

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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Footnote or Endnote Reference:

Major James Skitt Matthews, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 6 (Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011), 33.

Bibliographic Entry:

Matthews, Major James Skitt. *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 6. Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011.

Contact Information

City of Vancouver Archives
1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9
604.736.8561
archives@vancouver.ca
vancouver.ca/archives



MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. J.J. HATCH, 597 EAST 23RD AVENUE, WHO VERY KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES IN RESPONSE TO MY REQUEST CONCERNING A PHOTO OF A CEDAR SHAKE CABIN IN THE FOREST, 9 SEPTEMBER 1940.

JAMES HENRY HATCH. NORTH ARM ROAD (FRASER AVENUE.) WILSON ROAD (41ST AVENUE EAST.)

Mrs. Hatch said: "This photograph, which Mrs. Hadfield has given." (Photo No. C.V.P. Dist. 49. N. 34.) "You see, here I have a duplicate; it was away up the North Arm Road, now Fraser Avenue, on the left hand side going south; James Henry Hatch had ten or fifteen acres of land out there, and my husband, J.J. Hatch, and his brother R.W. Hatch, undertook to do the clearing; it was 'away' beyond the cemetery. This is their shack on the property; D.L. 738, 49th Avenue; old Ferris Road." (Assessment Roll, South Vancouver, 1894, page 12. "James H. Hatch, D.L. 738, 14-7/20 acres, value per acre \$80.00. Value of Improvements \$100.00. Total \$1248.00.") "My husband J.J., and R.W., his brother, built the shed. Many a time I have been out there for picnics; there were no street cars in those days; of course, there were horses and rigs, but you could not always get them. We used to take them out a basket of lunch; 'grub,' we called it; there were lots of creeks and springs for water. After it was cleared up, my brother-in-law sold it. The two brothers made a road to it from the North Arm Road, and we used to pick berries; we knew where the good patches were, of course, the roads out there were only trails. I think the shack was about 300 yards east of the North Arm Road."

BEARS. WILD ANIMALS. OX-SHOES. OXEN. WALTER LEEK. LEEK & CO. PLUMBERS. JAMES H. HATCH.

"There were lots of black bears, too; they used to wander around the shack, and there was always a couple of guns stacked by the door to 'pop' the bears off.

"You will notice there are a couple of ox-shoes nailed to the sort of door, and what look like three guns and a rifle; for grouse, and for deer and bear, I think. The men in the picture are, from left to right:

"The man with the whiskers is 'Young' Mr. Leek, son of the fourth man, who is Mr. Leek, senior, who had a steam fitting shop and plumbing plant." (Note: "Young" Walter Leek, later in 1938, president, Vancouver Exhibition.)

"I don't know who the second man is, but I think he worked for E.S. Scoullar of Scoullar & Co. hardware. The third man, in the middle with the dog, is my brother-in-law, James H. Hatch; the fourth is Mr. Leek, senior of Leek & Co., wholesale plumbers, and the end young man is Mr. Brown, brother of W.A. Brown, and of Mrs. Hadfield who gave you this photo; he also worked for Mr. Scoullar."

BUTTER PATS OR MOULDS. NORTH ARM ROAD. TWENTY-THIRD AVENUE EAST.

"These two butter pats, moulds for butter, many a hundred pounds of butter they have shaped. You see, we had a farm out there. We brought the butter pats with us from Toronto when we came here in 1888 or 1889; we knew we were going to B.C. to some farm, and we had a big farm on what is now Twenty-third Avenue East, at Carolina Street; no person knew we were there; we were a block off the North Arm Road, and no one could see us for the trees."

MR. JAMES HUDSON. MR. [BLANK] PRESTON. MR. [BLANK] ROSENBERG.

"There was one neighbour, Mr. James Hudson, corner Twenty-third and North Arm Road; a first class plasterer, did fine work; and there was another, Mrs." [blank] "Preston; she died about two years ago; she lived a block below Hudson's on Twenty-third; he was a milkman. We were not the first in that neighbourhood, but I think those two were all the neighbours we had, and Rosenberg, he lived in what would now be Twenty-second Avenue East—he was a ship's carpenter—but you must remember there were no streets then.

"The man who sold us that property said it was 'bone dry'; it cost us thirteen hundred dollars, but when the rain came it was a regular river. We had just a shack with a tar paper roof, and all our pictures and things we brought with us from Toronto got damaged with the wet. The men used to say that if they could only catch the man who sold us that property they would shoot him We went there in 1889. But the city took it all for non-payment of taxes, took our life savings; our life savings gone; the city got it. All we have

left is our home, one lot, and the house, 597 East Twenty-third, in which we have lived for fifty-three years.”

MRS. [BLANK] WINSKILL.

“Mrs. Winskill is still my neighbour, but she did not come until ten years after we went there.”

TROUT. BEARS. COUGARS. WILD ANIMALS. WILD DUCKS.

“It was a pretty place, and below our place there was a running creek and all kinds of trout in it, and the wild flowers were so pretty, pink and blue bells, and blue, yellow and white violets; oh, it was really beautiful, and there was a long log, and the bears would walk along it and scratch for ants for their cubs; you know all about that log and the cushion and the bear story, I’ve told you before; she had three cubs up a tree above the log, and three days after it was shot, and I remember how shocked they were because it was shot on a Sunday.”

WATER FROM WELLS. TAME DUCKS.

“And then, another time, I remember, I was getting water from the well, and a great big cougar leapt right over, one great big curving bound in the air, and took a duck; we had been missing our ducks and did not know where they could be going; in about a month that cougar was shot about five blocks up North Arm Road; we used to be scared to go down the North Arm Road—I was, at any rate; I have run and run up that road for fear of meeting those bears.”

