

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 125th anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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"No sign of navy in port in 1891." (See 1890.)

"Vancouver Opera House open at least as early as July 3rd 1891." (See advertisement this date.)

1892.

Daily News-Advertiser.

H.M.S. Warspite here, and their officers go riflshooting at Brownsville Rifle Range, New Westminster.

1893.

Daily News-Advertiser.

Dominion Day parade: No sign of navy, but the famous C Battery here, first Canadian troops in province of B.C. Apparently first visit to Vancouver.

1897.

World, Monday June 21st 1897:

"No. 4, 5 and 6 Companies, B.C.B.G.A. left at 6 p.m. (Saturday) for Victoria to take part in the Diamond Jubilee festivities." (19 June 1897.)

1863. AN EARLY SURVEY OF THE SITE OF THE "VILLAGE AT THE ENTRANCE" OF BURRARD INLET, NOW VANCOUVER.

26 Jan'y 1863

Copied

Copy handed to

Corp'l Turner.

W. McColl, S.R.E.

Memo for Capt. Parsons RE

I wish Corporal Turner and party to proceed by earliest opportunity to Burrard Inlet to revise posts of gov't reserve for town near entrance—Do. Do. naval reserve and then to survey lands the property of R. Burnaby and N.P.P. Crease and from thence to lay out claims or survey lands (160 acres each, narrow side to shore front) between such points and the village which has been laid out "en bloc." In laying out above the party is especially to mark on plan and transmit the same as early as possible to me showing any clearances or huts or other "occupations" recently made by any parties.

R.C.M. (Col. R.C. Moody, R.E.)

Col. Com'g

For photograph of Col. Moody's original note, and Corp. Turner's first drawing in original field book.

Copies
Copy handed to
Capt. Turner
17/1/1883
S.P.B.

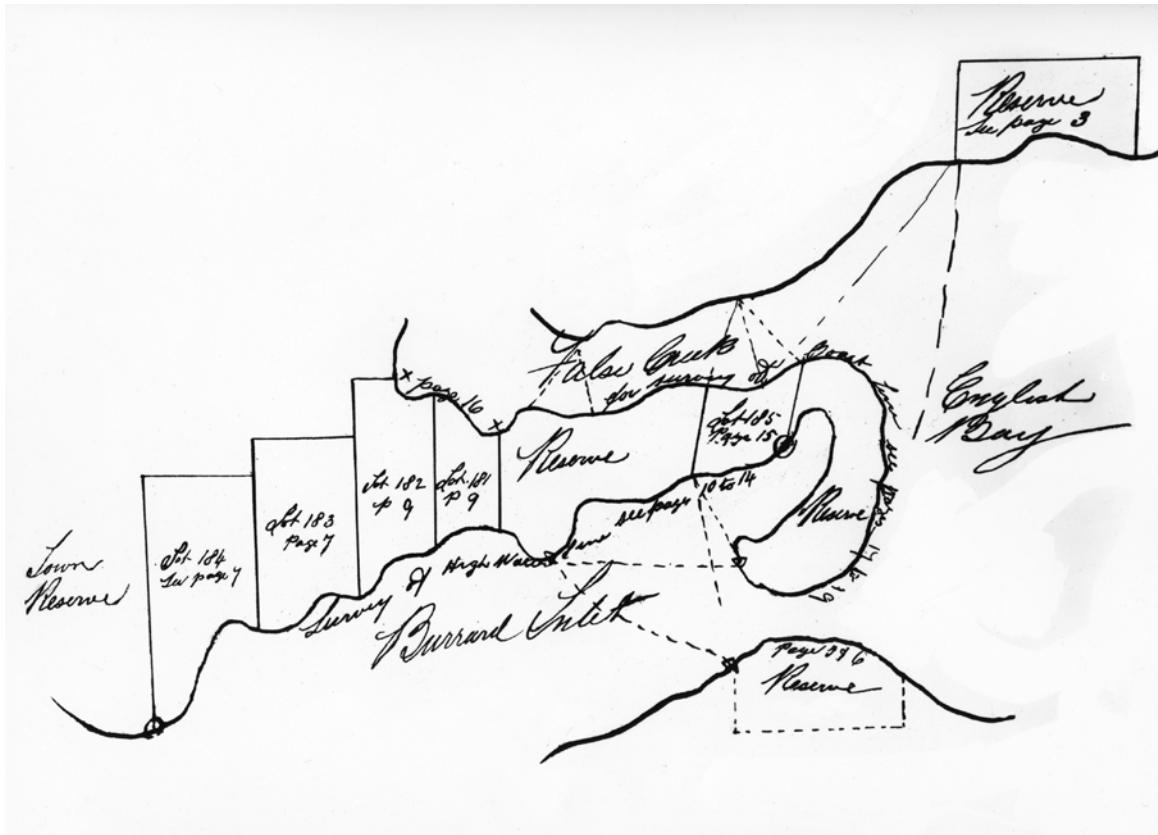
26th June 1883

Memo. for Cap: Pascoe R.R.

I wish Corporal Turner and Party to proceed if earliest opportunity I Burnaby held to be Revise Posts of fort Reserve for town near Entrance - D. D. Naval Reserve and then to survey lands property of R. Burnaby and H.P.P. Acre and from ~~thence~~ thence to lay out claims or survey lands (160 acres each, narrow side to Shorefront) between such Points and the village which has been laid out "en bloc". ~~From~~ In laying out above the party is especially to mark on Plan and transmit the same as early as possible to me showing any clearances or Huts or other "occupations" recently made by any parties.

S/

Wm. Colborne



Item # EarlyVan_v1_0092

3 JANUARY 1932 - BURRARD INLET SURVEY, 1863. SURVEY OF SITE OF VANCOUVER. ROYAL ENGINEERS.

There was delivered to the Land Registry office, Vancouver, during the month of December 1931, a remarkably interesting document: a small, inexpensive notebook, about eight inches square, and which, according to an official of the office, had just been handed to them by R.L. Reid, Esq., K.C., who told them he had found it amongst his papers, but did not know how it got there. The official told me that they had long been unable to determine certain matters (shoreline southeast of C.P.R. roundhouse) in connection with the topography of Vancouver, but which were now clear to them.

The first page explains itself. It is a letter written on an ordinary piece of white paper as follows:

26 Jan'y 1863

Copied

Copy handed to
Corp'l Turner.
W. McColl, S.R.E.

Memo for Capt. Parsons RE

I wish Corporal Turner and party to proceed by earliest opportunity to Burrard Inlet to revise posts of gov't reserve for town near entrance—Do. Do. naval reserve and then to survey lands the property of R. Burnaby and N.P.P. Crease and from thence to lay out claims or survey lands (160 acres each, narrow side to shore front) between such points and the village which has been laid out "en