

## Early Vancouver

### Volume Six

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

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*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

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**CONVERSATION WITH WILLIAM (“BILL”) NAHANE OF NORTH VANCOUVER INDIAN RESERVE, WHO KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, 12 SEPTEMBER 1941.**

His address is Bewicke Avenue, House No. 80, North Vancouver. Phone, North 958-L.

**CAPT. JAMES BRAMER. MOODYVILLE FERRY.**

Mr. Nahanee said: “Capt. Van Bramer was a steamship owner here; he had men run the Moodyville ferry for him; he lived at Moodyville. I don’t know whether he was an Englishman or not; he was a little man with a beard. He lived on the east side of the mill up on the hill overlooking Kanaka Row; he had a house there which belonged to the Moodyville Sawmill. I was born on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1872 at Hastings Sawmill, at the Indian village at the foot of Heatley Avenue, and I remember him as long as I can. I worked for him on the ferry boat, carrying cordwood. In his cottage on the hill there lived with him an Indian woman, her name was Lizzie, her Indian name Ka-ak-sala; she belonged to the Katzie Indian Reserve up the Fraser River. She was a young woman, and they had three children. There was Louisa, Leonora, and the youngest one whose name I don’t recall. I don’t know if he named the tug *Leonora* after his second daughter, or not, but it would seem so.”

**TUG LEONORA. TUG SENATOR. UNION STEAMSHIP COMPANY.**

“Capt. Van Bramer sold all his boats; that is, the *Senator* and the *Leonora*—just two all I recall—to the Union Steamship Co., then he went away; I don’t know where he went but I think it was California. The Indian wife went back to the Katzie Reserve with one daughter, the baby one. The two eldest went with their father to New York or somewhere. I don’t know what became of the youngest daughter; I have not seen her for years, but Capt. Van Bramer’s Indian wife Lizzie died many years ago, and her second husband, George Whel-tum-tun, he died too.”

**S.S. BEAVER. W.H. EVANS.**

“So far as I know, Billy Evans” (W.H. Evans) “and myself are the only two persons living now who worked on the old *Beaver*.” (Note: at the unveiling ceremony of the walking beam at Prospect Point, 26 July 1941, Mr. Nahanee spoke over the radio, and told what he recalled of her.) “I was about thirteen or fourteen, and worked on the *Beaver* for one day only; myself and another boy were passing coal.

“The *Beaver* used to come into Moodyville all the time, and one day she wanted some coal, and we got the job packing the coal from forward, where it was stored in the fire room, back to the engineer. It was loose, and we had a wheelbarrow. She was going north to get a boom of logs, and we two boys went as far as Bowen Island or somewhere, and then the boilers sprung a leak, and she had to come back. Then when we got back to Moodyville I left her.”

**SUE MOODY. GEORGE MOODY. NETTY MOODY. MOODYVILLE SAWMILL.**

“I never saw Mr. Sue Moody, who built the Moodyville Sawmill, but I want to tell you that he went overseas somewhere to get something for his mill, but the ship went down, and he did not come back. He was drowned. He had two Indian children; his wife was Indian; one girl and one boy. Both are dead now. There was George Moody, and Netty Moody. She married Fitz Myers’ boy in New Westminster, and George Moody, he died too, got run over by a train. I don’t remember his children if he had any. But Netty Moody, she became Mrs. Fitz Myers, and left two sons, both married now, I think. And, queer thing, they do not know who they are, or where they come from. I think I am the only one who does. I think one is George Myers, and the other I do not know his name, but I think he is a pilot running about the gulf.”

**JOE NAHANE, KANAKA. HAWAIIANS.**

“My daddy Joe Nahanee” (pronounced Na [short]; hay [long]; nee, as in Magee) “he was a guard for the Hudson’s Bay Company, Victoria; there was about fifty Hawaiians and white men brought up from Hawaiian Island to protect the white men against the Indians—anyway, that’s the story. The story is that afterwards the chief of the Indians sold them some land where Victoria is now. Where the Parliament Buildings is now was a little reserve.

