

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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Contact Information

City of Vancouver Archives
1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9
604.736.8561
archives@vancouver.ca
vancouver.ca/archives



“People said that Greer slipped one over him,” said Captain E.S. Scoullar, June 1931, formerly a very prominent business man of Vancouver and New Westminster, now over three score and ten, “and that the incident killed the old Indian agent at Westminster, Leniham or something like that, his name was. Leniham was old and not very alert mentally, and people said—it may not have an atom of truth—that Greer had two papers, one for the sale of the land by the Indians, the other for the sale of the improvements, and that the one for the sale of the land was slipped in front of him when he was not looking, and he witnessed it thinking he was witnessing one for the sale of the improvements.”

As gossip of the street, the above is interesting as showing what the gossip of the street was, but it must be accepted with great reserve, and the papers in *The Fight for Kitsilano Beach* should be consulted. Mr. Greer’s will bears dates of 26 August 1924 and 20 September 1924. It has been asserted that it included \$7,000 of C.P.R. bonds.

30 DECEMBER 1931 - CAMBIE STREET, CORDOVA STREET, HASTINGS STREET. MRS. JANET S. POLLAY, RELICT OF OUR FIRST LIBRARIAN.

In conversation with this physically feeble but mentally energetic dear old lady, now 90, she related how, when they first started the Public Library on Cordova Street between Abbott Street and Cambie Street, she sometimes took a walk for fresh air, and “we just went along as far as Cambie Street, and then turned back; you couldn’t go beyond Cambie Street, and no one would think of walking on Hastings Street. Oh, no. You had to look out, too; they were blowing lots of stumps.”

JSM

30 DECEMBER 1931 - UNION JACK, CANADIAN ENSIGN.

In the old Hastings Sawmill Store, now in the Pioneer Memorial Park at the foot of Alma Road, there was in January 1932, over the fireplace, a hand-made red ensign, reputed to have been flown at Barkerville at an early Dominion Day celebration, and for which the claim is made that it is the first “Canadian Flag” flown in British Columbia. It is without the Canadian label, which, presumably, was a little too difficult a task for the seamstress; or perhaps the details were not available for her to copy.

In the newspaper *Vancouver World*, a large advertisement appeared announcing particulars of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of 19 June 1887. It is headed by a large cut of the Canadian ensign (with label), not with the Union Jack.

A photograph of a column of sailors and soldiers marching down Granville Street, and in the foreground an encampment of “bell” tents, is of the celebrations in Vancouver on Dominion Day 1900. The flag most prominent on the buildings is the Canadian naval ensign, i.e. the red ensign with Canadian label in fly.

JSM

30 DECEMBER 1931 - THE FIRST ELECTRIC RAILWAY IN VANCOUVER.

Mr. H.P. McCraney states, “It was finally opened in May 1890.”

Excerpt, *Daily News-Advertiser*, 27 June 1890: “After a long wait, the first street car was run on Thursday, June 26th 1890,” and then follows some interesting details as to the speed—very, very slow.