

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

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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MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. RUBY M. BOWER (OR BAUER) WHO CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, 17 JUNE 1942, THIS AFTERNOON TO MAKE SOME EXCERPTS FOR AN ARTICLE ON BURRARD INLET ABOUT 1882.

She is the daughter of Benjamin Springer, Esq., J.P., manager, Moodyville Sawmill Co., Moodyville.

AN INDIAN RETORT: A WOMAN'S.

Mrs. Bower said: "I must tell you a story. Mother" (Mrs. Ben Springer) "used to know all the Indian women; they used to do the laundry. The Chinamen" (household help) "did not like doing the household laundry, so the Indian women used to do it, and were up at the house when it had to be done. One of the women was Louise, a fine woman, and she had children, and sent them to the Protestant school." (Note: I neglected to ask Mrs. Bower what "Protestant school," but suggest that she meant Protestant Sunday school on Sundays.) "Louise was proud of her children, and looked after them, and did her best for them.

"Well, the Roman Catholic priest met Louise. Louise always called the priests 'she' for some reason, perhaps because they wore cassocks. And Louise told Mother what was said.

"It seems the Roman Catholic priest did not like Louise sending her children to the Protestant school, and shook his head; told her it was 'bad' business, and gently admonished her. And as a final argument added," (Priest) "'She say, 'You know where you'll go, Louise? You'll go to hell, surely.'"

"So Louise replied, 'Ah, ah; lots of nice people go to hell nowadays.'"

Note: the conclusion must be that the Indian kloodch felt that a Protestant hell was preferable to a Roman Catholic heaven; there can be no other conclusion.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. JOHN LOUIS PLOYART, 1661 HARWOOD STREET, WHO VERY KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES THIS AFTERNOON, 27 NOVEMBER 1942.

JAMES AUGUSTUS HALLIDAY. W.M. HALLIDAY, ALERT BAY. SIMON FRASER.

Mrs. Ployart said: "My father was James August Halliday; he came to British Columbia from Ontario in 1873; he came part way by the Grand Trunk to Omaha, Nebraska, and then by Southern Pacific to San Francisco, and then up the coast to Victoria. Mother was with him and five children, myself, aged three, included. Two boys and three girls then" (added to afterwards, all still living.) "Mother was a Miss Henderson who came from Grimsby, Jane Henderson; she was born there, but Father was born in Glasgow, Scotland, and came to Canada when he was eight. He was born in 1838, so that he must have come to Canada in 1846. Mother and Father were married when they came to Victoria, and the eldest child was then, in 1873, nine years old. But where they were married I cannot tell you. My father's uncle was a cousin to Simon Fraser.

"The first thing I can remember was in Yale. There was a snow slide, or there was a heavy snow storm, or something, and all the houses were covered with snow, and they had to dig from house to house; you know how children enjoy something new, even if it was horrible. We were living in Steve Tingley's house. Mrs. Tingley had been killed in an accident with her husband, but he survived, and the children had been sent east to New Brunswick to be educated. One was only six months old. The elder one died this last summer in Vancouver. The two boys have lived in Vancouver for a long time."

STEVE TINGLEY'S ACCIDENT. CAMELS IN CARIBOO.

"The cause of the accident which killed Mrs. Tingley was that she and her husband were driving on the Cariboo Road east of Yale and the horses shied at a wheelbarrow, and the horses went over the bluff, killing Mrs. Tingley. Steve Tingley's second wife was Miss Laumeister, and her father was one of the early Cariboo men; he was the one who took the camels in there. Mrs. Steve Tingley is still living, here in Caroline Court."

DAVID OPPENHEIMER AT YALE.

"Other notable residents of Yale at that time were David Oppenheimer and his brother, there were two of them, and the Leisers of Victoria, and Marcus Wolf—he committed suicide in Nanaimo—and there was Mrs. McMicking there too.