

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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SEALING.

“That was the year they put the kibosh on the sealers. The British had about four, and the United States about a dozen patrol boats driving us off. Before we went out I felt that the sealing treaty was going to be enforced, and I told the captain to keep clear of any smoke; we had a fast schooner, and it was the eighth of May before they caught us. The treaty came into force while we were out, and the patrol boats cruised up and down sending the sealers in after they had sealed down everything tight. Once or twice they nearly caught us; once in a rainstorm; they came right down on us, but before they could come aboard and serve us with the notice that the treaty was in force they had lost us in the rainstorm, and it was two or three weeks before they found us again; in the meantime, we kept on sealing. The patrol boats required that the schooners head for port immediately they were sealed up, and also had to notify any other sealing schooners they came across that the treaty was in force. One time a schooner came near us and we went on board, and after a drink or two, left again, when the captain called after us that he had a paper for us that he had forgotten; we shouted to him that we would get it the next time we saw him; it was a notice to quit sealing that some patrol boat had given him to deliver to any sealing schooner he came across, but we did not want the notice and we never expected to see him again. Finally they got us, and we went to Wrangel to report. I left the schooner there, but the captain stayed, and on his way back to the south the Indians took charge of the schooner, mutinied, and finally landed in jail in Vancouver. They were a tough lot.”

DUCK POND ON HOWE STREET

“I don’t like to make statements about which I am not positive, but it was somewhere up about the Badminton Hotel at the corner of Howe Street and Dunsmuir Street that I have seen ducks in the swale, wild ducks, oh, yes; it was a low marshy place.”

The above as narrated at the Imperial Hotel, and afterwards read to Mr. Cary and approved. 1932. JSM.

JERRY’S COVE, JERICHO. BIG TREES.

James McWhinney, 20 February 1932. “I think the way that Jericho came by its name was that in early days it was known as ‘Jerry’s Cove’; Jerry Rogers had a logging camp out on the Jericho golf course, at a little cove there which provided shelter from wind and sea.”

Note: there were a number of “coves” on the shores of Burrard Inlet, for instance, Skunk Cove (Caulfield), Jerry’s Cove (Jericho), Snug Cove and Deep Cove (Bowen Island), Deep Cove (North Arm, Burrard Inlet), Cedar Cove on Powell Street, Fisherman’s Cove near Point Atkinson.

“I came to Moodyville in 1878,” continued Mr. McWhinney, “via San Francisco, Portland, Victoria, New Westminster and Douglas Road; the stage line from New Westminster to Hastings was just a wagon with seats; three or four persons to a seat, and a couple of horses to draw it.

“Hastings Mill, Moodyville Mill, Granville and Hastings were all kept going by loggers and sailors; it was all foreign lumber shipments in those days; no local trade. There were a good many ships in, six or seven of them at a time, bound for Australia, China, etc.

“I was afterwards logging boss for the Moodyville Sawmill Co., Moodyville. I logged over here in Vancouver sometimes. There were two old Frenchmen over here making shingles; they shaved them—there were no shingle mills in the country then—and the same with cedar shakes.

“Ben Wilson, whose early store was on the street at the corner of Abbott and Water streets, ran a store in Moodyville first. He was single then. Afterwards he ran the hotel at Hastings. He was married not very long before he died, and Mrs. Ben Wilson ran the store in Granville. Old Mr. Gold of the Gold House had run a store over in Moodyville before he moved to Granville. John Robertson had a saloon close by Mr. Gold’s on the beach at Granville. George Black had the butcher shop in Gastown; his slaughter house was just east of Westminster Avenue on the south shore of False Creek. He went up to Hastings afterwards, and after that went out of business, and had a ranch up at Coquitlam.”