

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



and public playing grounds. The temporary affluence of many land owners was false; the value did not exist; the figures were visionary; their perspective had no more substance than foam on beer.

JSM

CLOUGH AVENUE (SOUTH VANCOUVER), AFTERWARDS 61ST AVENUE EAST.

Mr. Clough, nephew of John Clough the lamplighter of Vancouver (1887) was a friend of the above Mr. Lalande.

MAIN STREET (FORMERLY WESTMINSTER AVENUE.)

Mr. Lalande was active in changing the name. His contention was that there were too many Westminsters—Westminster Avenue, Westminster Road, New Westminster, the city. Alderman Hepburn, an old-timer, bitterly opposed the change of historic old names, but the “boomsters” were riding gloriously on the crest of a great real estate wave; the soberer heads were disdained as fossilised; and when Alderman Hepburn publicly stated that those who sold lots “on Grouse Mountain” were “criminals” who ought to be in jail, a mighty howl arose, and had undoubtedly much to do with his defeat in a contest for the mayoralty. He was a splendid alderman, an astute financier, had served as an alderman for many terms, and deserved a more gracious reward.

JSM

EARLY AEROPLANES (APPROXIMATELY 1906 OR 1908.)

One of the earliest of aeroplanes in Vancouver was that possessed by Fred Clark, who bought the plane, and Art (Arthur) Lalande (son of the above), who supplied the engine. It was a British military Arvo or Alvo machine, fitted with bicycle wheels, and was purchased in St. Louis, Missouri, knocked down, shipped to Vancouver, and put on pontoons made by the Vancouver Shipyards in Coal Harbour. The propeller was enormous, and a foot wide. It never flew. The plane was burned when Hoffar’s boat house was destroyed by fire; the engine, being elsewhere, was saved, and afterwards put in a motor boat. All this as related to me by Art Lalande, who says he does not know where Fred Clark went to.

JSM

3 DECEMBER 1931 - KITSILANO BEACH, POST OFFICE.

The first post office at Kitsilano Beach was established at the time the Canadian Pacific Railway subdivided the area lying at the back of Kitsilano Beach, probably because at that time there was no mail delivery in that section, and its earliest residents had to go to town for their mail. It was located in a little store called “The Popular” run by a Mr. Green, just around the corner from Cornwall Street and on Yew Street.

The second postmaster was Mr. Yates, who retained it from 1912 to 1927, in a little store just west of Yew Street on the south side of Cornwall, where he sold confectionery and played chess.

The third incumbent is a postmistress at the same place, same business. I am informed that it was never known as Kitsilano Post Office, but as Sub Post Office No. 4

4 DECEMBER 1931 - HIS GRACE THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF NEW WESTMINSTER. COLONEL THE MOST REVEREND A.U. DEPENCIER, O.B.E., D.D.. 62ND OVERSEAS BATTALION, C.E.F. (“HULME’S HUSKIES.”)

Colonel Hulme tells me that when, early in 1915, he was given authority to raise the 62nd Overseas Battalion, he was completing the establishment of officers, and gave thought to the question of a regimental chaplain. One of the earlier overseas battalions had been unfortunate in the selection of a chaplain who had made himself “avoided” by too strict ideas on cigarettes,