

**Early Vancouver**

**Volume Three**

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

**2011 Edition (Originally Published 1935)**

*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 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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### **INDIAN STONE PESTLE.**

“You can have this stone pestle.” (*NOTE ADDED LATER*: hammer.) “It was dug up by myself in the summer of 1919 about 150 feet west of the southwest corner of Cambie Street and 63rd Avenue; about three quarters of a mile from the North Arm of the Fraser River, and at a point which at one time must have been covered with dense forest in all directions. It was under the roots of a big stump of a cedar tree. I went to live there in November 1918, and dug it out from among the roots the following summer, and also three or four arrowheads, one of which you can have; the rest I gave away. All these relics were down in the ground about eighteen inches, and beside a root as thick as a man’s body. The land in the neighbourhood is partly soft, low, swamp. There is a big creek runs down nearby, but where this pestle was dug up it was gravelly, but there was water more or less all over that neighbourhood. It may be that a rush of water covered the pestle and arrowheads with earth; I don’t know, but it was down deep, at least eighteen inches.”

#### *NOTE ADDED LATER:*

This stone hammer is in the City Archives with an engraved brass band around it.

### **INDIAN WARS.**

“You’ve heard the stories of the Indians sending their women and children into the woods when they were attacked by the northern Indians.” (Note: Rev. C.M. Tate—see *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2—states that when travelling through the forest trails near Nanaimo, he once enquired the meaning of small collections of clam shells lying here and there. His Indian companion told him it was where women and children, sent into the woods for safety, when Indians marauders appeared, had been eating food brought to them from the shore by their men folk. J.S.M.) “Chief George of Sechelt used to tell me about sending their women inland when the northern Indians came, and it may be that this pestle and the arrowheads were placed beside the old cedar—you know how Indian women used cedar bark for almost every domestic purpose—when the Indian women hastened into the woods, probably following the creek for their water supply, also because of the easier route of travel, and then made their temporary abode around the folds of the cedar roots where they afterwards either forgot to remove them, or some misadventure, discovery and capture, resulted in the pestle being left behind. The ground on which it was found was a dry spot suitable for a temporary encampment, close to the creek for water and a swamp for native vegetables. The relics were sufficiently deep in the earth as to lead one to suppose they had been there for a very long time, perhaps centuries.”

### **NEWCASTLE, WEST VANCOUVER.**

“They put down a bore about 1890 near Navy Jack’s, on the low land. We were all curious to learn what they found, but they ‘pulled out’ and said nothing.”

### **GRAFTON BAY. GRAFTON LAKE.**

“I married Miss Margaret May Matheson at St. Paul’s Church, Vancouver, 1905, no children, but I have a brother, Thomas David, who runs the Point Atkinson lighthouse. He is married and has six children living. My sister died years ago. My brother David died about 1930, was cremated here, leaving one daughter, now Mrs. Wray. Both Grafton Bay and Grafton Lake were named after us, though they call the lake Trout Lake now, but the trout have all been fished out.”

(Read and approved by Mr. Grafton, 24 July 1934.)

### **EBURNE ISLAND (D.L. ?)**

An island in the North Arm of the Fraser River between Twigg Island and the Marpole bridge, apparently unnamed until 1933, when, following a talk with Henry S. Rowling (see *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3, Rowling), Major Matthews, City Archivist, began pencilling maps “Eburne Island.” Rowling suggested the name because “Henry Eburne, a well educated Englishman, a sincere Christian, owned the whole island, had a farm there; I lived there with him, before he opened the store at Eburne” (now Marpole.) (See photo of Henry Eburne.) Rowling says it was “formerly known as Eburne’s Island.” (See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3. Also Thos. Kidd’s *History of Richmond*.)