

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 125th anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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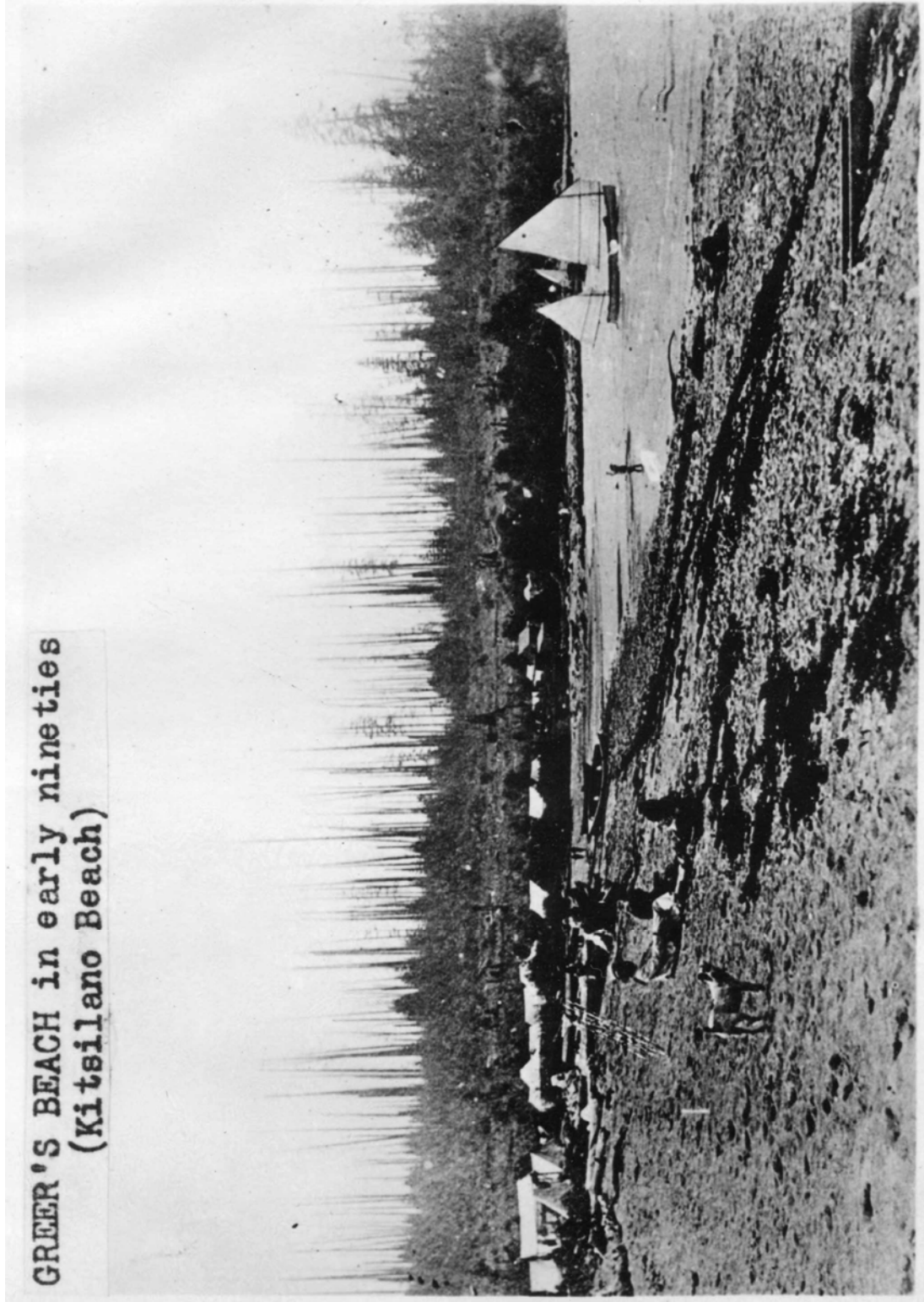
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GREER'S BEACH in early nineties
(Kitsilano Beach)



Copyright. NATIVE DAUGHTERS OF B.C. Post No. 1, Vancouver.

