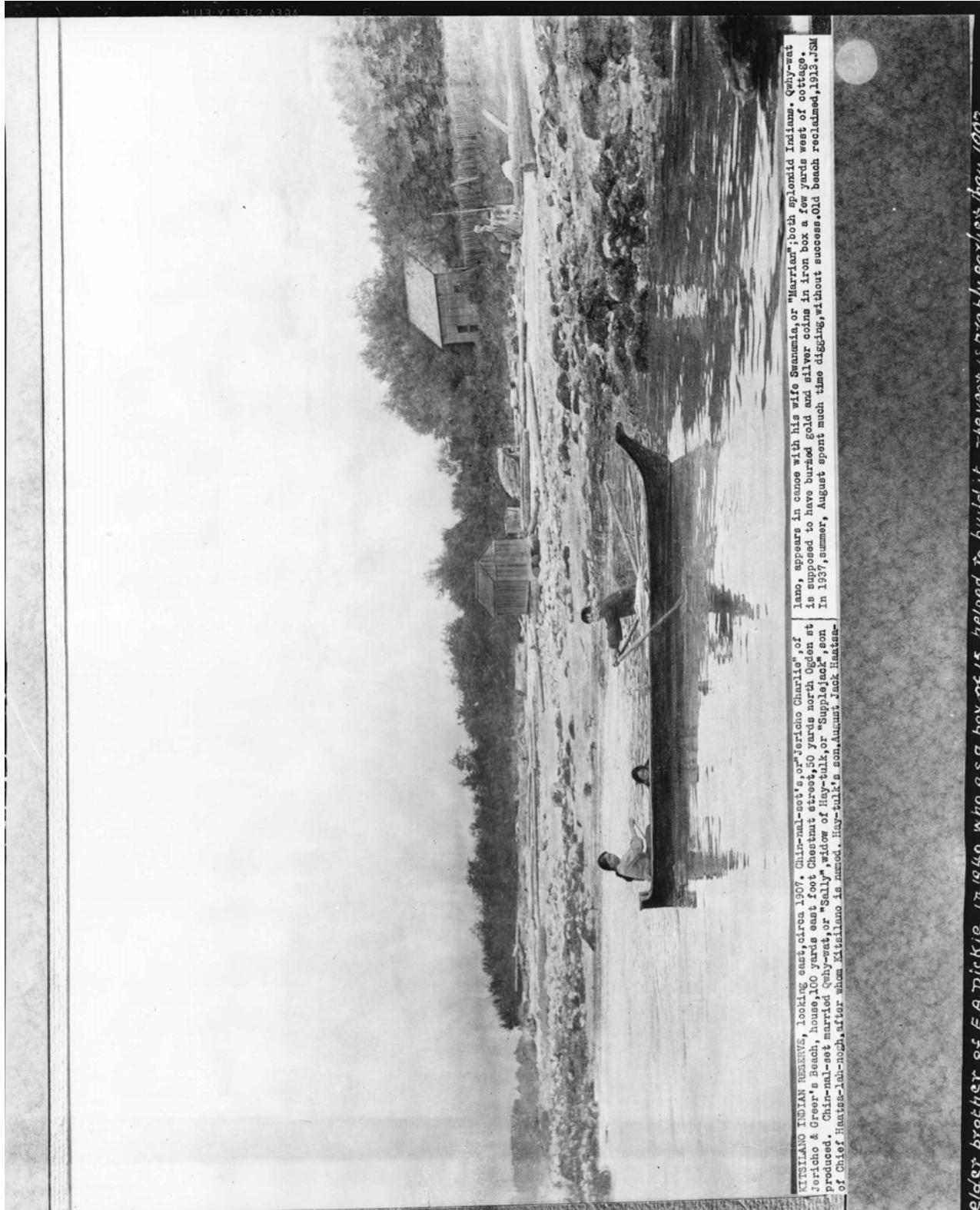
“He used to have a whole pile of dogs; I think he must have slept with them; he always smelt of dog when he came in.”

JAPANESE. UCHIDA.

“I don't remember the first Japanese, but there was a Japanese down there called Uchida; he seemed to be the boss; I know the timekeeper always used to fix up with him; I don't know if he was the first, but I know the timekeeper always looked to him as being in charge of the Japanese.”

THE OFFICE BURNS.

“I don't know when the office burned, except this, that it was just before I came back, the second time I worked in the store; I came back in 1884.”



