

Early Vancouver

Volume Six

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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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MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. JOSEPH JAGGER, PIONEER OF BURRARD INLET, 1882, WHO, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS DAUGHTER, MRS. J.B. ABRAMS OF 505 ELEVENTH STREET, NEW WESTMINSTER, BORN VANCOUVER, 7 OCTOBER 1886, AND MR. J.B. ABRAMS, PAID ME THE HONOUR OF A VISIT TO THE CITY ARCHIVES THIS AFTERNOON, 28 NOVEMBER.

JOSEPH JAGGER, 1882.

Mr. Jagger said: "I am the son of James and Mary Jagger of Huddersfield, Yorkshire, England, was born at Huddersfield 27th January 1861. In 1882 I left Liverpool for Philadelphia on the American Liner *State of Illinois*, and travelled via New York to San Francisco, where I took the steamship *Idaho* to Victoria, and arrived at Victoria on 24th March 1882" (about.) "I was single then, and was coming out to an uncle, James Holroyd, who had been a Cariboo miner of Williams Creek."

S.S. OTTER. S.S. WESTERN SLOPE. S.S. GERTRUDE.

"After about three months in Victoria, I took the old Hudson's Bay steamer *Otter* up the coast, landed on an island called Wrangel Island, and went on up the Stikine River on the S.S. *Gertrude* to the Cassiar. I was by myself, and on my way to find my uncle, who was mining on Dease Creek. I stopped in the Cassiar, helping him, one summer, then we both came back to Victoria. I idled around a while and then went as second engineer on the sternwheeler *Western Slope*, running between Victoria, New Westminster and Gastown on Burrard Inlet. I remained with her about two months, and then got a job as second engineer at the Hastings Sawmill, in December 1882. Subsequently, I voted at the first civic election in Vancouver; I voted for Mr. Alexander, and 'lost' my vote; he was the unsuccessful candidate for mayor."

GEORGE GREGORY, 1880.

"In June 1884, Miss Edith Lilian Gregory, daughter of George and Clara Gregory, former of Sheffield, England, and I were married in our house at Hastings Mill, and by the Rev. Joseph Hall of the Methodist Church, Burrard Inlet. Mr. and Mrs. Gregory, my wife's parents, had come out from Sheffield about 1880—Mr. Gregory came first, alone—and brought six children with them; you will see that several of their names appear on the roll of the Hastings School. Mr. Gregory was saw filer at the mill."

Major Matthews: Where did you do your courting?

Mr. Jagger: "Oh, I managed it. But I must tell you. One time before we were married I was taking Mrs. Gregory for a ride in a sail boat; it was a Sunday. I got into the sailboat all right, and I got the sail up, but I did not know how to sail a boat, so we sailed right on and on until I ran the boat right up on the beach at what is now North Vancouver—about the foot of Lonsdale Avenue I should think; then, what do you think we did. We turned the boat around by lifting her to face the other way, and sailed back."

HASTINGS SAWMILL SCHOOL.

"I must tell you another one. There was a teacher at the Hastings Sawmill School, and she was quite a big woman, and strong, and the boy pupils were quite big boys, too, but she was just strong enough to manage them. One of them misbehaved, and in the struggle, the teacher got the better of him, and got him down on the floor. Then what do you think he did? He bit her leg." (And Mr. Jagger, most unsympathetically, laughed out loud.)

"My first wife died in September 1891; we had four children:

1. Annie, born Hastings Mill, 30th March 1885.
2. Beatrice, now Mrs. J.B. Abrams, born Hastings Mill, 7th October 1886.
3. Minnie, now Mrs. [blank] Creber, born New Westminster, July 4th 1888.
4. James, born 1891; now deceased.

"Then I married, secondly, Mrs. Lena Christine Nelson, from Denmark, and we had eight children (twelve in our family in all.)

1. Herbert William, killed in action, Great War, 1914-18.

2. James Lewis, killed in action, Great War, 1914-18.
3. Lilian Ann, Mrs. Ernest G. Abrams, New Westminster.
4. Gordon Nelson, at New Westminster, B.C.
5. Gladys Mary, Mrs. Frank Millican, Trail, B.C.
6. Juanita Christina, Mrs. W. Peters, New Westminster, deceased.
7. Joseph Raymond, married Patsy Hadden, Vancouver.
8. Ruby Evelyn, Mrs. Kenneth McKinnon, New Westminster.

“The birth of Beatrice, one of the few births in the city of Vancouver during 1886, having not been registered, Mr. J.B. Abrams, before leaving, gave me three dollars, the fee exacted by the Registrar of Births, Victoria, for delayed registration. Both application and fee were forwarded, and the birth certificate subsequently received; birth registered December 8, 1939.”

Approved by Mr. Jagger, 22 February 1940.

EARLY SCHOOLS, NORTH ARM, FRASER RIVER, POINT GREY, LULU ISLAND, ETC.

Letter, Mrs. J.A. Wood, née Margaret Sweet, Salmon Arm, B.C., 2 December 1940, to Mrs. Walter Vermilyea, née Ada Sweet (her sister), visiting at Vancouver.

Salmon Arm, B.C.,
Dec. 2nd 1940.

Dear Ada:

I hasten to reply at once to give you any information I can, though that is not very much.

First you are mistaken about father having taught in the Town Hall before I did.

Uncle John Wesley, (Sexsmith) got permission to use the Town Hall for school purposes in Feb. 1881, and at once asked me to take the position of teacher as I had a certificate.

I taught there until the end of June 1882, when I resigned to go back to school in New Westminster, where Mr. Stramberg was starting a High School class after hours in the public school. The only High School in the Province, I believe, was the one in Victoria.

In the Town Hall on Lulu Island we had the use of the Councillor's long table, with a bench at each side and a chair at each end. This with one blackboard was our full equipment.

Mr. C.C. McKenzie (Victoria) was our School Inspector, and I think, also Supt. of Education for the Province.

Yes, I attended the little school on the mainland where Frances taught and we stayed for the school week in Mrs. Sam McCleery's house, but I don't think it was kept up very long, for I also afterwards went to one near Mr. F. McCleery's and boarded with them. I forget the name of the teacher—a married woman.

I don't know anything about a school being held in the old church on the mainland, if Alida taught there, it was before I came to B.C. According to Mr. Kidd the school District was organized in 1877.

I suppose you have by this time made up your mind about your plans. I hope you will write soon and tell me what you have decided. I trust you are feeling quite fit—I was going to say and putting on more pounds, but perhaps you don't want to do that.

We are all quite well here, and were very pleased the other day to hear that Winifred may be able to get home for a few days this Xmas.