

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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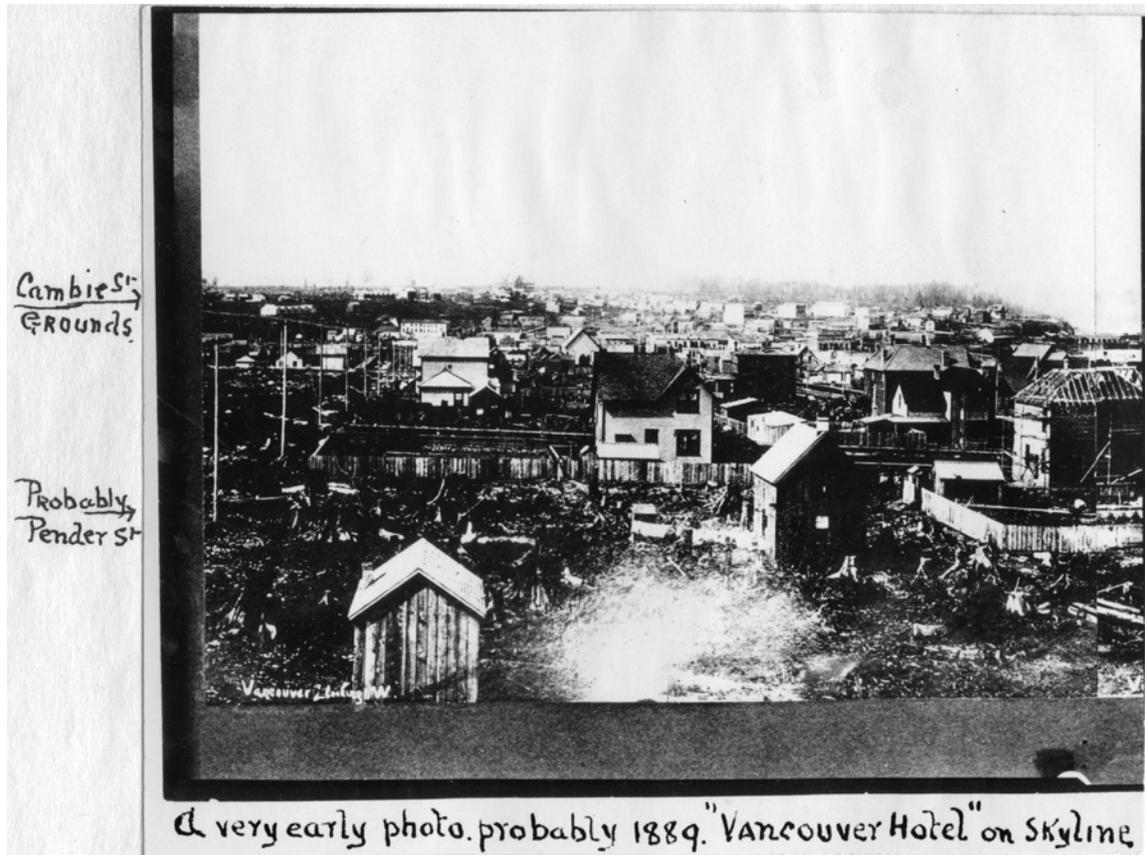
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Item # EarlyVan_v1_0047

7 JULY 1931 - COLUMBIA STREET.

"In the early days, the waters of False Creek came closest to those of Burrard Inlet at Columbia Street. They came almost right up to Pender Street. The shore at the foot of Carrall Street (Royal City Planing Mills) was a little further south," said Mr. H.P. McCraney this evening, after lecturing to the *Pioneers Association* on the construction of the first electric railway in Vancouver, for which he had the contract in part.

"At high tide, the waters pretty much overflowed from False Creek to Burrard Inlet. Columbia Street was the lowest point, as well as the narrowest. All that low portion of Vancouver, between Columbia Street and some distance to the west on Hastings Street, was filled in to a depth of four, perhaps only three feet deep."

