

Early Vancouver

Volume Seven

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2011 Edition (Originally Published 1956)

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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[photo annotation:]

Garvin Milk Ranch, Westminster Road, circa 1890, now Kingsway. In 1955 Reuben Hamilton, 836 East 20th Ave, wrote: - "I was born June 2nd 1888, on which date my mother's brother, John Brown, left Ontario for Vancouver. On the train he met Samuel Garvin, wife and three small children. My uncle bought some land and was the first to make a wagon road into the 800 block East 20th Ave. About 1889 or 1890 Samuel Garvin settled on the banks of a small unnamed creek, and built the cottage, shown on the left, in the 900 block East 20th. A wooden bridge on the old Westminster Road, now Kingsway, crossed the creek, later called 'Jones Creek' at the Windsor street of today. Joseph Jones, a Welshman, worked for Samuel Garvin, then went into the milk business for himself." (see photos Dist. 96 and 97, N. 79 and 80.) "Later Samuel Garvin built the two storey addition on the right, and, still later, the cottage was taken down and replaced with another similar addition. In 1955 the two structures are standing and known as 948-950 East 19th Ave. The wooden bridge on Westminster Road separated the two milk ranches. My father and brother arrived in Vancouver in May 1890. Garvin was from Ireland.[]" City Archives. J.S.M.

THE GARVIN MILK RANCH, WESTMINSTER ROAD (KINGSWAY), 1890.

The original cottage on the left, the new two-storey addition on right. Later the cottage was taken down and replaced with another similar addition. In 1955 the whole is still standing and known as 948-950 East 19th Avenue.

In 1955 Reuben Hamilton, 836 East 20th Avenue, wrote:

John Brown was my mother's brother and was born in the same log house in the backwoods of Ontario as I was born June 2nd, 1888, on which date my uncle left Ontario for Vancouver. On the train he met Samuel Garvin, wife and three small children from Ireland. My uncle bought some land and was the first to make a wagon road into the 800 block East 20th Avenue.

Samuel Gervin lived for a short period on Mount Pleasant and then about 1889 or 1890 settled on the banks of an unnamed creek and built the cottage shown here in the 900 block East 20th Avenue. A wooden bridge in the old Westminster Road (now Kingsway) crossed the creek, later called Jones Creek, at the Windsor Street of today. Joseph Jones, a Welshman, worked for Samuel Garvin, then went into the milk business for himself [see photos Dist. P. 96, 97, N. 79, 80] and the wooden bridge separated the two milk ranches. My father and brother arrived in Vancouver in May, 1890.

Samuel Gervin founded the firm of Gervin Ice and Fuel Co. Ltd., in 1955 an important business.

THE (MOSES) GIBSON RANCH.

From Reuben Hamilton, 836 East 20th Avenue, 18 March 1954.

"The Gibson Ranch"

"Oh! For a touch of a hand that has vanished
And the sound of a voice that is still."

MOSES GIBSON, an old man, lived alone and died about 1937-1938 on what was left of his ranch of about one city lot at the corner (north east) of 20th and Knight Road. He was one of the first school trustees of the first one room school in D.L. 301. He was from Ireland, and came to Canada in the early days and settled in Shellburne, Ont. Here he married and the first five of his family were born.

Sometime during the year 1886 he moved to Vancouver, and bought the Queens Hotel on Water street, while it was still under construction, and was proprietor until 1893. By this time his family had increased, and may be the reason why he sold his hotel to look for a new home.

He bought 19 acres in Cedar Cottage between Knight Road, Bella Vista, 18th and 20th Avenues. This was "THE GIBSON RANCH," and 20th Avenue was "THE GIBSON ROAD."

Here are the names of the family as they were born: Charlotte; Ruth (dead); Moses (dead); Isaac, Thomas (dead); James; Joseph (dead); Samuel, Victor and Jennie. I knew them all. The last five born in Vancouver.

from Reuben Hamilton

CONVERSATION WITH MRS. W.M. GOW, 984 BURRARD STREET, WHO VERY KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES THIS AFTERNOON AND STAYED FOR A CUP OF TEA.

A.M.J. FARR. W.G. BABCOCK. WILLIAMS AND CRAIG. MAUD TEMPLETON. TEMPORARY CITY HALL.

Mrs. Gow: "This photo" (about 1890) "of an old butcher shop, with a wooden sidewalk in front, a barrel high up, and staircase on the right, and with the number '14' upon it, and with a calf in the street, is the butcher shop which stood on the south side of Hastings Street East, a few doors from Carrall Street. The date is about 1890, about then, the same ground as the 'Temporary City Hall' stood, 16 East Hastings Street.

"The man I do not recognise, but the woman is Mrs. W.J. Babcock; the first young lady I think, but am not sure, is Maud Templeton, daughter of Mayor Templeton; the next is Ethel Babcock, I am sure of that, and the little boy may be the brother of Maud Templeton, that is Boy Templeton. He was the youngest and they always called him 'Boy.'

"I think that Mrs. William Farr and Mrs. Babcock were sisters.

"I do not know who the man is who is seated but it might be that the two men are Williams and Craig—the partner butchers.

"The part of the building on the left belonged to Menzies" (of McCain and Menzies.) "He was a house mover."

(See photo Bu. N. 382, P. 394.)

Mrs. Gow and her father came to Granville 9 March 1885.