

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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Item # EarlyVan_v1_0090

30 DECEMBER 1931 - DOMINION DAY. FIRE BRIGADE. HORSE RACES. DIAMOND JUBILEE, 1897.

A few handy references culled from old newspapers.

1888.

Daily News-Advertiser, 3 July 1888 (Tuesday):

In spite of the weather, the celebration was a success. The sky was overcast; the mountains shrouded in mist, and occasional showers of rain came down.

A more detestable game for cricket would be hard to find; the ground was wet and slippery, and the rain came down as if it never intended to stop. [Those at the bat] Clinton, Green, Townley, Prenter, Elwood, Nelson, Garriock, Wilkinson (Brighthouse), Loutit, Schofield, Beck [all at bat].

The athletic sports were held on Water and Alexander Street.

[The procession] then the old [fire] engine "M.A. MacLean," the new engine "Joseph Humphries" came next.

Same newspaper, 4 July 1888:

South Granville Street [probably between Pacific and Georgia streets] was crowded yesterday with lovers of horse flesh, and sporting men generally. A good days sport was provided, and the committee are to be congratulated on the success of their endeavours. The first race was a three quarter mile flat race, best two heats out of three, and open to any horse that had been in the province six months. Five horses ran.

1889.

Same newspaper, 30 June 1889:

"Ball at the Imperial Opera House tomorrow."

"H.M.S. *Swiftsure* in port."

Weekly News-Advertiser, 3 July 1889:

"Dominion Day was a fine day." (Monday)

"Fire Brigade Sports held on Water Street."

"Dominion Day parade. The first time the Victoria Battery and the Westminster Battery paraded together" (at Vancouver).

Cricket: Vancouver vs. Victoria. "Indeed there is no ground in B.C. which can be compared with that at Hastings for the two fold advantage of a good wicket, and fair outfield."

1890.

Daily News-Advertiser, 27 June 1890:

"The first street car ran Thursday, June 26th, 1890—after a long wait."

Same newspaper, 2 July 1890:

"Cricket: Victoria vs. Vancouver at Hastings." All new names at bat since last year save Clinton and Nelson.

Warships: "The absence of warships, which so greatly assisted last year."

"During the greater part of the day the heat was intense."

Procession: "The firemen with two engines came next."

"Darktown Fire Brigade, 23 strong." (See special paragraph re this elsewhere in book.)

1891.

Daily News-Advertiser:

"Brockton Point Grounds opened. July 1st–3rd 1891."

"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.