GENEALOGY.

“My father was David McKinstry; he was a stone cutter in Toronto, and I was the eldest of his six children, and married Mr. J” [blank] “J” [blank] “Hatch, at St. Ann’s Church” (Church of England), “Toronto, October 30th 188—; it really used to be called the old Dundas Road. I was born at Brantford, Ontario, a few miles out of Toronto, seventy-five years ago, on 15th December next 1940, and my husband has been an invalid for six years; he suffers with his hands, and I have to wash and bathe him, and do it all myself.

“We had three children,” (in order):

1. Cecilia Mary Hatch, born on Stafford Street, Toronto, 26th August 1884; she is now Mrs. Fred Slater, and has one son, Frederick Cecil Archer Slater; Archer after his great-grandmother, but Mickey was born on St. Patrick’s Day, and they have always called him “Mickey”; his father was a naval man in the last war.
2. Joseph John Hatch, born in Toronto, 6th August 1887; Queen Victoria’s Golden Jubilee Year. He married Miss Elizabeth Cruikshank; home wedding but Presbyterian Church; he was two and a half when we came to Vancouver in 1889. He has two daughters, Irene, married now, and Doris; he lives on 24th Avenue East.
3. James David Hatch; named after his uncle Jimmy, and my father David; he was born in Vancouver, 2nd April 1890, and married Miss Galbraith; Christ Church; there were no children, and his wife died about June 1938, and he has been poorly; he has a housekeeper; works at the Restmore Manufacturing Co., where he started as a boy.

HATCH FAMILY.

“Grandfather A.H. Hatch came to Vancouver; he had five boys; there was J.H., J.J., R.W., Amos and Ed.; all dead now save my husband, and they thought he would go first; they were the pioneer roofers in Vancouver; they did a lot of work for Mr. Scoullar; he was a pioneer contractor.”

A.H. HATCH & CO. BROADWAY AND MAIN. NORTHERN CROWN BANK.

“Grandfather A.H. Hatch had a hardware store and sheet metal works on the southwest corner of Westminster Avenue and Ninth Avenue; it was pulled down, and they built a bank, and now the bank has been pulled down and there are stores. Here is a photograph of it, ‘A.H. HATCH & CO.’ From left to right they are: the first two I don’t know, but the third is ‘Old Man’ Foster, and the man in front of the door was one of the two men nicknamed ‘Scots Greys’; the fifth, in dark waistcoat and shirt sleeves is Amos Hatch; I don’t know the sixth.

"This other photo is later; horse-drawn bread wagon across the sidewalk; Amos Hatch is third from the left; Grandfather Hatch next, in front of the door; another of the 'Scots Greys,' and a street car conductor; I don't know the other two.

"The first photo was taken about 1897, and the second about 1898."

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH AUGUST JACK KHAHTSAHLANO, OF HOMULCHESON, CAPILANO, 13 SEPTEMBER 1940.

PIGEONS. GREAT FIRE. BIRDS.

Major Matthews, City Archivist: August, Fitzgerald McCleery, the first white man to settle on the site of Vancouver, down on the Marine Golf Course, North Arm, Fraser River, says in his diary—March 1865, I think—that he "shot pigeons"; that's all; just "shot pigeons"; what did he mean?

August: "I don't know. I don't think any pigeons here before white man came; I never heard old people talk about them; lots duck, goose, but no pigeons.

"The first pigeons I can remember was after the 'Big Fire'" (13 June 1886.) "There was a big flock of them flying about. I don't know; maybe somebody turn them loose. Then they get more every year. I see some over Capilano Creek last April, on the Capilano Indian Reserve, just wild. Suppose they's just somebody's pigeons got loose some time. No pigeons here before white man come.

"There's lots of pigeons up at Squamish, just flying around wild. Got loose, I suppose. No pigeons I ever hear of up there before white man come."

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. J.J. HATCH, 597 EAST 23RD AVENUE, WHO VERY KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES THIS MORNING, CARRYING WITH HER A LARGE PARCEL CONTAINING A WOODEN SHOULDER YOKE FOR CARRYING WATER BUCKETS, 19 SEPTEMBER 1940.

WATER FROM WELLS. BREWERY CREEK. TEA SWAMP. NORTH ARM ROAD.

Mrs. Hatch said: "This yoke was made by the children; that is, J.J. and R.W., children of Grandfather Hatch; they made it out of a cedar log; first one would work at it, then when he got tired the other would do a bit. I give it to you for the City Archives. We used it to carry water from the creek for washing our clothes and milk cans; you see, we had twenty cows.

"We saved the water from the well for our home, and we kept it in reserve in case of a bush fire; our place at the corner of what is now Twenty-third Avenue East and Caroline, but in those days there were no streets or anything. We used to tell people that we lived a 'block off the North Arm Road'" (Fraser Avenue) "but you could not see our place from the road on account of the trees.

"At home, this morning they looked at me when I started to carry this down to you, and said, 'You're not going to take that'" (the yoke) "'down to the City Hall, are you?' I said, 'Yes, I was; it was only a pioneer who would bother to carry it down; others would probably throw it away.'"

MILK RANCH.

"We used to hang two five-gallon coal oil tins on it, one at each end, and many a time I have carried water from the creek, but I used a smaller tin than five gallons. The creek from which we got the water ran through our milk ranch; it was just about half a block from our barn."

TEA SWAMP. WILD DUCKS.

"My son, James David, used to go down to the swamp before going to school, and would come back with a dozen or twenty teal, and we used the old fashioned granite milk tins, and made teal pie; there would be a duck for each member of the family."