

Early Vancouver

Volume Three

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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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"Touching the big stump east of the fence is a large water tank, one hundred feet square, built up in a shallow excavation. To the west of the fence is a similar tank, both above ground in shallow excavations, both of wood; big tanks, and in which I have often fished for trout; the water came by flume from Trout Lake." (See elsewhere for route of flume.)

"In line with the semaphore is a clump of bushes which conceals the old duck pond" (see H.B. Smith's map of Vancouver, 1886) "and creek which came down from up Hastings Street way."

NORTH VANCOUVER.

"You can see the C.P.R. railway fence, and also observe how the line swings round between the Ridley and Cordiner houses on the left. In the far distance across the inlet you can see Tom Turner's shack to the *right* of the smoke stacks, and the Indian Mission to the *left* of them. The clearing is now the location of Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver.

"The streak—about three inches long—on the lower right hand corner of the photo, Bailey Bros. No. 722, is the road to Hastings and New Westminster; hard baked sand and mud."

CATTLE PEN.

"Just east of the semaphore there was an unloading place for cattle, a cattle yard. In 1898, at the time of the Klondike rush, they unloaded cattle there to go to the Klondike, and a lot of Belgian dogs, vicious brutes."

HASTINGS MILL SCHOOL.

"The well-known Hastings Mill School photo with group of children in front shows a clear piece of ground beside it, and at the bottom a pyramid shaped boulder; that is not the Hastings Mill Road, but the school playground, the first in the city. The Hastings Mill School encroached on the C.P.R. right of way and was torn down; just when I cannot say, but I know I attended a school up on Oppenheimer Street in 1887."

HASTINGS ROAD.

(Road to Hastings from Hastings Mill.) "The road to Hastings kept close to the shore; there are still traces of it to be seen now in this year 1933; traces between Powell Street and the railway track; especially right up by Victoria and Salisbury Drive. It was right close to the water, and as it passed where the sugar refinery is now, it ran so low that at high tide the water washed over the road; it was very swampy along there; you can see the swamp there still," (Hastings Viaduct is south of it) "and the same low ground." (See story about Indians passing canoes through.)

HASTINGS MILL BEFORE 1890.

BEAVER.

"I think the last man to catch beaver in Trout Lake was 'Old William,' an Indian; he, as an old man, and I, as a boy, used to go together to fish up there. He went to Squamish, and must be dead now; he was an old man then."

BREWERY CREEK. BEAVER, TROUT, ELK. DOUGLAS PARK.

"Brewery Creek is that creek just east of Westminster Avenue where Doering and Marstrand had their brewery; that is why it was put there; to get the water. I used to fish for trout in it, and I have seen there the bitten-off ends of logs which the beavers had cut down. The park at Heather and 20th and 22nd avenues was a beaver meadow; that's why the loggers camped there."

CHINA CREEK.

"China Creek was away off to the east at the head of False Creek; it was called China Creek because some Chinamen started, in 1888 or 1889, a garden there on a small clearing; the creek came down from Trout lake. There used to be lots of trout in Trout Lake, but they cannot get up now that the head of False Creek is filled in. Oppenheimer had a brick yard up by China Creek; most of the bricks for the old Market Hall" (City Hall) "were burned there." (See Sentell's story re the bricks in City Hall coming from Hong Kong. There was another brick yard at Welwyn Street and Salisbury Drive.)

FAIRVIEW LOGGING. DOUGLAS PARK.

“The Chinese gardens on Heather Street, now a park about 22nd Avenue, I recall quite well before the Chinamen went there. It was originally a natural clearing, a berry clearing, and I think there were beaver there. When the loggers were logging up Oak Street way they had their camp there, and they had a clearing fenced, and used to turn their oxen out in it to graze and roam about; that was how it became still more cleared; the oxen tramped about, and broke the bushes down, so that finally the Chinese chose it for a garden. The old logging road came out by what is now the Vancouver Lumber Company’s mill on False Creek; there was one main logging road, and branches led off from it. The meadow was probably at one time frequented by elk; that’s why they afterwards used it for turning the oxen into on Sundays.”

WESTMINSTER AVENUE. JERICHO. LOGGING. BRIDGE.

“There was another swamp up on Westminster Avenue and about 33rd Avenue. They were logging out at Jericho when I was about seven, that would be 1882, because I remember it, and then there was logging going on back of the Moodyville Sawmill. There was a big bridge up Lynn Creek, away back above the canyon; it was sixty or more feet high, built of logs; the Moodyville people hauled their logs over that bridge with oxen.

KITSILANO INDIAN VILLAGE.

“The Indian village at False Creek Reserve was more towards the Granville Street Bridge than the Burrard Street Bridge in those days; of course, afterwards there were a lot of houses right under the present Burrard Bridge.”

ELK.

(After discussing the disappearance of the elk. See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3.) “Well, the story used to be that Walter Moberley told that he had seen living elk at Burnaby Lake. I think they must have all gone about the 1860s.” (See Haatsalano.)

HASTINGS SAWMILL STORE.

“The Hastings Sawmill store at Alma Road is not the first store the Hastings Sawmill people had; there was one earlier than that, the one they used when they first built the mill, a bit of a place. They had three in all. The first little old one, then the one at Alma Road which did for many years, then the third one to the south of the second one, and they combined the two—they were attached—and put a ‘store front’ in front of both.”

HASTINGS SCHOOL.

“This bare ground to the right of the old Hastings Mill School is not the old Hastings Sawmill road, now Dunlevy Avenue. It is the playground. The Hastings Mill Road was further to the east a bit, a hundred feet or so.”

SPORTS; LACROSSE. HASTINGS SAWMILL. DOMINION DAY CELEBRATIONS.

“We used to play lacrosse on the old sawdust pile at the Hastings Sawmill; that’s where we had the Dominion Day celebrations and games. A.E. Godfrey was one of the lacrosse players.” (He was well known afterwards as a lacrosse player.)

FIRST LAND SURVEYOR. A.E. MCCARTNEY. CALVERT SIMSON.

“Calvert Simson lived in one of the little cottages facing the Mill store, and A.E. McCartney in the other one, at the time of the fire.” (Note: think wrong. Peter Cordiner lived in one.) “A.E. McCartney was the first resident land surveyor in Vancouver. He is buried in the old part of Mountain View Cemetery, and the fact that he was the first Land Surveyor is recorded on his tombstone; I think he has descendents living in Vancouver.”

1 DECEMBER 1933 – MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. FRED W. ALEXANDER.

Fred W. Alexander (son of R.H. Alexander, after whom Alexander Street is named) now on a visit to Vancouver on business connected with the Pacific Coast Lumber Bureau, Seattle, Washington, and of which he is an official.