

Early Vancouver

Volume Four

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Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1935-1939.

Supplemental to Volumes One, Two and Three collected in 1931-1934.

About the 2011 Edition

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MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. ALICE CRAKANTHROP, 1622 CHARLES STREET, 14 SEPTEMBER 1936.

JOHN DEIGHTON, "GASSY JACK."

"I saw him once only," said Mrs. Crakanthorp (née Patterson, of Hastings and Moodyville sawmills.) "They say his mannerisms were not especially polished, but he had the reputation of being very good hearted and generous; he would give you his shirt."

(Note: in an article captioned "Old Timer Tells of Christmas in Early Days," Joseph Mannion, *Province*, Friday, 24 December 1909, Mannion refers to "Gassy Jack" as "one of the philanthropists of early days.")

"'Gassy Jack' went away from Gastown, well, it was this way; just before Tom Deighton, his brother, came, Mrs. Jack Deighton, very pompous, very erect, small, stout, she worked very hard, and had a reddish face from working over a stove I suppose, a little English woman, anyway, they said she was Mrs. Jack Deighton; she came down and wanted Mother to do some sewing for her; she told Mother they were leaving, and that Tom was taking charge of the Deighton Hotel." (Note: see *Mainland Guardian*, 15 April 1874.) "I went out to play, and don't know what else she said. Then she left Gastown very suddenly; they said she was Mrs. Jack Deighton. She used to cook; she had an Indian helper, and once she said to him, 'Hurry, hurry; mash the potatoes.' The Indian did not understand and threw them out."

"EARL OF GRANVILLE." NICKNAMES.

"The 'Earl of Granville' was a chubby little Indian boy with a very broad face who used to play around Gastown; he was such a dear little fellow, and they nicknamed him the 'Earl of Granville.'"

HASTINGS SAWMILL, 1872. HASTINGS SAWMILL SCHOOL, 1872.

Examining the Lawson photo, "This building with the white roof is the old school house, and this" (on the extreme right) "with the cross X on the roof is Capt. Raymur's cottage. The reason it is closer to the school than in more recent photo is that it was moved back in 1885, when Mr. Heatley built the large house for Mrs. Alexander, and Capt. Raymur's old cottage was moved back a bit, and attached to it as a kitchen and scullery."

MISS SEABROOK. FIRST MUSIC TEACHER.

"Miss Eunice Seabrook came to teach at the Hastings School long after Miss Sweeney; I think she was next after Mrs. Richards; she is now Mrs." (Judge) "Harrison, Victoria; she was the first music teacher. She boarded with Mrs. George Black, at Gastown—George Black had the butcher shop over the beach—and Miss Seabrook had two little rooms across opposite; I don't know just what building they were in; they must have been in the telegraph office" (next Jonathan Miller's) "and a piano; she was the first music teacher."

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. ALICE CRAKANTHROP, FRIDAY, 23 OCTOBER 1936.

MOODYVILLE HOTEL. DR. MASTERS.

Mrs. Crakanthorp said: "I was born in 1864. When I was eighteen I was ill with scarlet fever; Dr. Masters of Granville attended us, and I was so run down that they sent me to California for six months. When I came back I was about nineteen, and they were building the Moodyville Hotel, and had almost finished it."

INDIAN BURIALS.

"The little house in the Moodyville, 1882, photograph; the house just touching the water flume was built for James Lockhart, engineer and machinist at the mill; a clever man, and married to an Indian; it was built for him. His Indian wife had a brother, and the brother died. The brother was put in a casket, and was being taken out to be buried when the casket fell, and the Indian fell out; he was not dead. Three or four days later he died permanently." (See Rev. C.M. Tate's remarks re Indian burials before quite dead on West Coast, Vancouver Island.)

“SUE” MOODY OF MOODYVILLE.

“Mrs. Moody moved up, from Victoria, but she would not stay; she would not stop. Moody had an Indian ‘wife,’ and two children, George Moody and Anita Moody, both his half-breed children.”

Note: there is an old Indian living at North Vancouver in 1936 called Tim Moody, the only Indian living with a flat head, made flat by the old custom of pressure; he is a very old man.

SNAKES. UTHKYME.

“We had a teacher at the school named McMillan, and he whipped the Indian boys unmercifully; he would go out in the bush and cut a switch, and whip them with it. The Indian boys resented this, and showed their resentment by draping an apple tree in his garden with dead snakes; McMillan was very unpopular. When the tree was shaken the dead snakes began to wriggle and drop to the ground; it was horrible. The Indian boys must have spent a whole night—they did it in the night—draping his tree with snakes; there was such a lot of them, all dead, and hung over the branches.”

(Note: this explains, partially, the Indian name for the slough just east of Moodyville Sawmill, which is “Uthkyme,” or “serpent pond”; “uth” meaning “snake.”)

MOODY’S HAUNTED HOUSE. BEN SPRINGER.

“Moody’s house was supposed to be haunted, but whether it was or not, I don’t know. My mother was a very strong-minded woman; she was afraid of nothing, feared nothing, wasn’t afraid of anything. Springer afterwards occupied the house, and Mr. Springer was ill, and Mother was nursing him. One night she was getting ready to go to bed, and she heard a sound like the sash of the window going down; it went down with a ‘bang’; then she heard it going up again. Mother went to the window and looked out, but could see nothing. Our house was just across the way from the Springers.”

(Note: Calvert Simson says there was a reputed “ghost” about the house; mentions murder; no one would live in the house. Probably a measure of truth in what he says, but he lived at Hastings Sawmill and heard only rumours.)

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MISS MURIEL CRAKANTHORP, 1622 CHARLES STREET, GRANDVIEW, VANCOUVER.

Who, at my request, asked her mother, with whom she resides (and who was the first girl confirmed in 1881 at St. James Church, on the beach) what part certain gentlemen whose names appear in the Land Registry records at Vancouver as trustees of the Burrard Inlet Congregation of the Methodist Church, 1877, played in the activities of St. James Church.

This question was asked in an endeavour to allocate, according to priority and merit, such honour as may be due to those who were responsible for the dedication of the earliest church on what is now the site of the city of Vancouver.

METHODIST CHURCH. INDIAN CHURCH. ST. JAMES CHURCH.

Miss Crakanthorp said: “I have just been talking to Mother, and she says that Mrs. Cordiner was a Presbyterian, and she thinks Mr. Cordiner was too; and that while they attended St. James” (on the beach), “they were not regular attendants, and later, as the town grew, and a Presbyterian Church was established, Mrs. Cordiner joined it.

“Mother thinks that Benjamin Springer of Moodyville was a Roman Catholic before he came to Burrard Inlet, but that he was a very good and very regular attendant of St. James.

“Jonathan Miller, Mother says, was a Methodist, but was also a good attendant at St. James; his daughters were confirmed and married at St. James, and on the day of the dedication in 1881, Mr. Miller, together with Capt. Soule, escorted Bishop Sillitoe into the church, but that the church was so small that it hardly called for an escort, and Mother does not know whether or not they were acting as wardens.”