DUPONT STREET, NOW PENDER STREET EAST. CARRALL STREET.

"The tide came right up to the corner of Dupont and Columbia Street. I helped to pile, cap, bridge and plank Dupont Street from Columbia to Carrall Street." (Mr. J.A. Mateer, a very early member of the Vancouver Volunteer Fire Brigade.) "It came right up to Dupont Street."

WATER STREET, HASTINGS STREET, KEEFER STREET.

Extract, *Daily News-Advertiser*, 12 July 1887 (U.B.C. Library).

Board of Works: We recommend acceptance of the following tenders:

J.B. McKim: For Water St. without sidewalks, grubbing, \$1.65 per lineal foot.

W.L. McDonald: For Hastings St. grubbing, etc. 24¢ per lineal foot, 6 foot sidewalk. 62¢ per lineal foot grubbing.

Boyd and Clendenning: For Keefer St. 28¢ per lineal foot, 6 foot sidewalk. 59¢ per lineal foot grubbing.

(Note: by "6 foot sidewalk" is intended plank sidewalk, not concrete.)

CAMBIE STREET, GEORGIA STREET, SEVENTH AVENUE, WESTMINSTER AVENUE, PARK AVENUE, ETC. JOHNSTONE STREET.

Extract, *Daily News-Advertiser*, 19 July 1887.

Minutes of City Council.

Board of Works recommends that:

1. Park Ave. and Johnstone St. with one five foot sidewalk.
2. Cambie Street. To be grubbed, cleared, and graded with two six-foot sidewalks from Hastings Street to Georgia Street, and from there to the railroad reserve to be cleared, and close cut the full width, and eighteen feet in the centre grubbed, cleared, graded, ditched and crowned.
3. Georgia Street. To be close cut, cleared and burned from Howe St. to the junction, and twenty feet in the centre grubbed, cleared, graded, ditched and crowned.

There follows a long list of recommendations, including Westminster Avenue across False Creek Bridge, and also Campbell Avenue, too long for inclusion here.

"Park Avenue" may refer to Park Lane or Park Road. The latter is the boundary between Stanley Park and the city; the former was a short street of one block, which at one time ran parallel to Westminster Avenue from Prior Street southwards. Johnstone Street is unknown, but may be a short street running east and west, which joined it to Westminster Avenue. It was the site of the home of John Boulton, our first magistrate, whose brother-in-law, C. Gardner Johnson, lived nearby. Park Lane is now part of the Canadian National Railway station ornamental gardens.

SEVENTH AVENUE (NOT EAST OR WEST, BUT SEVENTH AVENUE), SAME DATE.

"7th Ave. To be cleared to full width and graded, ditched, crowned 18 feet in the centre."
(Understood to be the first through street to be opened up from east to west in Fairview.)

9 JULY 1931 - KITSILANO. FOURTH AVENUE WEST. TATLOW PARK.

"The photo of our old place, four acres, on the south side of Fourth Avenue and between Bayswater and Balaclava streets," said Mrs. J.Z. Hall of "Killarney." It ran back as far as Sixth Avenue West; a great square cut out of the bush.

"It was cleared out of the forest, a square hole in virgin timber, and through which ran a large creek. We camped there each summer for four years, from about 1906 onwards; afterwards, we went to live on the shore, exactly opposite the present 'Killarney.' The creek was full of trout, and was the large creek which ran across Fourth Avenue West between Balaclava and Bayswater in a deep ravine, and came out at what is now T.H. Orchardson's residence, 3005 Point Grey Road; a ravine which has now been filled in. This creek was not the same creek as the *little* one which still runs through Tatlow Park, just west of Macdonald Street. The big creek was forty feet wide where it passed through the Hall clearing; we dammed it with logs, bathed in the pool made by them, and fished in it. The Tatlow Park creek ran off in a southerly direction, the big creek went southwesterly, and must have drained a great area. It is dried up now.