

Early Vancouver

Volume Two

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2011 Edition (Originally Published 1933)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1932.

Supplemental to volume one collected in 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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Until further research discloses more authentic information, it might be safely assumed that Granville grew from "Portuguese Joe's" store or trading post on a low lump of land on the shore at the foot of Abbott Street, and that it grew between 1863 and 1870, when it was surveyed by the ex-Royal Engineers, (at least, the 1870 survey of six blocks was, but the proposed extension to the west was by a man, believed to be a Mr. Green) and laid out in lots, as the result of logging operations, Indian trading, the necessity of having some point for government buildings off property privately owned (Hastings Sawmill and others) and the attractions perhaps offered to sailors from the ships at the mill, and loggers, who sought privileges not permitted on the company's property.

EARLY TRAILS.

Chillahminst (Jim Franks), North Vancouver, 2 March 1933. Jim Franks was born at Skwayoos, afterwards Greer's Beach, still later Kitsilano Beach.

"No trail to Jericho from Skwayoos, go beach, no trail. Trail to Gastown from about Granville Street, from about Snaug, go all along through tree to about Westminster Avenue; just little trail, about wide enough one man; don't know just about where go; all long Fairview to Westminster Avenue from about Granville Street.

"Oh, I remember, my father make canoe up on hill above Kitsilano Beach. Loggers just take fir, leave cedar; my father, Chillahminst, make canoe up on hill, have Hudson's Bay file for chisel, stone for hammer. I go up see him; go up log road, meet oxen come down; I little boy, run away, very frightened at oxen come down trail. My father bring canoe down beach, take him out Point Grey, hook sturgeon, oh, big, twelve feet, 'bout four inches thick, very heavy; tow sturgeon to beach, turn canoe over, take stakes" (cross pieces) "out, slide sturgeon into canoe, turn canoe over again when sturgeon in canoe.

"My father tell me he see first whitemans ship up Squamish.

"Two log road up hill from Skwayoos, one go one way, one go other way; little swamp up on top hill, logging road go 'round swamp."