

## **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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## **28 NOVEMBER 1931 - KITSILANO, STREET NAMES.**

It was, according to Mr. J.H. Calland, formerly alderman, and a very early resident of Kitsilano, Miss Bulwer, niece of Mr. Henry Bulwer, formerly a rancher of Mission City, latterly of Kerrisdale, retired, who suggested the names given to six of the well-known streets of Kitsilano, Trafalgar, Balaclava, Blenheim, Waterloo, Collingwood and Alma, formerly otherwise known. This was in or about 1909.

During a conversation at his early home on the waterfront at the corner of Trafalgar and Point Grey Road, the question of street names came up, and Miss Bulwer said to Mr. Calland, "Why not call them after battles?" A selection was made.

"So," said Mr. Calland, "I chose the best name" (Trafalgar Street) "for my own street, and afterwards approached the City Council, who put the matter through right at once. There were six of them."

J.S. Matthews

## **J.H. CALLAND OF KITSILANO.**

J.H. Calland came to Vancouver in 1888, and in 1902 was conducting a small real estate business on Hastings Street opposite [the] Strand Hotel. One day, a gentleman came into his office and said he was going to buy a ticket on the "Derby" Sweepstake, and made a present of it to a Mrs. Kenworthy, saying that tomorrow was her birthday, she would be 40, and he and Mr. Calland went over to the Strand bar, where he bought ticket No. 40. Mr. Calland said he would take 41, so he bought No. 41, both paying one dollar. That evening, Mr. Calland was offered \$600 for his ticket, on Mrs. Calland's advice refused it. He won the sweepstake, and with it \$1,200, I think it was, a larger sum in those days than now. (The name of the Derby winner was "Ardcastle" or "Hardcastle.") Afterwards, with this and other money, he bought his estate, some hundreds of feet of waterfront on Point Grey Road between Trafalgar Street and Stephens Street. Soon afterwards, Mr. C.G. Major of New Westminster said to Mr. Calland, until then a perfect stranger, "I wish you would sell some property for me, you seem to be lucky," and as a result, according to Mr. Calland, the English Bay bathing beach became the property of the city of Vancouver. Prior to that time, bathing had for years been indulged in at English Bay, and Simpson's boat house operated at the foot of Denman Street, but the foreshore was privately owned. In early years, a by-law to raise funds to purchase several acres there had been submitted to the electorate of Vancouver, but it failed to pass. As soon as Mr. Major's property was placed in the hands of Mr. Calland, he approached the City Council, with the result that much of the foreshore where now stands the bathing pavilion was purchased for the city. At the time, there were a number of small cottages west of Denman Street on the shore between Beach Avenue and the beach, and also a large private club, the English Bay Club. All were pulled down, but not so with the property on the shore nearer to the park. That was built upon, including the huge Englesea Lodge apartments among other buildings, an unfortunate occurrence.

At the same time, Mr. Major placed a large section of Block 192 in Kitsilano in Mr. Calland's hands for sale, and he subsequently made approximately \$50,000 out of it. "That dollar set me up," said Mr. Calland once.

Subsequently, Mr. Calland sold nearly all his beautiful waterfront site, piecemeal—by many considered the most beautiful home site in Vancouver—retaining a small portion only as his home. One of the most vicious taxation outrages was perpetrated: for years, he was taxed not as a residential site, but as a very valuable waterfront or dock site. Mr. Calland once stated to me that he paid as much taxes as a steamship company. Finally, it was remedied, but not until after he was much reduced in circumstances.

JSM