

## **Early Vancouver**

### **Volume Three**

**By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.**

**2011 Edition (Originally Published 1935)**

*Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1933-1934.*

*Supplemental to Volumes One and Two collected in 1931-1932.*

### **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



## **FRANK W. HART.**

Part of shore address by Frank W. Hart., formerly of Granville, at reunion of "Here Before the Fire" pioneers held at the "Hastings Sawmill Store," now club room of Native Daughters, foot of Alma Road, 15 December 1933, at 8 p.m.

"I recall how we took up a subscription to defray the cost of the incorporation of the city; we passed 'the hat' three times."

Note: a reunion of the pioneers resident in Granville, Moodyville and Hastings Sawmill was suggested by Frank W. Hart, on a visit from Prince Rupert to Vancouver, and the City Archivist assisted. About fifty were present, of whom probably forty were pioneers; a list was taken by the secretary of the Pioneers Association. Among those present were His Worship Mayor Taylor, Alderman Miller, Captain E.S. Scoullar, who commanded the Westminster Rifles at the first parade of soldiers in Vancouver, Dominion Day, 1887, W.H. Evans, on the first train as fireman, F.W. Hart, merchant, who squatted his store on the beach just east of Carrall Street, Mrs. Angus Fraser, who had a home and garden in 1873 at the corner of Carrall and Cordova; she died a month later.

## **FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH MR. F.W. HART, PRINCE RUPERT, AT ST. FRANCIS HOTEL, VANCOUVER, 3 JANUARY 1934, WHEN HE REVIEWED AND CORRECTED MY NOTES OF TWO PREVIOUS INTERVIEWS.**

I remarked that Mr. W.R. Lord had sung his song of fifty years ago, "I'm not as young as I used to be," very excellently at the reunion of the Pioneers here before the Fire at the Hastings Mill Store (Native Daughters Club), Alma Road, on 15 December last. Mr. Hart resumed:

### **GRANVILLE IN 1885 AND MAPLE TREE.**

"In 1885 there was no hall of any sort in Granville. The people used to assemble under the old Maple Tree, not once, but dozens—hundreds would be nearer—of times; it was a wonderful place to congregate; the old Maple Tree kept the rain off; there was a sort of shell ground all around it, old clam shells; and old Bill Lord, he was only a great big kid of 17 then, used to stand under the old tree and sing, or dance like a drunken sailor; and Lord did his part so well we made quite a feature of his performance during the whole of 1885; they used to come from all over to assemble for various reasons under the old tree."

### **SQUATTERS IN GRANVILLE.**

"No; there was no one there squatting on the shore east of Carrall Street except myself at first; then I got neighbours—partners—alongside on the east side; they were builders and contractors; general jobbing; on the east side, adjoining me, butting right up; but that was all the squatters there were on the shore side of the Hastings Road." (See J.B. Henderson.)

"We had a man around Gastown called 'Crazy George'; kind of general handy man." (See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2.) "I got him to paint a sign for me. When he got it finished and up on my building this was what it was: 'F. Whart.'; I left it there; but that's not all. The squatters next door saw that he had made such a 'good job' of mine, they thought they would get him to paint a sign for them, too, so they wrote one 'Angus Secord, J.C. Garvin, General Jobbing'; they had it spelt all right, but when Crazy George got finished it was 'GENERAL ANGUS SECORD JOBBING J.C. GARVIN.'"

### **GRANVILLE. C.P.R. LOTS. REAL ESTATE. ANGUS FRASER.**

I asked Mr. Hart what he recalled of Mrs. Angus Fraser's home of 1873 (see photo), Cordova and Carrall street corner.

Mr. Hart: "You know those small trees there by the house in the photo; well, they cut them down, and the first real estate office which sold was built there, that is, which sold C.P.R. lots; it was F.C. Innes and Co., afterwards Innes and Barker, then Innes and Richards, then Innes, Richards and Ackroyd, and now Innes, Richards and Gall. Before the Fire, between Angus Fraser's house and the Deighton House was F.C. Innes and Co.'s little real estate office. Angus Fraser called on me to go and paint the door of that house; that was one of the first jobs I had in town; it stood there where the Royal Bank stands now. It was

burned in the fire. After the fire the Boulder Saloon was on the same site; G.A. Allan's shoe store was next on Cordova Street and then Clarke and Stuart next to that."