W. J. MOORE PHOTO CO.

GREER'S Beach (Kitsilano), said to be, 1890. J.S.M.

Single track streetcar, opened July 1st 1905

Boards on sand.

Boat shed, foot Yew St.

Boat on beach. House facing Cornwall. ↓

Flag and three room cottage, white roof, 2334 York St

House on Vine,

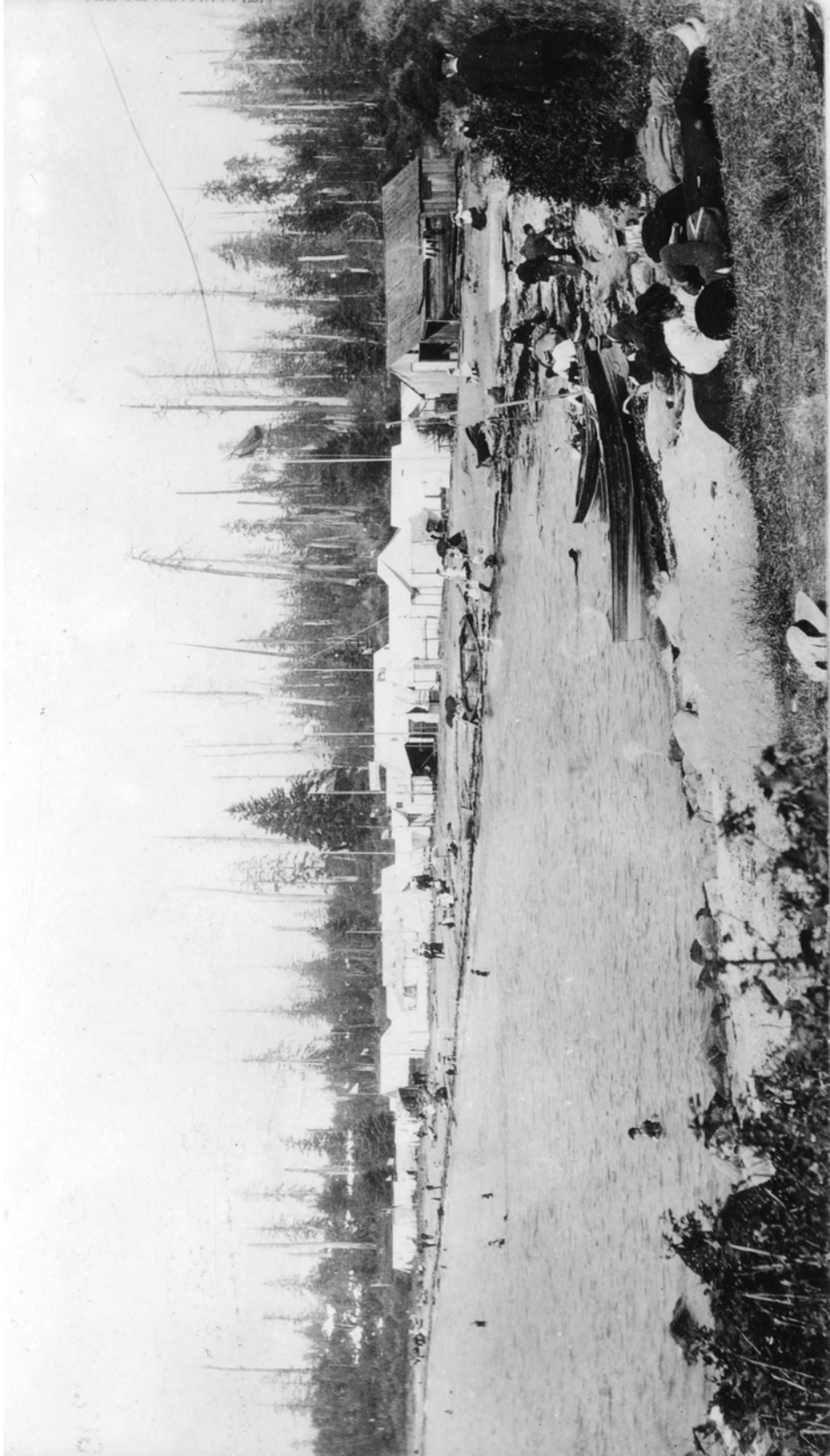
N.E. cor. York, ↓

Trees on Indian Reserve.

built, Apr. 1904, Geo. J. Hutchings ↓



GREER'S BEACH, 1905.



