

## **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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"News-Herald," on, or about January 10<sup>th</sup> 1939

## Reminiscences Of Royal Visit In Sept., 1901

Compared with the plans under preparation for the coming visit of their Majesties, the program arranged to welcome the present King's father, the late King George and Queen Mary in September, 1901, were very modest.

There was no two and a half hour automobile tour through city streets such as is now proposed to encompass virtually the entire city. But in keeping with the very much smaller population and city area and from the standpoint of street decoration the celebration was elaborate.

From the C.P.R. depot the royal procession passed through an arch at the junction of Cordova and Granville Streets. Then via Granville it turned on to Hastings where it passed under another elaborate arch at Richards and Hastings Streets.

Two other arches were encountered before Main Street was reached where the parade turned north on Main Street and west on Cordova. On the latter thoroughfare another floral arch had been erected. Via Cambie Street the old Courthouse was reached on the site now known as Victory Square.

Virtually on the exact spot where the Cenotaph now stands the mayor of the day, Thomas O. Townley father of Fred Townley, architect for the new city hall, presented his Royal Highness, who was known as the Duke of York at that time, with an illuminated address and cordial welcome.

The procession was reformed and made its way to the Beatty Street drill hall where the official luncheon was held in the officers' mess of the 6th D.C.O.R. And here occurred an incident that carved a warmer spot than ever in the hearts of Vancouver folk for the Duchess, now the Queen Mother.

The Queen Mother wept. It was one of the rare occasions when any of Britain's ruling monarchs have been overcome by extreme emotion in public.

Mrs. C. A. Worsnop, widow of the late Lt.-Col. Worsnop formerly commanding the Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles, was one of a committee of four in charge of preparing the tables. A dressing room had been set apart for Queen Mary and on the dressing table had been set two silver frames containing recent portraits of the then Prince of Wales, and the Duke of York now the present king.

When the queen came in, related Mrs. Worsnop later, she went almost straight to the dressing table, sat down and gazed earnestly at the pictures.

"Tears filled Her Royal Highness' eyes," said Mrs. Worsnop, "as she turned to me and said, 'I want to give you my heartfelt thanks and also my husband's. Everywhere I have gone I have been handed bouquets and—now I am here at home. Oh, how I do long to see my boys. None but a mother would have thought of this.'"

The pictures had been the thought of Mrs. A. J. Dana, also on the committee. She was not present through being in mourning, but Queen Mary sent her warm thanks. Her Highness then sent for the King and showed him the pictures. As she did so the tears ran freely down her cheeks, and her husband took her in his arms to comfort her.

After lunch the royal party were driven to Stanley Park via English Bay. At Brockton Point the children of the city had their opportunity of seeing the visitors before the procession was reformed and headed for the harbor where their Royal Highnesses went aboard the Empress of India en route for Victoria.

During the past week M. Matthews, city archivist

*2 feet or two only  
slid down—that  
was all*

### **31 OCTOBER 1931 – PERSONALITIES.**

Had dinner last night with Mrs. Colonel C.A. Worsnop. She told me she pinned the medals for the North West Rebellion on the troops at Winnipeg. Said she ought to have been a soldier. Her two grandfathers were admirals (Colonel C.B. Worsnop says “not admirals, but colonels”), her father, her husband, and her only surviving son were, or are, colonels. It was Mrs. Worsnop who, as C.O.’s lady, received the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, now King George V and Queen Mary, at the Drill Hall, September 1901, and who was the leading spirit in arranging the dinner in the Officers’ Mess. She was much incensed over the treatment of her husband about 1919, blamed General Odium, and said that Colonel A.B. Carey, D.S.O. (of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Battalion) came to her some months afterwards and said he had had no idea he had been used as a political football in his appointment as Collector of Customs, thus forcing her husband’s superannuation without the appointment after many long years of service, and the last part of which was Acting-Collector.

Said that the connection between her husband and the Duke of Connaught was first formed in the North West Rebellion (could not be; she must mean Fenian Raid, 1869) where both served as officers; her husband as an officer of the 90<sup>th</sup> Regiment (“Little Black Devils”). She had a photo sent her late husband by the Duke, in mufti, on which was written in the Duke’s handwriting, “From your old pal.” This explains Colonel Worsnop’s desire, in 1899, to have General Hutton convert the artillery of Vancouver—as it had to be converted into something—into rifles with the Duke of Connaught as Honorary Colonel.

Mrs. Worsnop is now nearing 81—will be 81 next month—and is as frisky as a “flapper” of 18. Must have been much loved by her husband, and returned his love in the full.

JSM

I was told today that Mrs. M.A. MacLean, wife of the first mayor of Vancouver, and still alive, was the great-great-granddaughter of Flora Macdonald.

JSM

Mrs. Angus Fraser, whose husband logged off Jericho Beach, etc. (Fraser’s Camp) is, they say, living in Colonel McSpadden’s old house on Granville Street. Her daughter is Mrs. McIntosh.

JSM

### **NOVEMBER 1931 - ST. MARK’S CHURCH. KITSILANO.**

“I came to Vancouver in the fall of 1907,” said Mr. H.J. Gilbert, one of the builders of St. Mark’s Church, Kitsilano, “and attended Christ Church.

“I had a lay reader’s license, and soon as the Reverend Mr. Tuson resigned on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1908, the Reverend C.C. Owen asked me if I would help to look after St. Mark’s until he could put a permanent man in charge, and I then took charge of the Sunday school, and, when they could not send a clergyman from Christ Church, the services. I have been teaching Sunday school there practically ever since.

“Then, on March 11<sup>th</sup> 1909, they set the boundaries of St. Mark’s Parish, and we had to move the church site within these boundaries. I was then working for A.E. Austin and Company, real estate brokers, and I took Mr. Owen up amongst the stumps to the lots which I thought were the best, and which were finally chosen, and Mr. Owen said he would like a large hollow stump which was there for the pulpit.

“Mr. J.Z. Hall was the wealthiest one amongst us, and he was made church warden, and I gave \$275 and others gave what they could, and then Mr. Hall financed the first lots, costing \$6,000. We had two carpenters, Mr. Wenmoth and Mr. Acheson, and we agreed to give our voluntary labour and have a bee, and so the first church was built, which is the present chancel of St. Mark’s. Then we wanted to get a minister to suit us, and considered the best way was to choose