### **THE FIRST BOOM IN VANCOUVER. HART'S OPERA HOUSE.**

"Ask George Dickie, now mechanical superintendent of the B.C. Electric Railway—he used to work for me as a driver at the time I had the Opera House—ask him about the performance *Texas Steer* by Katie Puton; one of the best known companies playing west of the Mississippi; the people got 'wild' when I got those posters. Let George tell the story. On that very day we had a funeral; it was a rushing day, and was the beginning of the boom; it boomed from that day until the Fire took place, and after the Fire, and from that time on. Ask George to tell you, too, about the brass band I had at my wedding at St. Andrew's little old church on Georgia Street."

### **MEMORANDUM OF FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH MR. FRANK W. HART AT THE HOTEL ST. FRANCIS, VANCOUVER, 5 JANUARY 1934.**

Revised, and corrections made, 30 January 1934.

#### **PETER CLAIR. BY J.S.M.**

I showed Mr. Hart a photo of Peter Clair, father of George Clair of 813 East 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, now an employee of the B.C. Electric Railway Co. and also a photo of a group of people taken in the lane between Cordova Street and Hastings Street.

"That's Peter Clair, an old, old man, they lived alongside of the Dougall House, I think, seems to me they had a restaurant there; it was Mrs. Clair who ran it; that was the 'Maison Doiree.'" (The first electric power house appears beyond.) (Photo No. ?)

### **ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST TRAIN AT PORT MOODY, 1886.**

I want to tell you about the arrival of the first overland train at Port Moody. The old *Yosemite* was on the Victoria-Vancouver run; she stopped, ended her trip at Vancouver, but we took her up from here" (Vancouver) "to take the people to meet the first train; she ran straight up from Vancouver to Port Moody; did not stop anywhere. We got the expedition up in a hurry, in about 24 hours. There was quite a crowd going up.

"When the train came in, Mayor MacLean first read a letter of welcome to the Canadian Pacific Railway and its officials, and then read a letter to the first lady, Mrs. Hirschberg, who had come by train over the Canadian Rockies; I was right alongside of him carrying a great big bouquet, and handed it to her.

"After the function was over, we started to come back again. There were 'three times' too many people for the steamer; we took them on board until the captain would not take any more, and then started back. We stopped at Moodyville, and there we had more jollification. It was only a couple of weeks after the Fire, and everyone was, and had been, very kind to us; all you wanted was free, and everyone was 'pretty well fixed' with stimulants.

"At the Moodyville Hotel the caterer was a great big man, great big 'corporation' in front, big Englishman, everybody liked him and he shook hands with us, and when he laughed he would shake too, all over—he had been a millionaire, or something, friend of David Oppenheimer's; well up in society, earls or something; Captain Powers, I think, was his name." (See photo of Moodyville Hotel with first Mrs. David Oppenheimer's sister on verandah.)

"Captain Johnnie Irving was in charge of the *Yosemite*; he was 'the whole show' at that time; he was of the Canadian Pacific Navigation Co." (C.P.R. now) "and the *Yosemite* was his flagship. Afterwards, when he added so many ships to the fleet, we called him commodore. He was so important an individual we younger fellows hardly dared shake hands with him, he was so high toned. Didn't he own the fleet? The ship was so full, and everyone else, too, and everyone carrying on like a band of wild Indians. It was after dark when we landed at Moodyville, and was midnight by the time we reached Vancouver."

### **MRS. DAVID OPPENHEIMER.**

"The second Mrs. David Oppenheimer was younger—perhaps twenty years—than David Oppenheimer; awful nice lady. She fell out of a window of a moving train somewhere down east and was killed."

### **HARRY MOLE OF CORDOVA STREET (AND NORTH ARM, FRASER RIVER AND LADNER'S.)**

"Harry Mole's cabin stood on the ground of the Dunn-Miller Block on Cordova Street; I was a tenant of theirs, forty-nine years ago this month since I rented that house from Harry Mole, my first home in Vancouver, and as near as I can say, it was just about forty-nine years ago today since I arrived in Gastown."

(Note: Mrs. J. Reynolds Tite, née Mary Louise Paull, was born in this house, which must have stood approximately on the southwest corner of Carrall and Cordova streets.)

### **RECEPTION OF FIRST TRAIN IN VANCOUVER, 1887. THE FIRST TRIUMPHAL ARCH IN VANCOUVER.**

"You know the arch on Cordova Street which was put up for the arrival of the first train, May 23, 1887; well, I built that. I had a lot of men working for me then, fifty or more, so I put two or three of them to build it and we built it in a couple of days. The worst part of the building of it was I had no plans to work from; built it from imagination, so when it was completed the first sign on the 'hurricane deck' was: 'HART'S WELCOME TO THE C.P.R. ON ITS ARRIVAL AT THE PACIFIC TERMINUS' or almost words like that.

