

## **Early Vancouver**

### **Volume Two**

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

**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 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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The old plan shows a house, "Hockings," and nearby, at the "End of the Road" from New Westminster, a stable; some distance off a float; it was cedar logs and rose and fell with the tide; and on the shore nearby two buildings, probably boat houses. A shed stands on the bank across the creek from the stable, probably a pigsty. This creek now runs through the Hastings Park (Exhibition Grounds).

Two streets are shown of which one, a very short one, still exists as "Douglas Road," the other has been obliterated by the right of way of the Canadian Pacific Railway which passes also over the site of Hockings and the stable and pigsty. Hockings stood almost exactly at the foot of the present Windermere Street; access to Douglas Road is now by McGill Street, which enters its western end.

So far as is known, this is the first instance of the sale of lots of real estate on Burrard Inlet. In 1868 Joseph Silvy asked permission to purchase a piece of land with waterfrontage on the "Government Reserve," afterwards Granville, and his request was refused, but on 11 April 1870 Gregoris Fernandez bought, and in the same month, April, John Deighton and E. Brown also bought, lots in the Townsite of Granville, which had been surveyed into 94 lots as shown on Trutch's map of 10 March 1870. During the remaining months of the year and in 1871, several more lots were sold in Granville. Trutch's map of 10 March 1870 shows nine buildings at Granville ranged crescent shaped along the shore, two on the street, two standing on more than one lot, and all built at different angles, from which it is quite evident that Granville was a more popular location than Hastings, for while one building only, Hockings, is shown at Hastings on 10 July 1869, eight months later, 10 March 1870, nine are shown as existing at Granville together with jail and customs house.

### **GRANVILLE, 1870.**

Excerpt, letter from Miss Alma M. Russell, Assistant Provincial Archivist, Victoria, to Theo. Bryant, 31 October 1932.

After careful search in the Archives Dept. we were able to find a letter written by Joseph Silvy asking permission from the government to rent a piece of land with waterfrontage on the government reserve. This was in 1868, and was refused.

As we did not have a copy of the map of Granville surveyed by Joseph Trutch in 1870 I went down to the Survey Department, Government Bldgs, and found that they had the original map.

On this map Lot 16, Block VI, was owned by a man named Gregoris Fernandez. He bought it on 11 April 1870. But on the same map lot No. 7, Block 2, was sold to Joseph Silvia on 9 May 1871.

Lots on this block were numbered from 1 to 7, and were sold as follows:

- No. 1 Block 2 sold April 1870 to John Deighton.
- No. 2 Block 2 Jail and Customs House.
- No. 3 Block 2 sold April 1870 to E. Brown.
- No. 4 Block 2 sold May 1871 to Geo. Brew.
- No. 5 Block 2 sold December 1870 to John A. Webster.
- No. 6 Block 2 sold May 1871 to Alexander McCrimmon.
- No. 7 Block 2 sold 9 May 1871 to Joseph Silva.

At the time the map was made, all these lots had buildings on them.

On Silvia's or Silvy's letter his name is spelled Silvy, his X mark, so it is difficult to decide which should be the proper spelling, as the man himself could not write."

#### *NOTE ADDED LATER:*

The Silvy or Silvey family now live at Egmont, B.C. See Genealogy form, Vancouver City Archives. September 1934. JSM.

PLAN OF THE  
**TOWN OF GRANVILLE**  
 BURRARD INLET, B.C.

*Certified to be a true copy  
 of the original in the Lands & Works Office*

*(Sd) Joseph Hutch  
 10th March 1870*

Nov 1885 Victoria B.C.

The Government reserves the right to dispose of the Land to the



*N<sup>o</sup> 168*  
 Deposited in the Land Registry Office No. 168 at Vancouver  
 on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of November 1885 by the Honorable  
 the Surveyor General pursuant to the provisions  
 of the Land Registry Ordinance 1870  
*W. H. Stevenson*  
*By Register*

NOTE: Government Reserve Lots are cross-lined  
 Crown Grants have been issued for lots marked C.H.S.



Drawn by J. B. Lamberton at the Lands & Works Office  
 March 1870

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