

## **Early Vancouver**

### **Volume Five**

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

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*Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1936-1945.*

*Supplemental to volumes one, two, three and four collected in 1931, 1932 and 1934.*

### **About the 2011 Edition**

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## **MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH ARTHUR AUSTIN LANGLEY, 20 FEBRUARY 1936.**

Born seven miles from Bath, Somerset, England, 11 January 1859 (now 77 years old), of 1600 Robson Street, widower, where he lives with his deceased wife's sister, who is aged 70.

Mr. Langley is the youngest child of the large family of George and Martha Langley, who came to Canada in June 1873 on the S.S. *Aragon* from Bristol to New York and then to Essex County, Ontario. He was the youngest of a family of ten, and some of his elder brothers had preceded them to Kingsville, Ontario. The family went farming; Mr. Langley did not go to school in Canada after his arrival at the age of 14.

## **GEORGE BLACK OF HASTINGS AND GRANVILLE, B.I. GASTOWN, 1 SEPTEMBER 1882. GEORGE BLACK'S BUTCHER BOAT. CATTLE, SHEEP, PIGS.**

Mr. Langley said: "After our arrival in Canada, I started working for a butcher, afterwards my wife's father—Miss Leona Broadwell; we were married in Essex County, and the next day, 6<sup>th</sup> February 1882, we left, together with my wife's family—Broadwell—to come to British Columbia. The Broadwells settled, they did not preempt, but bought, on Salt Spring Island in 1882. Both are deceased now. My wife and I came to Gastown on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1882, to work in George Black's butcher shop which was over the water next door to the Sunnyside Hotel. He had an ordinary row boat fitted up, not with a butcher block, as some say, but with a meat cutting board; most of the meat had been cut up in the shop over the water on what is now Water Street. We took the meat to the Moodyville Mill and the ships twice a week.

"We got our cattle and sheep and pigs from the upper country; they were brought down the Fraser by boat to New Westminster, and driven over to Gastown by way of the Douglas Road, at that time the only road open between Burrard Inlet and New Westminster." (Note: the False Creek Road, now Kingsway, was open at an earlier date, but Mr. Langley's assertion confirms others that it had grown over very much until, in 1884, John McDougall—Chinese McDougall—widened and crowned it.) "The road, now Kingsway, might just as well have not been cut through, we did not use it."

## **FIRST SLAUGHTER HOUSE.**

"The stock were slaughtered at the end of Carrall Street, the south end, on False Creek, not far from where the Royal City Planing Mills were afterwards. George Black had two lots there, which he afterwards sold to the Royal City Planing Mills (John Hendry). George Black and his men drove the cattle over from Westminster."

## **BRIGHTON HOTEL, HASTINGS, 1880.**

"George Black told me he built the Brighton Hotel somewhere about 1880. He bought the lots it stood on from the government."

## **MAXIMILLIAN MICHAUD, "MAXIE'S." OLIVER PARENT OF HASTINGS. BEN WILSON OF GASTOWN. DAVID WITHROW OF HASTINGS.**

"His hotel never had anything to do with Michaud's. Michaud was dead when I came in 1882, and his place was operated by Oliver Parent. Ben Wilson had operated it before Parent, but George Black's hotel was an entirely new venture, and, in 1882 was operated by David Withrow as lessee. He gave it up and Black took it over and operated it himself.

"At this time, Black moved from Gastown up to his hotel at Hastings, and lived in it and operated it. I had worked for Black, first in 1882, but left him, and returned from Salt Spring Island to work for him again on two occasions. I was at Gastown working for him when he came to see me, and said, 'You are married. I wish you would go up to Hastings and take charge of the hotel; I can get a single man for the butcher shop in Granville.' That was how I came to go up to Hastings. Black was away from the hotel quite a little, and I took charge in his absence, and stayed there from 1883, except when I was away for a summer or more, until 1887, or later, anyway, until after the first train went by, because I remember we decorated up with flags and bunting, quite a bit, when the first passenger train went by on May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1887."