GREER'S (Kitsilano) BEACH, foot Yew St. Sept 1908

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FELLING THE TREES. JERICO. ROYAL CITY PLANING MILLS.

Percy DesBrisay, 1206 Maple Street, 28 May 1931.

"I came to Vancouver in August 1887 over the Douglas Road. They were clearing the trees off the West End at the time; I should say, from memory, that they were felling the trees west and south of the Hotel Vancouver.

"Hastings Street was just a rough road then, sort of trail; there was a two-plank sidewalk, raised on posts; you had to be careful for the planks would spring up and down as you walked on them; the posts underneath were too far apart, or the ground on which they stood was too soft. I walked them many times, and know how they jumped up and down.

"Sometimes we went out to Jericho for a picnic, we went to the south end of Carrall Street, left in a boat from the Royal City Planing Mills dock, returned the same way, and walked across to Water Street."

KITSILANO BEACH—GREER'S BEACH.

A photograph taken by George S. Hutchings in July 1905 from his cottage at 2334 York Street—looking northeast—shows five houses grouped about the foot of Yew, Vine and Cornwall streets, a cluster of tents along the beach front from the foot of Yew to about Whyte Avenue produced, and the power poles in place for the new street car service, now called the Kitsilano street car line. All else, that is, north of Cornwall Street is second growth forest. A rough boat house shelter is at the foot of Yew Street not far from the present bathing pavilion. Mr. Hutchings says the first car service started 1 July 1905.

A photograph taken by Mr. Calder in August 1908 from the shore just west of the foot of Yew Street shows a flourishing town of thirty or forty tents—second row behind not visible in photo—spread along the beach front as far as the muskeg crossing at the foot of McNichol Avenue produced. A boat house shelter at the foot of Yew Street [is] almost on the site of the present pavilion. The flagpole displays the Canadian Red Ensign, so frequently seen from 1887 until after the war in Vancouver, when its popularity on national holidays declined, and the Union Jack took its place.

In the summer of 1894 there were a few campers' tents on the rise of the low cliff at the foot of Yew Street; all above on the hill above was straggling forest; the big trees had been taken out, many of the others sawn up for fire wood for the city; a ragged remnant remained.

About 1930 Major Matthews drew a map of Greer's Beach and its environs and features from the description of Mrs. J.Z. Hall, Sam Greer's daughter. It is in the Archives.

The first residence north of Cornwall Street behind the beach was one of five houses built by the C.P.R. to lead others to build in that section when it was first thrown open for settlement, and which area was, at the time, a dirty black panorama of burned stumps. The house was 2030 Whyte Avenue (no photograph) and was bought by Mr. and Mrs. William H. Evans, and entered for occupancy in July 1910; they still reside there in 1933. Mr. Evans was one of the engine crew which drew the first train into Port Moody—the first transcontinental train—in July 1886. He retired as Division Master Mechanic in 1927. The house faces north, the photo shows muskeg in every direction.

KITSILANO BEACH—COPY OF PREEMPTION RECORD, 1873.

Duplicate Record
Forwarded to the Chief Commissioners of Lands and Works,
Date 9th May 1873
205
Cancelled by Land Act
Oct 1882.

British Columbia

Land Ordinance, 1870.

Form A.

CERTIFICATE OF PRE-EMPTION RECORD.

Country Land.

No. in District Register 1003

PRE-EMPTION CLAIM.

