

## **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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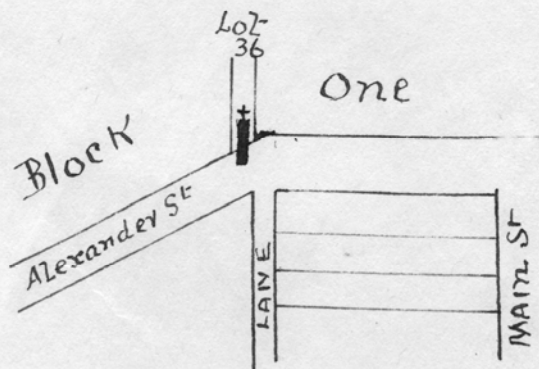
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Item # EarlyVan\_v1\_0027

The exact location of this church was on Lot 36, Block one, D.L. 196, at the foot of, and one lot to west of end of Lane west of Main St. The lot was 25 feet wide, the church probably 20 feet wide. The front half of church stood on Lot 36, the rear half on what is now Alexander St almost Can. Nat Ry dock site. The location is shown on map of part of C.P. Ry right of way deposited in Land Registry office by M<sup>r</sup> H. J. Cambie, Eng<sup>r</sup> in charge 12<sup>th</sup> May. 1886



Item # EarlyVan\_v1\_0028

### 15 JUNE 1931 - HASTINGS ROAD. GASTOWN. DARKTOWN FIRE BRIGADE.

The identification of a photograph, the "Darktown Fire Brigade," a column of men halted on a road, in character dress, and drawing a conveyance of a sort, has been very difficult. It is of historical value as being, probably, the only known photograph of the Hastings Road from Gastown to Hastings Mill, down which our pioneers ran from the Great Fire of 1886.

#### NOTE ADDED LATER:

Another has since been located, and shows St. James Church, the first, built on the shore.

"I think," said Mr. W.F. Findlay of the Pioneers Association, "the very tall man worked in the Hastings Sawmill; I remember him well. There was some talk of arranging a fight between him and some other man; it came to nothing. The yacht just in front of Brockton Point is the *May*, owned by Andy Linton, and for years the fastest yacht in the harbour, until a new boat, which had the new 'spoon' bow, beat her. The steamer funnel on the extreme left is probably the Can. Pac. Navigation Company's paddle wheel *Yosemite*. The "G.L. ALLAN" painted on the fence is an advertisement of Geo. L. Allan, Boot and Shoe merchants, now living on Tenth Avenue West. The trees of Deadman's Island show up darker than Stanley Park trees."

Mrs. J.Z. Hall once told me that the road (Hastings Road) from Gastown to Hastings Mill was “just a crooked road.” It is referred to in “Vancouver Celebrates her First Dominion Day” (*Province*, 28 June 1931), as being lighted with coal oil lamps at night. After the survey of 1885 of Townsite of Vancouver by L.A. Hamilton it is known as, in part Alexander Street, and still later, in part as Railway Avenue. R.H. Alexander, after whom it is named, was manager of the Hastings Mill, and one of the “Overlanders of ‘62” from Canada. Hastings Road was evidently, in very early days, a track along the shore, above high water mark, from John Morton’s trail to Hastings Mill, perhaps before that an Indian trail.

J.S.M.

### **18 JUNE 1931 - VANCOUVER’S FIRST REGIMENT. THE DRILL HALL. SERGEANT MAJOR BUNDY. SCHOOLS.**

The militia of Vancouver owes a great deal to Major A.C. Bundy, who died on 17 June 1931, aged 63, while at his desk in the Vancouver School Board offices.

In 1898 the first company of artillery in Vancouver had grown so rapidly, a second was created, and then both re-created as the Second Battalion, Fifth Regiment, Canadian Artillery, the First Battalion being in Victoria, and both battalions forming, at that time, the largest regiment in Canada. The organisation of the Second Battalion in Vancouver necessitated the establishment of a school of military instruction. Captain Barnes, Sergeant Major Porter and Corporal Bundy were sent over from the Imperial forces at Esquimalt to take charge and instruct. Corporal Bundy remained permanently. Soon afterwards the artillery was changed into rifles—the Sixth Regiment, the Duke of Connaught’s Own Rifles, for many years the only garrison in Vancouver. The new Drill Hall on Beatty Street was built and it needed a caretaker; the regiment needed an instructor and sergeant major; the first school of military instruction was over; Corporal Bundy was appointed to both positions.

Up to about March 1903, the Sixth Regiment D.C.O.R. consisted of four small companies of about 45 officers and men with headquarters staff at Vancouver. A and B Companies were at New Westminster, and C, D, E and F at Vancouver; Lieutenant Colonel C.A. Worsnop retired, time expired, Lieutenant Colonel J.C. Whyte assumed command, two more companies—G and H—were added to the strength of Vancouver. Sergeant Major Bundy continued as caretaker and instructor, and lived with his wife and family of three small children at the top of the Drill Hall.

He was a tall, soldierly figure, straight as a ramrod, and to his efficiency was largely due the remarkable efficiency of the regiment; thoroughly competent, earnest, sincere, a dignified personality; it was a fortunate thing for Vancouver that such a man was appointed instructor of the militia at a time when the tide of military endeavour was rising. He was a specialist in gunnery, a good rifleshooter, well informed on military procedure and etiquette for officers, N.C.O.s and men, a somewhat silent man: just what was wanted to inspire the keen, undisciplined citizen soldiers, who were willing and anxious to excel if only shown how to excel.

About 1907–1908, he organised the first detachment of machine gunners in Vancouver. Their arm was a single Maxim Gun mounted on a limber, drawn by a horse, the limber also carrying eight boxes, each box containing one belt of 250 cartridges. They annually practiced at Second Beach at a floating target.

He was largely responsible for the promotion of that splendid cadet unit, the first in Vancouver, the 101<sup>st</sup> Vancouver High School Cadets, and was their first instructor. This unit made a trip to Australia, and it is asserted that, of the forty-five boys or cadets who made that trip, forty-four received commissions as officers during the Great War.

It has been stated that Sergeant Major Bundy became the first instructor of physical drill to the schools of Vancouver in 1898. This cannot be exactly correct, for the writer well remembers the day, about 1904, when Sergeant Major Bundy told him that he had that afternoon been instructing