

## **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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### **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

just one name and stick to it, which we did. Bishop Dart wanted to put his son in, and claimed we would have to give him more names, for he would not appoint Mr. Sovereign. I was delegated to take the bishop down to meet his tram, and while going down, said to the bishop, 'Surely, surely, you won't wreck us at the start' by not giving us the man whom we are all unanimous for. Well, he said he would give his answer to Mr. Sovereign if he would call on him at the See House in New Westminster next Wednesday, so when I got back I told Mr. Sovereign that the bishop would give him his answer next Wednesday, and when he met him the first words were, 'Allow me to congratulate the first rector of St. Mark's,' and so we were well away, and have continued to prosper ever since."

(Original of above statement is in Archives.)