"Mayor MacLean came along to me and said, 'We won't have that,' so I replied to him, 'I'll take the name Hart off for \$25'; that was about the whole cost of the arch anyway; so in the photo, that's what that part of the sign shows blurred; that was where we daubed it partly out. I built the arch, and built it at my own expense, and had the right to put on what I wanted.

"That night, after it was built, the guy ropes were cut; the least little puff of wind would have blown the whole thing right over, killed somebody; it was as wide as the street. Mrs. Grassie" (W.H. Grassie) (see photo of big stump on Georgia Street) "who lived on the west side of the arch, had seen Thornton ?, a well-known man in town; lived here many years; had seen him cut the guy ropes; she told me next morning. I immediately laid a charge against him, and hauled him into court, but I did not appear against him."

### **INCORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER.**

"The way it was. Some years before 1885 the capital of B.C. was moved to New Westminster by the Cariboo miners who had retired to Victoria from the Cariboo country. Then in turn they were elected members of Parliament from almost every constituency in B.C.; consequently Victoria was their headquarters.

"When they moved from New Westminster this country was called 'British Columbia'; Victoria was 'Vancouver's Island.' When they had moved, this country was known as the 'Mainland,' and Victoria as 'British Columbia.' We had at one time many names of companies and organisations known as 'Mainland'; we still have some. In Victoria there were still older people who used to refer to the mainland as 'B.C.'; there was one place in Victoria where we used to go to dinner, they were old friends, and she used to say, 'Going to British Columbia' or 'Away up in British Columbia, is it?'

"Consequently, there was a feeling between the Mainland and the Island which is hardly over yet, for instance, the *Victoria Times* once published an article about Granville, 'that little village on the shores of False Creek,' which made many of us who were subscribers sore, and by jove, we quit taking the paper. They not only said it, but they thought along that line; they had carried the day; they had taken the capital down there; they had had their own way, and for many years chided us on account of our bad weather—always did."

### **THE NAME "VANCOUVER."**

"So naturally we had no use for the name Vancouver, first on account of that, and then on account of Vancouver, Washington, which was a well-known military post in the North West—away ahead of Portland. We did not want to run opposition to them; we did not want to run opposition to Victoria; that was the stand the old-timers took.

"About this time of the month, January 1886, we made strides for incorporation of the City of Granville. At a meeting called especially, I repeat, especially called, there were lots of open air meetings under the old Maple Tree, but this one was called under the tree especially to incorporate.

"You know how things go, most of these things are settled by casual conversation on the street or in your office, and when you get to the meeting you know what you are going to do, anyway. Well, Boulton was elected by the delegation to get on with the matter of incorporation. He was like you" (the City Archivist gets \$24.50 a month salary); "he had no money. I said to him, 'Go ahead and we'll pay you afterwards,' but he said, 'No; I've no money; I've got to have money for expenses.' So we took up the subscription and Boulton went to Victoria with plenty of the needful furnished by the subscription list. In about two or three weeks he came back with all the money gone—he had had lots of money; don't know how much, but all and more he needed. He reported 'progress,' but nothing more.

"In the course of a few days or weeks we began to get anxious again on account of the fact that the House was sitting, and we got up another subscription again. Boulton came home again, and reported more progress; the thing looked like to us that he had done nothing; we did not give him credit for doing a damn thing.

"Then, the first thing we knew, on April 6, 1886, the city was incorporated, and the first time it was known as Vancouver was on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April." (This is inaccurate. The C.P.R. were issuing receipts for money paid on lots—see W.E. Graveley—in March on which was printed, "Vancouver, B.C.," and documents of 1885 bear "City of Vancouver.") "Hold on; here comes the fun.

"The House of Parliament in Victoria was carried on by Victoria men—Victoria was the whole cheese—and one of the main opposition members strenuously objected to the name of Vancouver. After they had debated things so long and got all tired out, he said, 'Oh, let's give them Vancouver then; we're the terminus; they'll only be there two years anyway.' After that sort of speech, they pretty near all voted for Vancouver. You see, he was the main opposition—he turned his coat—after making those few remarks, they all voted 'yes' for the name 'Vancouver.'"

