

[Undated handwritten note]

The Lost Gold Mine
Pitt River

This "old yarn" has been played up year after year, each successive writer giving more and more imagination.

That probably is the explanation as outlined in my "Early Vancouver," Vol. 2, page 68. Mrs. Alex McLean once told me that her mother-in-law had told her that once the Indians at Coquitlam (Pitt River) came to the door carrying a human head by the hair, and told her to see, at the same time letting her know that if she did not give them food, they would do the same to her.

I'll wager the "Pitt River gold" came out of the pack of a Cariboo miner coming downriver in a canoe. The Indians hid it, as August Jack Khatsahlano hid his ancestral masks for half a century or more because the R.C. priests told him to bury the pagan symbols. August hid them. The gold was probably hidden. The mere showing of it would have started enquiry.

J.S. Matthews

[Note: Volume 2 of the printed version of Major Matthew does not show the "explanation." It is likely that his reference to volume and page refers to his manuscripts.]

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They will be able to hunt for a century and never find it. Slumach got the gold dust from a miner's poke, but who murdered the miner is not known. It may have been in the years after the gold rush of 1858, and lay buried in the ground until later years. JSM

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"LOST GOLD MINE," PITT RIVER
"GASSY JACK" OF "GASTOWN"
"GASTOWN PRISONERS TIED TO STUMPS"

All those stories are historical fabrications. They have no place in the City Archives, Vancouver, the function of which is to record the historical facts, and there is no fact in any of these stories.

All three are trumped up tales of unprincipled writers, whose stories would, otherwise, be so dull that they are resorting to the "shocking" in order to make their stories readable to a certain type of reader.

The dockets "Lost Gold Mine" and "Gastown Prisoners Tied to Stumps" have therefore been removed from the City Archives, but are kept, in order to prevent "yellow journalists" inspecting them, in the private collection under lock and key, of Major J.S. Matthews.

May 29th 1959

JSM