

Early Vancouver

Volume Seven

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Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected between 1931-1956.

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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THE NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERMEN OF WEST VANCOUVER.

Conversation with Mr. W.A. Grafton, of Grafton Bay, Grafton Lake, Bowen Island, and now living at 542 West 63rd Avenue, who kindly called at the City Archives this morning bringing a basket of apples and pears, which are most acceptable, 12 September 1946.

SEAL ROCKS. BIRD ROCK. WHYTE ISLAND. D.L. 430. CAPTAIN ALCOCK.

Mr. Grafton: "Capt. Alcock, the Newfoundland fisherman, had his house right in front of the rock and he was the only man I ever heard call it Seal Rocks. Charlie McGregor located on deeded land, and the government could not settle with the owners so the government paid the fishermen for their improvements. They had settled the Newfoundland fishermen on the wrong land.

"Once I went to a picnic and I spoke to Colonel McGregor and mentioned about the government settling the Newfoundland fishermen on private property. He jumped when I mentioned it, and ejaculated, 'I did that!' Then he went on to say, 'They told me at the land office,' and I forget what he said after that, but evidently the Land Office made a mistake. Capt. Alcock was no relative of the Alcock pioneer family of Vancouver—not that I know of. Capt. Alcock's son was drowned in the Fraser River—that was John—and the other son went to the Klondike and lost his life in the upsetting of a canoe. Capt. Alcock died long time ago and Mrs. Alcock, she died too, not so very long ago."

FISHERMAN'S COVE.

Note by J.S. Matthews: There is a great deal about this fishermen's settlement from which Fisherman's Cove takes its name, that is, the Fisherman's Cove at Whytecliffe. There is another place now bearing the name Fisherman's Cove. A meddling Department of Marine Agent (Mr. Parizeau, a Frenchman) had the temerity to change its location on the charts, with the result that endless confusion followed.

Capt. Peter Larsen was one of the original Newfoundland fishermen. See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2 onwards, especially conversations with W.A. Grafton and Calvert Simson. See also "Street and place name" cards in the West Vancouver section, and look up Copper Point, White Cliff, Bird Rock, Whyte Island, Fisherman's Cove.

"NORTH AMERICAN CHINAMEN," 1872.

For reference to this appellation see page 343, *Ocean to Ocean*, by Rev. George M. Grant, published 1872 by Rose Belford Publishing Co., Toronto.

A sneering reference to describe eastern Canadians used in British Columbia before the Canadian Pacific Railway was completed by certain British Columbians when speaking of people from eastern Canada. In the first civic election in Vancouver, April 1886, there were two candidates—Alexander, old time resident, and MacLean, recently arrived from the prairies. It is said that Alexander's use of the epithet cost him the mayoralty, but others say he did not use it, but, in their efforts to defeat him, his opponents *said he did*.