

## **Early Vancouver**

### **Volume One**

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

**2011 Edition (Originally Published 1932)**

*Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1931-1932.*

*A Collection of Historical Data, Maps, and Plans Made with the Assistance of  
Pioneers of Vancouver Between March and December 1931.*

### **About the 2011 Edition**

The 2011 edition is a transcription of the original work collected and published by Major Matthews. Handwritten marginalia and corrections Matthews made to his text over the years have been incorporated and some typographical errors have been corrected, but no other editorial work has been undertaken. The edition and its online presentation was produced by the City of Vancouver Archives to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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*THE VANCOUVER NEWS*

*AND Daily Advertiser.*

The editorial of 31 March announces that the *Vancouver News* and the *Vancouver Daily Advertiser* have been transferred to a new proprietary.

Vol. 1, No. 3 of the *Vancouver Daily Advertiser* is dated 11 May 1886. Vol. 1, No. 104 of the *Vancouver News* is dated 23 October 1886. (Both in U.B.C. Library.)

The Voters List, City of Vancouver, April 1886, contains an advertisement, as follows in part:

The *VANCOUVER HERALD*

Best Weekly Paper in B.C.

**14 APRIL 1931 - FALLING THE TREES. THE FIRE BRIGADE, 1887 – GEO. L. SCHETKY.**

“When I first came to Vancouver in February 1886, before the railway, I lived as a boarder at the home of the Reverend Joseph Hall, Methodist minister, who had a little house, almost over the inlet, on the north side of Water Street, just west of the foot of Abbott Street—the shore stuck out a bit there,” said Mr. Geo. L. Schetky, financial agent, Royal Trust Building, Pender Street West, and still a very active “young” man.

“The room in which we had our breakfast faced west, and often, when we were at breakfast, in the spring of 1886, we would watch the trees falling on the C.P.R. Townsite; as the ‘West End’ was known. The men were cutting down the trees, and quite close to us, too. It would be hard to say just exactly where I first saw them, but it would be about where Spencer Department store is now; quite close. We used to watch, and call each other’s attention when a big one went down.

“The picture you have of the procession on Cordova Street, Dominion Day, 1887 (the military parade) reminds me that it was just after that parade that we had a fire which frightened us; up here, just about the corner of Pender and Howe. They were clearing the land, and the fire got away from them, much as it did a year previously at the big fire. You know what [it is] like; a lot of dry debris of clearing, and it burned some houses; we had quite a scare for a while.”

J.S.M.

**8 MAY 1931 - KITSILANO, HOW NAMED – PROFESSOR CHAS. HILL-TOUT.**

Kitsilano was named by Professor Hill-Tout. He writes as follows (8 May 1931).

The manner in which that part of the city we know as Kitsilano got its name, and also the significance of the word in the Indian tongue from which it is drawn.

To the best of my knowledge it came about in the following manner.

The name by which the Kitsilano district was first known was “Greer’s Beach,” so called because a squatter by the name of Greer had erected a dwelling there, near the beach.

The land was afterwards in control of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and when they opened it up for settlement, (*note, about 1910*) they desired to give the district a more suitable name than Greer’s Beach, and, knowing that Mr. Jonathan Miller, who was then postmaster of Vancouver, was on friendly terms with the Indians, they requested him to find an appropriate name for the settlement.

Mr. Miller referred the request to me; knowing that I had given considerable time and study to the customs, habits and place names of the local tribe. After some little consideration, I chose the hereditary name of one of the chiefs of the