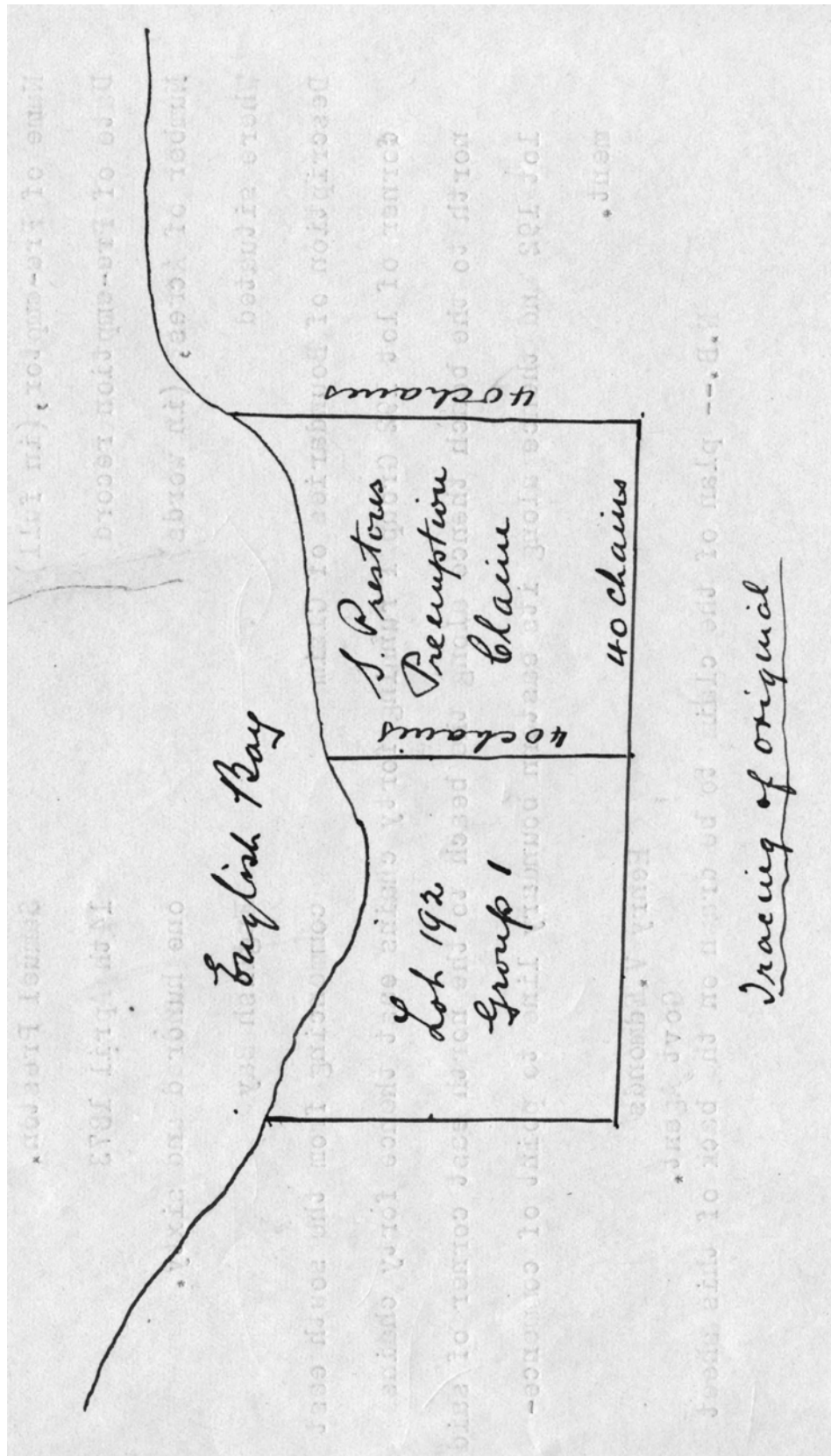
District of New Westminster.

Name of Pre-emptor, (in full)	Samuel Preston.
Date of Pre-emption record	14 th April 1873
Number of Acres, (in words)	one hundred and sixty.
Where situated	English Bay
Description of Boundaries of Claim	commencing from the south east corner of lot 192 Group 1 running forty chains east thence forty chains north to the beach thence along the beach to the north east corner of said lot 192 and thence along its eastern boundary line to point of commencement.

Henry V. Edmonds

Gov't Agent.

N.B. plan of the claim to be drawn on the back of this sheet



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