#### **NAME VANCOUVER NOT POPULAR.**

"Business men, especially, did not call it Vancouver; they called it Granville all the same. So Postmaster Miller and Mayor MacLean got busy and issued orders, to us businessmen especially, that on and after the first of May we must not call it Granville anymore; we even had to destroy our bill heads and stuff like that."

Query: What about Blake, afterwards City Solicitor Blake?

Mr. Hart: "We did not pay him any money. I think I was the first to carry the subscription list around, but Blake was much the best lawyer; he was deep; when Blake said something everybody listened."

Query: What about the election?

(Mr. Hart seemed very hazy about the details; could not remember where they voted, or how.)

Mr. Hart: "Oh, we had public meetings. Everybody voted; I was an American citizen then; five of us boys worked under the Maple Tree, and when MacLean was elected we thought we had done the whole thing."

#### **FIRST POLICE IN VANCOUVER.**

"They made Stewart, the night watchman, chief of police; I think the merchants had paid him privately to be night watchman—Miller has been the constable; Huntly was his son-in-law and assistant constable" (Huntly was clerk at the first meeting of the Council only); "he disappeared. We never could find out why he disappeared; there seemed to be nothing wrong; must have been some family trouble. He married Miller's oldest daughter; a close friend of Mrs. Soule. It was in Victoria he vanished; left his smoking pipe, and everything; never did find out why he went."

Query: What happened the night of the election?

Mr. Hart: "Jee-rusalem!" (Interjection by Mr. Abray, an early policeman on our first force.) "We had a proper jollification; we five patted ourselves on the back that we had won the election. I don't know what

majority MacLean got; there were no fights, no trouble; but everyone had plenty to drink. One reason why we won was because we were on British Columbia's side, and the others were favourites of Vancouver Island—bitter feeling.”

### **HART'S OPERA HOUSE. (SEE PHOTO NO. ?)**

Mr. Hart continuing: “I bought Hart's Opera House on account of Jack Leavy; he had had it rented, and he rented the chairs from me from time to time; something like twenty-five cents each, perhaps three or four hundred dollars for the engagement. He got tired and I got anxious, so I bought the place. It had been built for a skating rink by Kelly of Port Moody—his brother was a prominent Port Moody merchant—I think in the hotel business; his brother was a ‘rich’ man; roller skates had just come out. After I got it I built the stage on top of the old floor, about three feet above it. Here's where the horse fell through the stage; time of Katie Puton's engagement, playing the *Texas Steer*, and she had to have a horse in the play for the cowboy scene; and George Dickie, now of the B.C. Electric Railway Co., was there. The horse fell through the stage—weak boards or something—the floor; only about three feet, and the curtain was down; they had him on the stage to saddle him for the cowboy scene. They soon got him out, but at the time I knew nothing about it; the people were coming in in such a rush, and we had to get a wagon out to get more chairs to fill the aisles.

“The Opera House was about sixty feet by one hundred and twenty, lined with burlap; that was in 1889, before Crickmay built the Imperial Opera House on Pender Street; we had such a crowd we turned away about three hundred people.

“At the same time that day we had an awful rush; busy at the store, all hands rushed, and to make it worse we had a funeral in the afternoon, and then we had the play coming on at night. I was afraid we were not going to have a full house, but when they” (the company) “saw the advance sales they said we had better make some circus seats up there out of boards, etc., and we did so. We made one side good and solid, but we were working without eating; we were so rushed; in those days we worked ‘til we finished, not like you do now. So in the rush I said, to the men who were putting up the stanchions to support the circus seats, ‘You better just drive one nail in these crosspieces, and I will get someone to put in the other nails for you’—we were so rushed; so they put in one nail. Well, the play was about two thirds through when down came the whole thing; down she comes with the whole gang on top. Two of my men got hurt, and one outsider; he was badly hurt, and we had to take him to the Oriental Hotel.

“I went to Katie and said, ‘My goodness, what will I do?’ I was never so scared in my life; he might sue me and take all I had. So Katie said, ‘All right. I'll tell you what to do.’ She said, ‘After the show, you go up to the hotel with a bunch of fruit in one hand, and talk nice, and a twenty dollar gold piece in the other hand. I'll bet you nothing will come of it.’

“So after the show I did as she said, and went up to the hotel; Katie went too, and that is the last I have heard of it from that day to this.”