“When the men of war came over from England, then there was no more use for the Hawaiians, and they sent them to Salt Spring Island, and my daddy went with them, but he did not settle there, he came on up to the Hastings Mill and went to work firing in the boiler room.”

### **KANAKA RANCH. KANAKAS. COAL HARBOUR. DEADMAN'S ISLAND.**

"Then he took up a place down in Coal Harbour, at what was called the Kanaka Ranch; when I remember first there were six or seven Kanakas; there were two families there."

### **BEN MCCORD. KEMO. MAGGIE MCCORD. MINNIE MCCORD. MAGGIE EIHU.**

"One family was Kemo" (note: this must be the family which Calvert Simson named Campbell) "and the other was my mother and father, Nahanee. I don't remember Ben McCord; he was before my time, but he married my sister, Maggie; she is now dead; Minnie McCord was my niece; that is, she was daughter of my half-sister Maggie, who was Maggie Eihu. Father died two years after I was born, that is, about 1874, and he is buried on Deadman's Island; he was pure Hawaiian. He had married my mother who came from Capilano" (Homulcheson) "reserve; Mother's name was See-em-ia; that was the name they gave me when I went to the Hastings Sawmill School, William See-em-ia; Father was, of course, dead. Mother is buried in the Capilano Indian graveyard. I had two sisters. Maggie, my sister, that is, half-sister, she is dead now; and the other sister was Lucy; she married, dead now. All older than me."

Note by J.S.M.: True or untrue, but the story is that at the Kanaka Ranch there lived an Indian woman who had two husbands. She lived, figuratively, one month with one, next month with the other.

### **MARY EIHU. SEE-EM-IA.**

"Mary Eihu was my mother; it is my mother's letter dated October 1<sup>st</sup> 1899 re the Kanaka Ranch at the foot of Denman Street which you have in the Eihu file. I am the son mentioned there, that is William, and the girl mentioned is my sister Margaret, or Maggie. I am a plaintiff in the court case, I suppose as it says, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1899, and spent a lot of money trying to keep that property. My sister, Maggie, sold the property for twenty-six thousand dollars."

Major Matthews: Do you recall any wharves or anything used for commercial purposes along that shore.

Mr. Nahanee: "No, there was nothing. I lived there for about fifteen years, and there was nothing along there except nothing; just rocks and boulders on the beach; nothing there until we fought it in court; we had just a little boat wharf on piles, about four piles, usual size; just enough to tie up a row boat."

Major Matthews: Come here, look at this picture by Mr. de Forest, presented to the City Archives by Mrs. Douglas Creighton; do you recognise that scene?

### **TRAIL, COAL HARBOUR TO GASTOWN.**

Mr. Nahanee: "That's Deadman's Island, and there is the park, and opposite is our old place; that might be our boat, too, I don't know, but that is where I lived for fifteen years. I go out to work, leave there my home, then when work finished, come back; sometimes in a row boat, and sometimes along the trail which ran from Gastown westwards along the edge of the cliff to Coal Harbour and our ranch."

### **COAL HARBOUR.**

"Coal Harbour is named because of coal, charcoal. My daddy made charcoal out of wood, and sold it to the sawmill. They wanted it for the blacksmith instead of ordinary coal; no ordinary coal about sometimes, so they used charcoal." (Note: this, of course, is his view of how it was named; not the true one of course.)

### **DAN MCPHEE.**

"After we won the case in the courts, Dan McPhee started a little store on our property; the little store was on the corner of Denman and Georgia."

### **SQUATTERS. KANAKA RANCH. MARY EIHU.**

Major Matthews: What had you, as William Nahanee, got to do with the lawsuit for the land.

Mr. Nahanee: "I had no claim; it was my mother, Mary Eihu. I was just helping her. The judge said that we could live there forever, but it was no good to us; we could not sell it; we had no deed or anything, but this McPhee and others must have worked something, otherwise how could they have sold it, or else my sister got the property."

This was dictated, as it were, to me as I typed, by Bill Nahanee, as we sat together side by side.

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, 14<sup>th</sup> 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."