

## **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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### **FALSE CREEK. INDIANS. CAMPBELL AVENUE.**

Mr. Langley of R. Kerr Houlgate and Summerfield Ltd., financial agents, Imperial Bank Building, Granville Street, 29 August 1932.

"I recall very clearly that, about 1894 I should say, having seen the tidewater flowing three feet deep through the low level ground which ran north and south just a few yards east of Campbell Avenue, across Venables Street, and then on under where the Hastings Street Viaduct now crosses.

"They told me that the Indians used to cross in their canoes there from Burrard Inlet to False Creek."

### **HIS WORSHIP MAYOR LOUIS D. TAYLOR. GRANVILLE STREET SOUTH. FAIRVIEW.**

At the conclusion of a lantern slide lecture given before the City Council in the City Hall, 15 March 1932, by Major J.S. Matthews, His Worship, in complimenting the lecturer, said:

"I well recall that road through the forest." (Now Granville Street South.) "When I came here in 1897, I took a bicycle and went out to the canneries at Steveston and Eburne to see if I could hustle a job and," (feelingly) "I remember those hills, there were a lot of them; I went up and down each one, and it was pretty hard work too."

In 1897 Granville Street South—Centre Street then as far as the city limits at 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue; beyond that it is hard to say what it was called—the custom was to refer to it as "out on the Eburne Road," or "out on the Steveston Road"; a two-horse stage wagon with two or three cross seats and canvas flap sides left Vancouver daily with one or two passengers. Beyond 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue it entered the forest and traversed a narrow track which may or may not have had a little gravel on it; this is not recalled. A comparison might be made to the Westminster Road which, beyond Central Park towards Westminster, was not wider than ten feet in places, no gravel surfacing, just earth, here and there a boulder protruded and was driven around, both sides of trail lined with brush, bushes and stumps; in summer very dusty, in winter very muddy. The "Eburne Road" differed only in that it was lined on both sides with forest whereas the Westminster Road ran through second growth.

Under such circumstances it might be expected that His Worship Mayor Taylor would have had to "work pretty hard" peddling a bicycle up the long hills over such a primeval road. The writer has done it and knows.

### **POLICE STATION AND GAOL.**

There are two photographs of the "City Hall" in a tent at the foot of Carrall Street, June 1886. One shows the City Council seated before it, the other four police.

Adjoining or nearby the tent "City Hall" was another tent in which were sheltered those under arrest—usually a collection of "soreheads" sobering up after "last night's jag"—they were in leg irons.

### **OPENING OF BURRARD BRIDGE, 1 JULY 1932.**

At the opening of the Burrard Bridge on the afternoon of 1 July 1932 by His Worship Mayor Louis D. Taylor, there were especially invited as representative of bygone days, the following:

**Mrs. Ruth Morton**, relict (second wife) of the late John Morton, first settler of Vancouver, and who preempted the West End of Vancouver in November 1862.

**Henry S. Rowlings**, son of W.H. Rowlings, who in September 1868 preempted District Lot 258 on the north bank of the North Arm of the Fraser River, now part of the city of Vancouver, formerly known as South Vancouver.

**Mrs. J.G.L. Abbott** and her brother, **F.W. Alexander**, children of R.H. Alexander, formerly manager of the Hastings Sawmill, the unsuccessful candidate for Mayor of Vancouver in the first civic election, and

one of the "Overlanders of 1862," coming to British Columbia from Eastern Canada by land in that year, and resident of Burrard Inlet since at least 1870.

**Mrs. J.Z. Hall** (Mrs. Jessie Columbia Hall), relict of the late J.Z. Hall Esq., and daughter of Sam Greer of Greer's Beach (Kitsilano Beach), first white settler about Kitsilano Beach.

**Rev. Chas. M. Tate**, Methodist Indian Missionary, who assisted in the dedication of the first (Indian) church in Vancouver (1876). He first came to Granville in 1873.

**Mrs. M.A. MacLean**, relict of the first mayor of Vancouver. She first came to Vancouver in the fall of 1886.

**August Kitsilano**, son of Hay-tulk, or Hra-tilt, and grandson of Chief Haatsa-la-nough of Chaythoos, Stanley Park. August Jack, or August Haatsalano, was born under the Burrard Bridge, about 1878, in the Indian village of Snauq.

**Andrew Paull** (Qoitchetahl), a descendant of the celebrated Squamish heroic Qoitchetahl, the serpent slayer. He is secretary of the Squamish Indian Council of Chiefs.

**Chief Matthias Capilano**, Chief of the Capilano Band, Capilano River, and a descendant of Payt-sa-mauq, half brother to "Old Chief" Capilano.

Mrs. Morton, Mrs. Hall, Mr. Tate, Mr. Rowlings and Andrew Paull attended. Kitsilano and Capilano were out of town. Mrs. MacLean was poorly.

Excepting Andrew Paull (Qoitchetahl), a young man, Mrs. MacLean, and Chief Capilano, also a young man, all the above had seen Hastings and Granville Street in standing forest.

### **THE FAMOUS MAPLE TREE. "ONLY GOD CAN MAKE A TREE."**

The Maple Tree Monument at the foot of Carrall Street has an inscription, "Only God can make a tree." The following is believed to be the complete poem.

I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree  
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest against the earth's sweet flowing breast  
A tree that looks at God all day, and lifts her leafy arms to pray  
A tree that may in summer wear a nest of robins in her hair  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain, who intimately lives with rain  
Poems are made by fools like me, but only God can make a tree.

### **BEACH PYJAMAS.**

These were first seen in Vancouver in the early summer of 1930, and a few only of the "braver" ones wore them; some thought them "startling," others had as many comments as there were minds and tongues to utter. By 1932 all young ladies, and many old ones, were wearing beach pyjamas. They may not be the most modest of garments, but are certainly an improvement on the extensive "décolletage" of post war years prior to 1930.

### **BOBBED HAIR.**

The old adage, "Beware of the long haired man and the short haired woman; they're both crazy," no longer applies, but at one time, before bobbed hair, it was a fairly safe diagnosis of the "situation." The woman was frequently some old battle-axe with a face which would stop a clock and the man was frequently effeminate. There were exceptions.