### **FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH FRANK W. HART AT ST. FRANCIS HOTEL, VANCOUVER, 30 JANUARY 1934, WHEN HE REVISED PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS.**

#### **FRANK W. HART, FURNITURE FACTORY.**

“My factory was one of the biggest houses in town at that time; two-storey, great big barn of a place and full of goods from top to bottom. The front faced the water and was fairly good looking; looked like a country store. It was about 100 yards or less from Charlie Coldwell's house, nearly opposite the big tree” (Princess Louise Tree) “and on Alexander Street between Gore Avenue and Westminster Avenue.

“It was office, factory and dwelling; I lived upstairs.

“Ask Charlie Coldwell in the Union Steamship Co. for the bit of poetry written by Charlie's boy about Coldwell shooting his revolver in the air while Vancouver was burning.

“Wilson McKinnon was one of the boys about town; he was a saloon keeper; kept the Boulder Saloon at the corner of Carrall and Cordova streets; he was on the volunteer fire brigade at the time of the fire. He's in Prince Rupert now.”

**CONVERSATION WITH MR. J.T. ABRAY, ST. FRANCIS HOTEL, VANCOUVER, 30 JANUARY 1934  
(WITH MR. HART LISTENING.)**

He now lives at 570 21<sup>st</sup> Street, North Vancouver (on the Capilano car line.)

**FIRST VANCOUVER POLICE. J.T. ABRAY**

At this point Mr. J.T. Abray, one of the first policemen in Vancouver, and one of the group of four whose photo in front of the "City Hall" in a tent, then joined us. (The photo is our four policemen, one Chief Stewart, quite stout.)

**THE FIRST ELECTION. MAYOR MACLEAN.**

"I came to Vancouver in September 1885. I'll tell you how Mayor MacLean came to be mayor; how he came to run for mayor. I had known MacLean a little in Winnipeg. MacLean was a clever man, but when the boom burst in Winnipeg, why, he 'burst' too.

"You know the story about the 'North American Chinamen'; the epithet Alexander of the Hastings Mill used." (See *Early Vancouver*, volumes 1 and 2.) "The loggers were sore on Alexander—not a little bit either. Well, as they were going to run Richard Alexander for mayor, I thought we ought to have someone to oppose him; the arrangements had all been made for him to run for mayor. So I saw Angus Fraser, and Simon, his brother; both these men were loggers, and the loggers did not have much use for Alexander; very little use. So the two Frasers and myself went around to Abbott Street" (see *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 1, and elsewhere) "the three of us went around to Abbott Street where MacLean had a little real estate office, and interviewed him. I made him acquainted with the two Frasers and they shook hands, and I asked him if he would run for mayor.

"MacLean said, 'Why, I have no dollars for an election.'

"I replied, 'We have a few dollars; if you'll make up your mind to come out.' So we left it at that for the time being.

"So we called again, and he gave his consent that he would run, so we got to work. I did a little electioneering down in the cabins away down where the Sugar Refinery is now.

"Did you ever hear how we got the first vote here? Everybody who had a lease had a vote; well, everybody that had a lease of \$5."

Query: A month, or a week.

Mr. Abray: "Oh, I don't know now. I had a lease. I had a restaurant on Columbia Street, where the old City Hotel was" (northwest corner Powell and Columbia.) "Upstairs I had thirteen boarders—remember, thirteen roomers upstairs. Then I had a shack on Hastings Street, next to the present Woods Hotel—right between it and the present City Hall" (Holden Building); "it was only one room, but I made it into four leases; so with the four leases in the shack and thirteen roomers at the restaurant I had seventeen leases, and a lease entitled you to a vote. It did not matter who you were; you could not let a day like that pass without voting.

"Anyway, we won the election by seventeen votes; just seventeen.

"Barker, of Williams and Barker of the brewery, said afterwards to me that how we wrote our leases faster than they could," and Mr. Abray laughed. (Read W.H. Gallagher, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 1.)

**CABS AND HACKS.**

"The night of the election we had a hilarious time. There were no hacks in town, so we got one over from Westminster; drove over through the woods. There were very few streets, so we just drove around and around, and funny thing, when we got on to Cordova Street we had to drive over logs."

**THE FIRST POLICE FORCE.**

"I was sworn in as a constable the day after the Fire of 13 June 1886, sworn in by Mayor MacLean, right out in front by where the Maple Tree had been—out on the middle of the street.

"You see, after the fire some barrels of whisky were lying about—down on the beach. I suppose someone had thrown them out when the fire came along, they lay there, until the next day, when some fellows decided they wanted them, and got them in a boat, and were making off with two or three barrels of whisky in the direction of the Narrows. MacLean came along, and walked up to me right there in the street, and said, 'Here, Abray, you go off after that liquor,' swore me in as constable, and I went after it, and brought it back. I didn't intend to stay on the police force but I did.

