

Early Vancouver

Volume Three

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

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Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1933-1934.

Supplemental to Volumes One and Two collected in 1931-1932.

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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Contact Information

City of Vancouver Archives
1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9
604.736.8561
archives@vancouver.ca
vancouver.ca/archives



LIONS GATE (FIRST NARROWS).

The Queen A Lady's Newspaper, No. 2436, 2 September 1893, page 405, contains an article on Vancouver by Douglas Sladen which concludes with the words: "The most untiring of commercial nations has at last found the Lions Gate to the Western Pacific."

It is generally thought that the expression "Lions Gate" was a new cognomen "invented" and applied some years after the Great War, but a pamphlet issued by the Publicity Committee of North Shore Municipalities about 1926 says it was shown as "The Lions Gate" in old British Admiralty charts.

NEWCASTLE. WEST VANCOUVER. COAL.

Some of the old Admiralty Charts show the name "Newcastle" as a town or village on the north shore just outside the First Narrows. In the "Secretary's Report, March 4, 1890, to the Vancouver Board of Trade," the secretary (A.H.B. Macgowan) states in part (see page 49, Mayor D. Oppenheimer's private printed notes), "A rich coal deposit is claimed to have been discovered on the north of Vancouver Harbour, on Burrard Inlet, nearly opposite the city. I hear the site is already named 'Newcastle.'" (See W.A. Grafton.)

FIRST BANK.

The first bank in Vancouver was the Bank of British Columbia. Note: one of the matters engaging the attention of the City Council in 1887 was the establishment of a Post Office savings bank. See Mrs. Emily Eldon's experiences in Victoria, the week following the fire of 1886, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2, J.S. Matthews, 1932.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

Excerpt from *Daily News-Advertiser*, 13 November 1888, page 8: "There were about seventy men at the evangelistic meeting at the Y.M.C.A. last evening."

VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Advertisement:

Lecture in aid of Vancouver Reading Room
144 Cordova Street
On Dec. 19
Mr. George Pollay

Subject: "Labor Problems—Past and Present."

Mr. Pollay was the first librarian, Vancouver. Mrs. Pollay, over ninety, still lives (1934). Photo of both in Public Library. (See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 1.)

JANUARY 1934 – BRUNETTE RIVER.

According to Mr. C.D. Gillanders, Central Drug Store, Cordova Street, Vancouver, this river is so named on account of the colour of its water, which, having its source in Burnaby Lake and surrounding peat bogs, is brownish.

Mr. Gillanders said, "My mother told me that her mother, Mrs. William Holmes, a settler on its banks in 1860, told her (my mother) that she (Mrs. Holmes) named it thus."

BURNABY CEMETERY (UNDEVELOPED CITY CEMETERY).

At this date, 1934, it is said that there are four graves in this, as yet, undeveloped cemetery. All four are pauper burials, interred there for legal reasons, i.e., to escape taxation on land, which taxation does not apply to ground used as a cemetery.