

## **Early Vancouver**

### **Volume Two**

**By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.**

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*Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1932.*

*Supplemental to volume one collected in 1931.*

### **About the 2011 Edition**

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## **19 JULY 1935 – INDIAN CHURCH AT GRANVILLE, 1875-6. FIRST METHODIST CHURCH IN VANCOUVER. FIRST CHURCH IN VANCOUVER.**

In conversation today with Mr. Ernest Robson, son of the late Dr. Robson, pioneer Methodist minister, he told me that, while his father was never stationed at the parsonage at Granville, he had often visited there and that his recollection was, and that he had confirmed it by conversing with Mrs. [blank] née Thompson, daughter of the Rev. Thompson who was stationed at Granville, that the old Indian church was during later years, and prior to its destruction by fire on 13 June 1886, used by the children as a playhouse. He said that Mrs. [blank] said she had often played in it.

Upon showing him the map of Granville, August 1885, made for insurance purposes showing the exact locations of every building, and pointing out a small building touching the shoreline immediately in front of the parsonage, he said he thought that was the boathouse, and recalled it because as a boy, he slipped through the slats of the wooden ways up which they drew their boats, dropped as far as his neck, and had to be sawn out. I pointed out that the Indians tied their canoes to the steps and he replied that he was under the impression that the Indian church adjoined the boat house.

J.S. Matthews, City Archivist, Vancouver.

See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2.

## **THE FIRST METHODIST IN VANCOUVER, MRS. JOSEPHINE SULLIVAN.**

Rev. C.M. Tate, Methodist Indian Missionary, 16 July 1932:

“Mrs. Josephine Sullivan was the first Methodist in Vancouver, a coloured lady, wife of ‘Old Man’ (also coloured) Sullivan, cook at the Moodyville Sawmill. When her husband died, Arthur, her son, moved over to a new sort of place which was starting at Granville, and brought his mother with him. Arthur was ‘sort of dark,’ too.”

See *Early Vancouver*, Matthews, 1931, re Sullivans.

## **THE FIRST METHODIST HALL (USED AS FIRST CHURCH).**

Extract, Letter, Ernest S. Robson, son of Rev. Ebenezer Robson, D.D., 10 July 1932:

“My statement re first Water Street hall is correct, as can be proved by my father’s diary. The following extracts from the article by Mrs. N. O’Connor of New Westminster, as published in the *Western Recorder* of October 1893 will be of interest:

Every Tuesday evening a class meeting was held at the house of Mrs. Josephine Sullivan, when seven was the largest number present. This was the extent of the membership at this time, March 1884. Thursday evening was prayer meeting at the parsonage. Mr. W.H. Irwin, the school teacher in Granville, was the local preacher and he would take charge of some of the church services. He has since become minister in the United States. The school house became too small to hold the congregation, so it was decided by the officials to rent a larger place. The only available place was Blair’s Hall. A saloon was on the front of the lot, and the hall at the back; the access to it was through an alley. There was a Chinese washhouse on the side where the entrance to the hall was. A Chinese lady was shot one Saturday night in the washhouse and it cast quite a gloom over the service the next day.

In the fall of 1885 revival services were held.

About the time the meetings closed there was a great influx of people from everywhere, as the C.P.R. terminus was to be at Coal Harbour. The Presbyterians were holding services at this time, too; had not been long in the field. It was not very satisfactory to hold services in the hall any longer, *so it was decided to build* a hall for ourselves. Mrs. B.H. Wilson donated the lot, if my memory is correct, and the hall was built with some volunteer labour. There were subscriptions to the building fund. Rev. E. Robson preached the opening services, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1886, and three