

Early Vancouver

Volume One

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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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THE BRUNSWICK HOUSE.

This stood on Hastings Street, between Carrall and Abbott—an old directory shows it as 29-35 Hastings Street West—and was owned and operated by Pat Carey and his wife. Opposite was the C.P.R. Hotel.

“It was built in 1888,” said Mr. W.F. Findlay, “and although on the fringe of the woods, did a good business. It was on the north side of the street (?), between Carrall and Abbott, about the middle of the block.” (See photo in Archives.)

“Pat was a rough diamond, an Irishman, and a character; he died in Prince Rupert about 1927. In the winter of 1889, the police were ordered to clean up Dupont Street; some of the women scattered, one landed in the Brunswick House. Pat found out. At first, he would not credit it; it was proven; then followed a scene which everyone talked about but no one mentioned in polite company; some caustic remarks were passed by Pat. Pat saw her off in a hurry, in one of Adam Hick’s cabs.”

(Note: see A.E. Beck’s *Memoir of Early Vancouver* for telegram from Pat to Judge Begbie to “hold the court down until I get there,” and Judge Begbie’s threat. Also, on 1 July 1887, Vancouver was possessed of one brougham only.)

20 JULY 1931 - KITSILANO BEACH. GREER’S POINT. THE “HOTEL SITE,” KITSILANO BEACH.

Kitsilano Beach was, until about 1910, commonly known as Greer’s Beach, but as Kitsilano grew, especially after the C.P.R. offered land for sale in that district, it quickly became Kitsilano Beach, hastened by the introduction of a street car service with the designation “KITSILANO.” The point at the northern end remained unnamed.

It was Major J.S. Matthews who first, about 1925 or 1926, made the proposal that the point be named “Greer’s Point.” Major Matthews was one of the earliest settlers; he built his home behind Greer’s Beach in 1912, and when moving in, his furniture was carried down Maple Street from Cornwall, Maple Street being impassable for wheeled traffic.

He regretted that no honour, such as a place name—Greer Street was not changed from Short Street until about 1928 or later—had been given to the memory of the sturdy old pioneer Sam Greer, and through a friend, Mr. W.J. Findlay, brought the matter before the Vancouver Pioneers Association, who petitioned the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who in turn took it up with the Admiralty authorities in London, with the result that after some lapse of time it was officially designated “Greer’s Point,” and so appears on the Admiralty charts of 1930.

JSM

KITSILANO BEACH, GREER’S BEACH.

In the *Daily News-Advertiser* for Wednesday, 6 July 1887, the following advertisement appears.

TO CONTRACTORS AND BUILDERS.

As the injunction has been raised by the Supreme Court off my property, I am prepared to furnish the best quality of pit sand.

(signed) S. Greer.

English Bay.

20 JULY 1931 - KITSILANO BEACH. THE “CANADIAN BAND.” BULL FROGS.

Up to about 1920, the “Canadian Band,” or bull frogs, nightly furnished music of sorts at Kitsilano Beach; at certain periods of the evening it rose to an almost continuous roar, and even as late as