"The police force at that time consisted of Chief Stewart, Sergeant McLaren, Heywood, and another fellow whose name I forget."

#### **INDIAN RANCHERIES. POTLATCHES.**

"The Indian rancherie down just east of the Hastings Mill was a hard place; the wonder is we never got our heads knocked in down there; drunken loggers and all that sort of thing."

Interjection by Mr. Hart: "The biggest potlatch ever held on this coast took place down at that rancherie east of the mill" (about foot of Heatley Avenue.) "It was a tough place."

#### **POLICE. CHIEF STEWART. WATER WELLS.**

"Old man Stewart, before he was chief, drilled a well for us down behind my restaurant, and we got splendid water, best in town, not a bit salt. He drilled down through the rock to a depth of thirty-two feet; right into the rock." (The restaurant was at the northwest corner of Powell and Columbia.)

#### **THE FIRST NEWSPAPER. THE GREAT FIRE. OPPENHEIMER BUILDING.**

"The day of the fire we had forty-two men eating at the restaurant; they were the men working out on the cleaning. When the flames came along, at first I helped to carry the type from the first newspaper that was published here, the *Herald*" (McDougall's.) "The printing place was next to my restaurant" (Alexander Street.) "I carried the type across the street into Oppenheimer's basement across the street diagonally; they had just got the foundation in" (southeast corner Columbia and Powell streets) "and we thought we would be safe there and could stay. But presently I said, 'Here, we've got to get out of here'; the type was beginning to melt; so we got out and ran east.

"When we had gone a little way east, we met Jonathan Miller, afterwards our postmaster, coming towards us. He shouted, 'You cannot go that way; you can't get through.' We hurriedly answered and kept on. 'Well, you can't go that way' (nodding to the way we'd just come), 'you come with us'; so he did and that saved him; he was running right into the fire.

"I had a man working for me, Anderson, from Owen Sound, as cook. He was worthy of a better position, but he was sick, his heart was bad, and he had come to the coast for his health and worked as cook. When we had run about as far as Gore Avenue, Anderson fell down, and said he could go not further. I picked him up; it was a desperate situation, but I carried him, and helped him, and then he fell down a second time, and he said, 'Go on, Jack,' and I simply had to leave him. I got through, we got down to the Hastings Mill, threw some powder stacked on the wharf into the inlet, jumped on the boat, the *Yosemite* or something, and got over to Moodyville.

"When I came back, the first thing I did was to go and see about Anderson. I expected to find his body, but all I found was his little grip with his masonic jewels and charms all melted together; he had crawled out on his hands and knees to False Creek."

#### **BURNED TO DEATH ON HORSEBACK.**

"Faucett, the soda water manufacturer, died on his horse in the middle of Carrall Street."

Query: Wasn't it in his cart? Only the ashes found, and the iron tires?

Mr. Abray: "No, on his horse; he used to ride a white horse; he left it too long, and got caught in the fire."

#### **C. GARDNER JOHNSON.**

"The first time I recall Gardner Johnson was right after the Fire. I had a nice little cottage just above Spratt's Ark" (foot of Burrard Street. See elsewhere re use of Ark during fire.) "The city had appointed him to look after the blankets which were sent, and the first thing I recall of him was one day when he said,



'Officer, take these people down to the Ark and give them some blankets'; we had quite a few people down there, and a little restaurant for them in the Ark."

### **BURRARD HOTEL.**

(Northwest corner of Hastings and Columbia.) "The Burrard Hotel was to have been a swell place. Abbott, of the C.P.R., and all the officials were staying there. Why, they constructed a special sidewalk" (wooden) "all the way from Powell Street, just to lead to that hotel."

### **SMALL POX.**

Query: Do you think the Indians had small pox here before the white man came, as August Jack says they did?

Mr. Abray: "Nobody knows whether they had it before the white man came, but they had lots of it for years before we got it first in Vancouver. People have told me that, up the coast, you could have seen all kinds of skulls out in the woods where the Indians had crawled out into the bushes and died. We had two or three scares on Burrard Inlet."

### **THE FIRST SMALL POX.**

"At the time of the first scare we had a little shack, cost about fifteen dollars, and Dr. McGuigan used to go up to it with a little stick in his hand, and rag on the end with something" (disinfectant) "on the end of the stick which he would hold in front of his mouth. We had nine of them. I helped to pack them out, and the kids" (children) "all around watching."