## **HASTINGS, B.I. PHOTO NO. P. DIST. 13. J.A. BROCK. HASTINGS HOTEL. BRIGHTON HOTEL.**

"This is George Black here, out in front, with his legs bent; I think that is Corbould's boy on the horse. From left to right, there is the path to the pile wharf which Black built; then the bar with the verandah in

front; then the dining room without a verandah; and the hotel proper, with verandah and balcony with the people about it—all joined together, that is, bar, dining room and hotel; the little low house on the shore beyond the hotel is where Jack Fannin lived after he moved from his cottage on the hill behind.” (Note: the exact spot is the site of the Brighton Swimming Pool, opened in 1936.) “I lived in it, too.”

#### **C.P.R. OFFICES. MICHAUD’S HOTEL. CAPT. R.G. TATLOW.**

“Michaud’s hotel, afterwards the C.P.R. offices, was above, on the slope, and out of sight in this photo. Black sold his race horses, one of them to Capt. R.G. Tatlow; the same horse which killed him. When I went there, there was a floating wharf near my little shack, but afterwards Black built a pile wharf.” (See conversation, 20 October 1937.)

#### **DOUGLAS ROAD.**

“Douglas Road was just a rough road; one stage, horse-drawn, each way each day; left Gastown and Westminster, either end, each morning. W.R. Lewis operated it; it was just a rough road through the woods; it had been corduroyed up by Burnaby Lake at one time, but dirt had been thrown on it, and the corduroy covered up. It was pretty rough through the trees, and wide enough only for a buggy to go along; wide enough to pass, but a very narrow road.”

#### **SEASIDE RESORT FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.**

“We did quite a good business at the ‘Brighton’ for the elite of New Westminster; all the swells and their children used to come over for the summer. There was the Dickensons, Woods, George Turners, Corboulds, McColls, Tilley’s, and a lot more. They just loafed around and went bathing; bathing, boating, no hunting in summer; dances in the fall; and on the 24<sup>th</sup> May several years in succession George Black had first class celebrations and sports. He was always mixed up in some sports all over the lower mainland; he had two race horses of his own, and on the day of the ‘Great Fire’ at Vancouver, was out on what is now Kingsway—there was a splendid stretch of road about half a mile long there—working out his horses; I was with him. He was a great man in New Westminster on May Day; he and old Colonel Scott of Port Moody, and their Hyack Anvil Battery.”

#### **BURRARD INLET POST OFFICE. JACK FANNIN.**

“The Post Office at the Brighton Hotel was called the ‘Burrard Inlet Post Office.’ It was in Black’s hotel, but Jack Fannin was really the postmaster. Jack combined with his duties making shoes at ten dollars a pair; nothing less than ten dollars; men’s, women’s, anything, ten dollars; they were good boots. Jack afterwards started the Provincial Museum in Victoria. Jack used to go shooting. He shot a lynx up the creek back of Maxie’s—the creek runs through the Exhibition grounds at Hastings Park now, and he mounted it on the limb of the tree on which he shot it. I gave it to the Native Daughters, and they have it now out at the old Hastings Mill Store on Alma Road. He was a great man that way; he would go out and shoot a little bird, and mount it just the way he shot it.”

#### **WATER WORKS, HASTINGS.**

“We got our water for the hotel from a little spring—just at the bottom of the hill—just south of the C.P.R. right of way; Black had a pipe put in just large enough to supply his hotel.”

#### **TELEGRAPH, HASTINGS.**

“There was no telegraph from there in my day. The old telegraph line to Gastown used to come by the False Creek Road, now Kingsway; there was only one telegraph on Burrard Inlet, and that was at Gastown, and the line to Victoria used to run down across the False Creek Bridge, and then out via Jericho to Point Grey. There was no telegraph office at Hastings; nor was there a telephone.” (Note: the Brighton telegraph of 1869, and its cable to Moodyville, under the inlet, must have been removed, probably when the cable to Victoria was put in about 1884, and a new line via the False Creek Road and Gastown must have been constructed, branching off at the False Creek Road and Bridge to Point Grey and thence Victoria by cable, and a telegraph office established at Gastown. JSM.)