The boathouse on beach had broken away from the little island at foot of Howe St. It belonged to an

ITSILANO INDIAN RESERVE, looking east, circa 1907. Chin-mal-set's, or "Jericho Charlie", of Jericho & Greer's Beach, house 100 yards east foot Chestnut street, 50 yards north Ogden st produced. Chin-mal-set married Ochy-wat, or "Sally", widow of Hay-tuk, or "Supplejack", son of Chief Heatiser-luh-nogh, after whom Kitallano is named. Hay-tuk's son, August Jack Heatiser-lamo, appears in canoe with his wife Swamma, or "Harrison", both splonoid Indians. Ochy-wat is supposed to have buried gold and silver coins in iron box a few yards west of cottage. In 1937, summer, August spent much time digging, without success. Old beach reclaimed, 1913. '38

elder brother of E.A. Dickie. In 1940, who as a boy of 15, helped to build it. The year is probably earlier than 1907

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[photo annotation:]

KITSILANO INDIAN RESERVE, looking east, circa 1907. Chin-nal-set's, or "Jericho Charlie," of Jericho & Greer's Beach, house, 100 yards east foot Chestnut street, 50 yards north Ogden st produced. Chin-nal-set married Qwhy-what, or "Sally," widow of Hay-tulk, or "Supplejack," son of Chief Haatsa-lah-nogh, after whom Kitsilano is named. Hay-tulk's son, August Jack Haatsalano, appears in canoe with his wife Swanamia, or "Marrian"; both splendid Indians. Qwhy-what is supposed to have buried gold and silver coins in iron box a few yards west of cottage. In 1937, summer, August spent much time digging, without success. Old beach reclaimed, 1913. JSM.

The boathouse on the beach had broken away from the little island at foot of Howe St. It belonged to the elder brother of E.A. Dickie in 1940 who as a boy of 15 helped to build it. The year is probably earlier than 1907.

CONVERSATION WITH AUGUST JACK KHAHTSAHLANO, WHO CAME TO THE CITY ARCHIVES, 14 OCTOBER 1941, TO TALK ABOUT AN OLD CANOE WHICH IT IS PROPOSED TO PLACE IN STANLEY PARK ON EXHIBITION, AND TO INTEREST CITIZENS AND VISITORS.

"JERICHO CHARLIE'S" CANOE. INDIAN CANOES. CHINALSET.

Major Matthews: Tell me about the canoe, August?

August: "I got a canoe, very old one, it's twenty-seven feet long and five feet beam. It was brought down from the west coast; get a map, I show you, here Cape Flattery, Neah Bay, rough water, in United States.

"Ten women brought that canoe to Victoria; they were looking for their husbands. Their husbands go out sealing in a schooner and they did not come back; they were drowned. The women sell the canoe, and my stepfather, 'Jericho Charlie'" (i.e., Chinalset) "he bought it in Victoria for one hundred dollars; cheap because it was second hand. Chinalset was down there for a big potlatch on the Songhees Reserve, across the harbour from Victoria; he was there a month; potlatch all the time; I was with him, all one month potlatch. I was about nine year old then. My mother Qwhy-wat, and Willie Jack" (Khay-tulk, the second) "my brother, and old man Tom—white man call him Tommy, but he's Indian name's Charl-tun—and Charl-tun's wife, and there were others; we all go over in 'Jericho Charlie's' big canoe, the one he used to take the hay and barley from Hastings Mill Store out to Jerry Rogers' camp at Point Grey. No kicker" (gasoline engine), "paddle all the way; take us three days False Creek to Victoria; cook our meals on the beach; dig clams. Finally, when we got there, lots of Indians; Chief Michael was giving a potlatch. We started from Snaug, False Creek; Chief George from Seymour Creek, and others from Capilano Creek."

POTLATCH.

"Then, after the potlatch, we come back, all the same people, but two canoes instead of one. Three peoples get in smaller canoe my stepfather bought, and the rest in my stepfather's bigger canoe we go over there in; maybe six in the bigger canoe. 'Big George,' Chief at Seymour Creek, he was at the potlatch too, but he go in his own canoe. And Policeman Tom—his Indian name was Tah-hay; different Tom from Charl-tun. It took us four days to get back with the two canoes. The ten women not find their husbands; they had been drowned; so the women went back to their own west coast in a big canoe with others when the potlatch was over."

INDIAN GRAVEYARDS. SNAUQ.

"We use the canoe Chinalset bought to take some dead to Squamish to be buried; all graveyards got to be moved from Snaug, long time ago, after Vancouver burn; bury them again Squamish. Then the biggest canoe smashed up at Snaug; big wind, big wave, foot of Cypress Street; exposed place below Chinalset's house; same place, but not same canoe as in your photo." (C.V. P. In. 35, N. In. 17.) "A photo of the actual canoe Chinalset bought from the ten women is in Dunn and Rundle, photo supply store, Granville Street. After Chinalset smash his big canoe he never fix it again; all split up into kindling; no good, but the smaller west coast one, he use it to go Squamish, fish, carry freight to Squamish; twenty-five miles up river, pole it up the river.