### **THE SECOND SMALL POX.**

"Afterwards we got a better pest house. The next one they got a scow and put a little cabin on it, down towards the east of the Hastings Sawmill; way down, out in the inlet so that no one could get at them."

### **THE THIRD SMALL POX.**

"It was after that that they began to take them out to Deadman's Island, to the pest house out there."

### **JAIL (BEFORE THE FIRE).**

"I don't remember much about the jail before the fire, but it was in Miller's, and I think there were three or four cells; don't remember much about the place; was never in it."

## **FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH MR. FRANK HART AT ST. FRANCIS HOTEL, 1 FEBRUARY 1934.**

### **OLD GRANVILLE.**

"All 1885, Gastown stood at a population of about 300. You see, Port Moody was booming, Gastown was a second consideration; you must not forget that the actual boom in Gastown, or Vancouver, took place in 1886, in the spring before the Fire.

### **SUNNYSIDE HOTEL.**

"I have told you previously of how I came down from Port Moody because I had not enough money to get in there. The first thing I did when I got down was to rent that little cabin from Harry Mole at the southwest corner of Cordova Street and Carrall Street, and started to make furniture there, but it soon became too small altogether; I could do nothing, the house was full of goods." (Note: he rowed down to the Hastings Sawmill and brought up his lumber for furniture in a boat.)

### **VANCOUVER. PANORAMA PHOTO, MAY 1886.**

"Then I went down to the waterfront, as you know I have told you. If you will look at that panorama photo of Vancouver before the fire you will see the east of the Sunnyside, and just in front of the Ferguson Block on the corner of Carrall and Powell, a sort of shack on the shore, quite a big one; well, that was the place I squatted in. I built that house without money to speak of; from that Hastings Mill I picked up slabs and culls—they had plenty of culls—and built it, 16 feet by 24 feet on a squatter's lot on the shore. I was a hustler, and soon found that I was 'King of the Country.' It was no time before I made it sixty feet long; I began to flourish; I made three additions, all in 1885, before Keefer came along and bought me out for the C.P.R. right of way for \$800. That is the building I sold for \$800. I had six months in which to move out.

“At the time of the fire my other store on Alexander Street—you can see the store, and my name on the front—high up in the photo—was jam full of goods. I had two stores, for I was still using the squatter’s store, and of course I also had the factory nearer the Hastings Mill. It took me pretty nearly six months to move out of the squatter’s store.”

### **SUNNYSIDE HOTEL (CONTINUED).**

“Well, to return to the Sunnyside.

“McInnes, who was running the Sunnyside, was selling liquor to Indians. He had been warned twice, then they warned him the third time and gave him 24 hours to get out of the country or go to jail. He came across to me—I was only 150 feet away—and offered me the whole contents of the hotel for one hundred and ten dollars. There was all kinds of stuff; knives, forks, spoons, kitchen ware, and the whole thing for \$110. I had not got the money so I went over to Alex Johnson who was running the Deighton House—I was boarding there—and borrowed \$60 to complete the amount—he offered me all I want, \$200 he offered and said take it, but I only wanted \$60.

“So then I built a rough table 150 feet long from the Sunnyside along the shore to my squatter’s store, and displayed the material I had bought along the table—out in the open air—and I sold it for pretty near \$3,000. Indians and everybody from far and near bought goods and bought goods, but I’ll tell you another one which beats that all to pieces.”

### **ONDERDONK.**

“Before that, I had bought the Onderdonk outfit. I bought it for twenty dollars; got it from Westminster to here; bought it on some old wharf over there; there were thousands of forks and spoons and knives and picks and axes and shovels. I only paid twenty dollars to the man who sold it to me. The man who had bought it brought it around Point Grey in a little steamer; he could not find anything to do with it, no place to put it; that’s why he sold it to me.

“Joe McFarland, you know Joe, of the water company” (Water Works) “said I had only ‘got a second hand store’—that’s what he thought about it—but I got thousands of dollars out of that twenty, anyway; I was making a thousand dollars a month. I had my place full of stuff.

“Harry Hemlow came along and rented the Sunnyside, and wanted to furnish it, so I let him have \$3,000 worth of new goods at one time. Then the fire came along and he hadn’t paid me. I have told you the rest.”

