



inhabited by about 250 of the Sne-ny-mos, after whom the city was eventually named. The word sne-ny-mo means "the whole" or "a big strong trike," five tribes being united in this one village. The men were described as being poorly clad, dirty and languid. Undoubtedly they could afford to be lazy, owing to the almost incredible abundance of all kinds of fish and game. Their clothing consisted of a shirt, over which a blanket was thrown, leaving the head and feet bare. The heads of the infants were flattened between two strips of board bound together with cords of cedar bark.

In the village were many totem poles elaborately carved, which were said to belong to a tribe of the Sne-ny-mos which had left the place many years before. There, too, might be seen the ancient Indian cemeteries where the bodies were not buried in the ground, but placed in boxes which were piled one above another and mouldering with age. One of these burying grounds was on Cameron Island, over which today steam the cars of the Western Fuel Company bearing coal to the ships. Another was amongst the rocks and trees of Jesse Island, which lies close to the site of the Government Biological Station.

Before the coming of the whites the more stodgy and lazy Sne-ny-mos appear to have been much at the mercy of the fiercer and more active tribes of the north, especially the Kwa-kualths, who came down from the northern part of Vancouver Island in the vicinity of Fort Rupert. Old inhabitants of Nanaimo tell stories of gaily painted war canoes; of braves dressed in all the battle array of paint, feathers and buckskin; of human heads on poles brought back triumphantly to the village, as well as many other wonders which seem to us of the present day to belong to the realm of mythology.

When two Kwa-kualths who were engaged in logging at Nanaimo were killed by the Sne-ny-mos even the presence of the two six-pound carronades in the Bastion did not prevent the Kwa-kualths gathering from up and down the coast and assembling their war canoes to the number of about 100 in Nanaimo Harbor. The Hudson's Bay Company, however, allowed it to be distinctly understood that war whoop were prohibited within range of the fort, and after making a display of power the Kwa-kualths withdrew. Frequently in times of peace the rumor went round that the Kwa-kualths were about to attack, and the