

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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Contact Information

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



MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. JOHN HUGH DEWAR, FORMERLY MRS. JOHN WILLIAM WALLACE, NOW OF 1024 COTTON DRIVE, AND TOGETHER WITH HER DAUGHTER, MRS. MATILDA PARSON, SAME ADDRESS, VERY KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, 25 JULY 1941, AND PRESENTED US WITH FIVE OLD PHOTOS.

MRS. JOHN H. DEWAR. JOHN W. WALLACE. SALT SPRING ISLAND.

Mrs. Dewar said: "You see, I came to Vancouver in 1891. I came to New Westminster in 1887, to Vancouver about three years later, and have been here ever since.

"I was born on the south end of Salt Spring Island, February 23, 1870. Father was Joseph Akerman; he went there in 1865; he came from Devises in Wiltshire. First he went to Ontario, I do not know what part, I think Ontario. How he got to British Columbia I do not know, but I have heard him speak of San Francisco. His father was Jonathan Akerman; Father married Martha Clay, from Hinckley" (sic.) "I know nothing of her parents, but she came to Victoria in 1862 on the ship *Robert Lowe* around the Horn; it was after the 'bride ship,' but there were a number of girls on the *Robert Lowe*. They came for the same reason most came, because they thought they could do better in a new land; in those days there was nothing for girls to do.

"Father and Mother met in Victoria; both were Anglican. At the time they were married, Father was working, driving horses, I think for a man named Pemberton; he was a farmer. They must have been married about 1864, because at first they went to Horseshoe Bay, Chemainus, and from there they went to Salt Spring Island."

SALT SPRING ISLAND.

"Our old property which Mother and Father had first belonged to—I forget; it was a piece of property with an old log shack on it; they afterwards sold it to a Mr. Mills, he was a member of the House of Parliament at Victoria. But our other piece of property was preempted; it was quite close, but I don't think it adjoined. Then we went and lived on it.

"There were eight children altogether; one was born in Victoria, four were born in the log cabin, and three in the new house. The children in order of birth were Fanny, born in Victoria; Joseph; Tilly—that's me; Martha and Edward, born in the log cabin; James, Thomas and William in the new house.

"Willie is still single; Joe has one son and two daughters; Ted has two sons and three daughters; James is now in Victoria, but I don't know about his children. Martha, now Mrs. W. Page, is still living on Salt Spring Island. Fanny married Mr. Nightengale, but both she and he are dead; they had four children, three boys and a girl; one boy is dead. I don't know anything about the boys, but the girl is Mrs. Gilbert Mouat, of Ganges Harbour, you read so much about in the newspapers; her husband has a store there; he did well. So far as I know there are three boys only to perpetuate the name Akerman."

Major Matthews: Where did all your love affairs start?

Mrs. Dewar: "On Salt Spring Island; it was the only place where there was any in those days. Mr. Wallace came from Halifax, Nova Scotia, was a ship's carpenter; he used to speak of having been so many places; he was in Vancouver before the Fire, June 13, 1886. We were married in Father's house on Salt Spring Island; the minister, Rev. Archibald Scriven. We had one children, Matilda Martha Wallace, born February 14, 1888, at New Westminster; she married Edmund James Parsons, master mariner. We were married May 14, 1887, and came to New Westminster, stayed there three years, and came to Vancouver 1891."

GREEN ROAD. CARLTON STREET. WESTMINSTER ROAD. VANCOUVER BELLE.

"We came to Vancouver in 1891, and lived on Westminster Road fourteen years at what is now called Carlton Street, but in those days it was Green Road, the old name for Carlton Street, because some people by the name of Green had a two by four ranch on it. Mr. Wallace was ship's carpenter, and worked wherever there was building; he helped to build the *Vancouver Belle*" (sealing schooner) "down on the corner of Carrall and Dupont streets.

“Mr. Wallace died June 1921, and is buried in Mountain View Cemetery. About two years after he died I married John Hugh Dewar; he passed away at 1024 Cotton Drive in August 1939. Mr. Wallace died at 1575 East 12th Avenue.”

EAST SOUTH VANCOUVER SCHOOL. CENTRAL PARK, FIRST SCHOOL. CARLTON SCHOOL. SCHOOL ROAD.

“We lived at Green Road, now Carlton Street, until 1905—we had eight acres—then we sold out and moved in to Vancouver. In 1906 we had an acre up Westminster Avenue, on Horne Road; built a house, and sold out in 1911, and went for a trip to England.

“We went to see all our relatives, at London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle—my aunt was in London; Leicestershire, Nottingham, London again, Brighton, Wiltshire, London, back to Liverpool, sailed to New York, then Chicago, Rio Grande trip, San Francisco, Oakland, Mount Pamalpias” (sic) “then Shasta Route to Portland, and Portland to Vancouver, six months altogether, and it cost us one thousand dollars. That was in 1911. After our return we built 1575 East 12th Avenue, where Mr. Wallace passed away in 1921.”

PETER DUBOIS. JOHN CONNON. BATTISON AVENUE. MARTIN RAVEY.

“When they wanted to have a school out Westminster Road, in South Vancouver—and Burnaby—they got the first children together in a place owned by Peter Dubois, west of Boundary Road, south side Westminster Road. My daughter Matilda was one of the first of the year, I think 1896; Martin Ravey, still living, was teacher. We had the school there for a few months, then it was moved to a building on John Connon’s property on Westminster Road, about four blocks west, but there were no blocks then; right near Battison Avenue; Battison’s five acres adjoined Connon’s five acres. This photo shows the first school, all of it, taken in the summer of 1896; Martin Ravey is at the back beside Mrs. Alcock with the bonnet. Doris [blank], now organist at the Holy Rosary Cathedral, is the little girl in the front sucking the end of her parasol. It was really a South Vancouver school, but children came from as far east as the Royal Oak Hotel, two miles; it was a long walk.” (Photo No. C.V. P. Sch. 50, N. Sch. 28.)

CARLTON SCHOOL. JOYCE ROAD. CARLTON HALL.

“Later in that year the Carlton School was built at the corner of Joyce Road and Westminster Road. And at the same time, Burnaby built the same size school, same shape, on Westminster Road at what is now about Mackay. This photo is of the Carlton School, Joyce Road, in 1898, and the teacher is John McMillan. The school is still standing, and called Carlton Hall. This photo is of the first class in the Carlton School, although of course there was no such school then; it was not named that, it was called the East South Vancouver School.” (Photo No. C.V. P. Sch. 49, N. Sch. 27.)

GLADSTONE INN. MRS. EMMA MORRIS. THOMAS DEIGHTON.

“When we went there first the name ‘Deighton’ was still in paint on the front of the Gladstone Inn. This photo is afterwards, when Mrs. Emma Morris had it, taken about 1898; she took over the Royal Oak Hotel, then came back and finally followed her husband, Levi Morris, to the Klondike.”