

**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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## **MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH HAROLD E. RIDLEY AT ARCHIVES OFFICE, 20 AUGUST 1934.**

### **MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY.**

Query: Mr. Ridley, Frank W. Hart says the first burial at Mountain View Cemetery was a Mr. Hirschberg who killed himself, but I cannot find a record of it in the city records.

Mr. Ridley: "The first burial was Hirschberg—he cut his throat. He ran a hotel. He committed suicide in the hotel. He had a son, I think. I don't remember the funeral, but I recall the gossip about the new cemetery. There was much talk about it; a new cemetery was something great, because previously dead bodies had to be taken to New Westminster. The first funeral I remember at Mountain View Cemetery was Edith Cordiner's" (Mrs. Chas. Nelson's) "brother Frederick's, and the hearse he was taken out in was brought over especially from Fales of New Westminster." (Note: Fred Cordiner died 10 May 1888 and was buried 12 May 1888.) "At Frederick Cordiner's funeral we went out the North Arm Road—we also called it the Cemetery Road afterwards; the present Alderman Geo. Miller lived out there—through the trees; there was corduroy road along the edge of the Tea Swamp; we climbed the hill, and on top of it was the cemetery, just a hole in the forest, about an acre, still in the rough, some stumps, no grass, no grave stones, had not started to erect them then, just a wooden marker, and some mounds of earth, oh, say, 15 or 20 mounds, no fence, no cottage then; you just turned in off the road into a tiny clearing."

### **THE MOODYVILLE TICKLER. TOM TURNER, NORTH VANCOUVER. TOM BRIDGES, FIRST SETTLER IN NORTH VANCOUVER.**

"Old Tom Turner inherited that place at North Vancouver from his uncle, Tom Bridges. Tom Bridges was the first man to settle there; he had been an old English sailor and had run away from his ship. Old Tom Bridges died there, and was buried on his own land; I have seen his grave dozens of times. Tom Bridges had the place all fixed up nice, little garden, orchards, pasture, fine little place, and he peddled milk. The item in the *Moodyville Tickler* about 'Buy Burr's Butter' makes me think of him. I don't think the *Moodyville Tickler* was a regular newspaper—anyway, it was not printed at Moodyville; must have been printed in New Westminster.

"I don't know when old Tom Turner came here; he was here always so far back as I can think. Later old Tom Turner sold a big piece of land to Pete Larson, who built the first hotel; that was after fighting the Lonsdale people for a long time. Old Tom T. left here and went back to the Old Country." (See Fred W. Alexander about the finding of his will in Scotland.)

"Tom Turner sold his milk at the Hastings Mill and Gastown. Joe Burr of Seymour Creek sold his to Moodyville. I can see old Tom coming up the Hastings Mill yards with his milk pails, carrying his milk pails, one in each hand, yet."

### **GASTOWN.**

"This photo, No. ?, is of Gastown about the end of April, or early May, 1886. I recognise all the buildings save one or two; buildings were going up pretty fast about that time. The photographer must have stood on what is now Water Street between Lot 12, Block VI and Lot 5, Block V."

### **EARLY SCHOOLS.**

"I did not see the first train come in, 23 May 1887. Mayor McLean was mayor at the time, after they pulled down the old Hastings School for the C.P.R. to pass; we had a short school period or none at all in 1886. Then we had the wooden schools on Oppenheimer Street, just east of Jackson Avenue, gone now, residences there. We children were kept in that wooden school the day the first train arrived, 23 May 1887."