### **DOMINION DAY CELEBRATIONS. COAL HARBOUR QUADRILLE CLUB. SPORT.**

“For ten years I was on the Dominion Day celebration committee; sometimes chairman, sometimes not; my end was music and dancing, sometimes procession. You see, I was ‘manager’ for the Coal Harbour Bachelors’ Quadrille Club; we just danced, in the winter time. We were the only sports organisation in town; there may have been others, but at the first I think we must have been the only one; of course, afterwards there were others.”

### **MAYOR OPPENHEIMER.**

“Mayor Oppenheimer! Why, I worshipped that man. He was mayor two years. I was his principal ‘actor.’ I took my cue from him; I would see that what he wanted done was done. He would see or think of something fine that should be done—he would tell me. I’d see that it was done. Yes, I’m 78 now.”

### **HART’S OPERA HOUSE.**

“Templeton came along to me one day and said, ‘I want the Opera House for Thursday night.’ It was a recognised thing that whoever got the Opera House the night before the election always won. I said, ‘All right,’ and went on walking down to Oppenheimer’s place, and told him. He said, ‘Don’t do that.’ So I didn’t. Templeton was alderman afterwards; Mrs. Templeton is still living.”

### **DUPONT (PENDER) STREET BRIDGE. WATER STREET BRIDGE.**

“Oh, there was a little bridge on Dupont Street” (Pender Street East now) “from Columbia west; just a little bit of a bridge; there was no bridge on Water Street; it just got filled in gradually.”

(Note: this is not strictly correct, but is so in a general sort of way. Both streets were planked on piles.)

### **CEPERLEY'S.**

"Ceperley landed here with a twenty dollar gold piece; that's all the money he had in the world, anyway, that's what he told me, and he showed me the twenty dollar gold piece. He had no place to go, and said, 'What will I do? I've got a wife and child with me.' I talked with him for five or ten minutes and then said, 'I'll fix you all right.' James Hartney had a candy store next to me, two storeys high. That room up there was to let; the only one I knew of, so I got that. I furnished it for Ceperley all complete, everything he needed; he told me he would pay me when he could, and he did.

"He was at that time agent for the Hartford-Connecticut Insurance Co., besides several other companies. He started with my insurance. Afterwards I paid him as much as a thousand dollars a year for the balance of my time. He flourished and he flourished; and then, he lost his wife, and then married Miss Ferguson, A.G.'s sister, and the rest of the story Vancouver knows. There were no children. It was Miss Ferguson's money which helped him too."

(Note: Mr. Hart refers to the splendid Ceperley Playgrounds for children at Second Beach in Stanley Park.)

### **A.G. FERGUSON.**

"Even in 1885, A.G. Ferguson was noted for being a C.P.R. tunnel contractor, and wealthy; a very nice man to boot. He built the Ferguson Block at the southeast corner of Carrall and Powell streets—burned down in the fire shortly afterwards—and he also built the Boulder Saloon on Mrs. Angus Fraser's old home site, northwest corner of Cordova and Carrall streets."

(Note: this is probably the high building shown in the panorama photo of Vancouver just before the fire, right behind the Sunnyside Hotel.)

"There were very high ceilings in the Boulder. They had a fad for high ceilings then, the higher the ceiling the fancier the store; they had a fad for, well, sixteen feet ceilings were common."

### **ELECTRIC LIGHT.**

"I had electric light in my store; I got it in as quick as the rest of them. The light was so poor, though. We had a joking sort of expression that, 'we had to light a candle to find the electric light.' You know they had little carbon lights then, with a little twirl of light in the inside of the globe of glass; the twirl was red all right, but no light came from it. Anyway, that's the story we told, about having to get a candle.

"The first year the thing" (electricity) "was a failure; they were trying to improve on it and improve on it, but they simply *could not* get it perfect; not until about a year."

### **LAMP POSTS.**

"John Cluff" (John Clough) "lit the lamps, the coal oil lamps on posts, generally on the corner of streets. I furnished all the lamps and chimneys, not only for the streets, but for everybody in the houses as well."

Queen Bros. sold to Angus McRae and Bob Dixon (Chief McRae, Dixon Bros.) Alexander and Mitchell and Peppard about 1898; moved to Seymour about 1902; moved to Hornby and Davie, 1910. (See Bailey photo, First Hearse [Hart's], No. ?)

### **LETTERS OF F.W. HART, OF PRINCE RUPERT, B.C.**

Phone Green 698

P.O. Box 230

Office: 616 Sixth Ave., W.

**F.W. HART**

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