#### **TELEPHONE AT HASTINGS. CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY SURVEY.**

“I recollect when we put in the first telephone at the Brighton Hotel, Hastings, from Granville; the central office at Gastown was at Tilley’s bookstore on Cordova Street.”

### **H.J. CAMBIE. MAJOR GENERAL J.W. STEWART.**

"The C.P.R. survey party and their construction engineers boarded at Black's. There was Major Rogers of Rogers Pass, Mr. H.J. Cambie, Mr. Strong, Hugh Walkem, Tom Smith, son of Marcus Smith, Paul Marmette, the bridge draftsman, and young Stewart, now Major General Stewart, and still living, and so is Paul Marmette. General Stewart has his offices in the Vancouver Block on Granville Street now. He was just a young fellow then; when something went wrong, when some of the other fellows had been 'out' the night before, he would go out and take the instruments, but he was usually the chain man. They used a boat, too, on the survey. The C.P.R. offices were in Maxie's old hotel."

### **C.P.R. OFFICES. GEORGE BLACK'S FAMILY.**

"Yes. The C.P.R. offices were in Maxie's old hotel." (See above.) "As I recall it, George Black came out here as a Cariboo miner from Ontario. He had two daughters, the eldest about thirteen. One May 24<sup>th</sup> George Black took them up to his ranch at Coquitlam; she got too deep in the water and was drowned; George Black was never the same after that. The other daughter married Magee" (sic), "the lawyer; he committed suicide." (Note: wasn't this the man who committed suicide in C.E. Tisdall's gun store. J.S.M.) "She went down to Portland, Oregon, and I believe died there. Mrs. Black survived George Black, but there had been some sort of a separation, and the property, when he died, went to the daughter. He had the Hastings property, and a farm at Coquitlam—I think he sold the Lulu Island property—but his estate was heavily encumbered, so the mother said to make it over to her, which the daughter did, and Mrs. Black sold it to the Vancouver Gas Co." (See England file.)

### **VANCOUVER GAS CO. BRIGHTON SWIMMING POOL, 1935-1936.**

(Note: the above property is now, 1936, being negotiated for as a children's playground in connection with the swimming pool at the foot of Windemere Street. J.S.M.)

### **HOMER OF HOMER STREET. VOTERS LIST, 1882. SPRATT'S OILERY. JAMES L. RAYMUR.**

"When I came here in 1882, there were few families on Burrard Inlet. I have a voters list of 1882; it was used in the election of June 1882. Homer of New Westminster got elected; John McLellan was his opponent. I came to Burrard Inlet in September 1882, and at that time Spratt's Oilery was running, but operated for a couple of years only. James L. Raymur, son of old Capt. Raymur of Hastings Mill, was running it at the time. There was a narrow trail through the forest from Gastown to the Oilery; not wide enough for a buggy; just a bridle path."

### **JOE MANNION'S GRANVILLE HOTEL. MARQUIS OF LORNE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL. "PRINCESS LOUISE TREE." FIRST GULF FERRY TO VICTORIA. "PROTESTANT BILL." THE S.S. MAUD, FIRST FERRY.**

"That was the year the Marquis of Lorne and Princess Louise came to B.C.; but the Princess did not come to Burrard Inlet; she went to Victoria.

"There were no regular boats running from Burrard Inlet to Victoria in those days; the first boat, Burrard Inlet to Victoria, was Captain, what was his name; he had earrings in his ears—was the *Maud*. The *Maud* used to leave Victoria once a week, about seven in the morning, and get there about seven in the evening; very slow. There was an old chap here, who used to be a hand logger; his name was Bill Macdonald, but he was known as 'Protestant Bill.' When he was sober you could hardly get a word out of him, but when he was 'bowled up' you could not stop him.

"Well. He met the Marquis of Lorne out in front of Joe Mannion's Granville Hotel, in the morning, and he went up to the Governor-General and says, 'I want you to come and have a drink with "Protestant Bill,"' and they all went into Mannion's Hotel with Bill. Just how much the Marquis took, I don't know, probably just touched his lips with a little cherry wine."



**DR. MASTERS OF GRANVILLE, 1882. DR. WALKEM. "HOLE IN THE WALL."**

"All I know about Dr. Masters" (see photo No. N. Dist. 6, 1882) "is that he was here in 1882. He had a little office adjoining the 'Hole in the Wall' saloon." (See same photo.) "Old Dr. Walkem had been here previous to that, but had moved to Nanaimo, and Dr. Masters took his place. Solid built man; rough and grouchy; English doctor; he died in hospital, I think at New Westminster, about 1884 or 1885."

**INDIAN CHURCH, GRANVILLE. METHODIST CHURCH, GRANVILLE. ST. JAMES CHURCH. HASTINGS SAWMILL.**

"I don't recall the Indian Church, but the Rev. Ditcham was at St. James, along the beach, almost covered up with trees. A two-plank walk ran on the bank just above high tide from Gastown to Hastings Mill; I know it well. I used to carry meat along it twice a week. Hastings Mill used to work eleven and a half hours a day; start at six in the morning, half hour for lunch, stop at six at night. I think that went on until the fall after the 'Fire' of June 1886; there was talk of a strike, and they changed it to ten hours."

**R.H. ALEXANDER.**

"R.H. Alexander, manager of Hastings Sawmill, had four children; Dick, the eldest, H.O., and Fred, and Mrs. J.G.L. Abbott, the only daughter, and the youngest. Fred and Mrs. Abbott are the only two living."

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH ARTHUR AUSTIN LANGLEY, 1600 ROBSON STREET, AND WHO CAME TO GASTOWN IN SEPTEMBER (SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>) 1882, 29 FEBRUARY 1936.**

**SAM GREER. GREER'S BEACH. KITSILANO BEACH. D.B. CHARLESON.**

"When the C.P.R. started to eject Sam Greer from Greer's Beach, I was sworn in as a deputy to Tom Armstrong; that is, the first time they went down there."

"I met Chief John Stewart on the street, and he asked me if I was doing anything; he wanted a man to go down to Greer's Beach, and serve some papers; he took me over to Tom Dunn's" (Alderman Dunn, hardware) "and swore me in, and then I said to myself, 'This begins to look serious,' but said nothing else. We went down to the Royal City Planing Mills at the south end of Carrall Street on False Creek, and took a row boat. Charleson, who the C.P.R. had clearing the 'West End,' got in the boat, Tom Armstrong, and myself, and three or four others, rowed down False Creek, and finally got to Sam Greer's house on the beach. I heard them talking as we went along that they were going to dispossess Sam; they had axes and crowbars to tear the house down."

**THE FIGHT FOR KITSILANO BEACH. MRS. SAM GREER.**

"When we got there Sam was not at home, but his wife was, and she objected strenuously; raising trouble. Finally, under the direction of the sheriff, Charleson and his men took off the door, and commenced carrying the furniture outside. Well. Then Sam came along; evidently he was out around some place, and he also started to interfere with the sheriff's orders, stopping the men, and the sheriff put him under arrest, and Sam said, 'That's all right. You've arrested me in my own house. I won't bother you anymore.' He said to the sheriff, 'What are you going to do?'"

"Tom said: 'Take you to town.'"

"Sam said: 'Want to change my clothes.'"

"Tom said: 'All right.'"

"Sam went to change his clothes, and when he came out of the room, it so happened there was neither sheriff nor any of the men inside the house—they were all standing outside—so Sam grabbed the axe standing by the doorway, and stood in the doorway and defied anyone to enter."

"'Well,' said the sheriff to me, 'I don't know what we had better do now,' and I replied, 'I don't either; don't know anything about it.'"

"Then the sheriff told me to go to town and tell Chief Stewart what had happened, and to send down two or three officers, so I started off to walk up to the C.P.R. trestle over False Creek."