

Early Vancouver

Volume Four

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2011 Edition (Originally Published 1944)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1935-1939.

Supplemental to Volumes One, Two and Three collected in 1931-1934.

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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4. See writing, 27 August 1932, Theodore Bryant, Ladysmith, (son of Rev. Cornelius Bryant who lived in "Parsonage"—1878-1881) who spent his boyhood days in the "Parsonage." In 1932, he wrote from memory, for at that time the above maps were not *known* to exist, as follows: "The Parsonage for the Methodist Church was facing the waterfront, and, at the rear of the lot, a narrow sidewalk passed along it towards the Coal Harbor end; the Indian Church faced this sidewalk, and next to that was a cottage occupied by, I think, Archie Johns, who was customs officer; past that, towards Coal Harbor, was mostly cabins and then Indian huts." (See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2, Matthews; copy in Provincial Archives.) See also "Memo of conversation, Theo. Bryant, 22 July 1935," to appear in *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 4, Matthews, when completed: "The small building touching the shoreline in front of the Parsonage, and facing in a nor-nor-east direction is probably the boat house." (Read on.)
5. See Rev. C.M. Tate and many other references to Indian church in *Early Vancouver*, vols. 2, 3, and 4, Matthews.

CONCLUSION.

As Mr. Bryant's letter was received 27 August 1932—long before the survey maps were located, and was forgotten by me until February 1936—it would now seem proof conclusive that the Wesleyan Methodist Church, erected conjointly by Indians and whites in 1875-6 during the incumbency of Rev. Thos. Derrick, stood on the southwest corner of Lot 14, Block 6, O.G.T., where on both maps, a building of a corresponding size is shown, that it was still there—only ten years old and in good repair—in the spring of 1886; that it was being used as a stable, which accounts for pioneers of 1885 and 1886 not recalling it; and that it was burned in the fire of June 1886. The photograph (3) shows part of the roof and the whole of the south end as it appeared in the spring of 1886, and it appears as a building singularly similar to the first Wesleyan Methodist Church at Chilliwack, erected about the same year.

15 February 1886, City Hall, Vancouver.

J.S. Matthews.

19 JULY 1935 - INDIAN CHURCH AT GRANVILLE, 1875-6. FIRST METHODIST CHURCH IN VANCOUVER. FIRST CHURCH IN VANCOUVER.

In conversation today with Mr. Ernest Robson, son of the late Dr. Robson, pioneer Methodist minister, he told me that while his father was never stationed at the Parsonage at Granville, he had often visited there, and that his recollection was, and that he had confirmed by conversing with Mrs. [blank], née Thompson, daughter of the Rev. Thompson who was stationed at Granville, that the old Indian church was, during later years, and prior to its destruction by fire on 13 June 1886, used by the children as a playhouse. He said that Mrs. [blank] said she had often played in it. Upon showing him the map of Granville, August 1885, made for insurance purposes, showing the exact location of every building, and pointing out a small building touching the shoreline immediately in front of the Parsonage, he said he thought that was the boathouse, and recalled it because, as a boy, he slipped through the slats of the wooden ways up which they drew their boats, dropped as far as his neck, and had to be sawn out. I pointed out that the Indians tied their canoes to the steps of the church, and he replied that he was under the impression that the Indian church adjoined the boat house.

See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2.

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3 FEBRUARY 1936 – WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH, GRANVILLE, B.C. INDIAN CHURCH, GRANVILLE.

Sequence of ministers (date approximate).

Rev. James Turner, about 1872 or 1873.

Rev. Thomas Derrick, who built Indian church, 1875-6.

Rev. Cornelius Bryant, whose son Theodore is now postmaster at Ladysmith.

Rev. C.L. Thompson, whose daughter lives in Vancouver and was born in parsonage.

Rev. Joseph Hall, living at the "Parsonage" at the time of the Fire, 13 June 1886, and whose son works in Chemist shop, David Spencers Ltd.

Rev. Ebenezer Robson, 1887 to about 1890, whose son is in Customs House now, 1936, Vancouver.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. INSLEY, 9 MAY 1939.

Widow of the late John E. Insley, and mother of Frank Insley, City Accountant, City Hall, Vancouver, now resident 75 East Seventh Avenue East, who very kindly called at the City Archives this beautiful afternoon; a tall gracious lady, she must have been a "beauty" in her day.

JOHN E. INSLEY. LELAND HOTEL. CHRIST CHURCH ROTHOUSE.

Mrs. Insley said: "I see the Dean has been mentioning the City Archives in connection with the Golden Jubilee of Christ Church Cathedral, and that you are helping with a booklet on its history, so I thought I would call, and tell you I was married in the 'roothouse.'

"During this period, about 1898-1904, when Mrs. Machin was active in Christ Church choir, I used to sing in the choir.

"We came from Alderney, one of the Channel Islands, on the same ship, the *Parisian*, as Lord and Lady Stanley" (Stanley Park) "came when they came to be Governor-General" (Lord Stanley assumed office 11 June 1888); "and I was Miss Mamie Draper.

"Mr. Insley" (John E. Insley of Port Moody, and later owner of the Leland Hotel, Hastings Street) "and I were married in the 'roothouse' as we called it—the basement of Christ Church—before they built the church above it; the services were held in the 'roothouse,' by the Rev. Mr. Hobson, the first rector. Miss Evelyn Jowett was my bridesmaid, J.H. Bowman, well-known architect, and still living, was best man, and afterwards we had the wedding breakfast in Mr. Jowett's home, next door to the fire hall on Seymour Street; Chief Carlisle, he's getting old now, was at the breakfast, too.

"Mr. Insley died in the New Westminster Hospital, 25th April 1922.

"My living children are:

1. John, now in Vancouver.
2. Thelma, Mrs. Kaye, whose husband is with Union Oil Co., Vancouver.
3. Vernon, on the New Westminster Fire Department staff.
4. Frank, City Accountant, City Hall.
5. Daryl Insley, in Vancouver.

Note by J.S.M.: Mr. John Insley—they went to New Westminster before settling at Port Moody, and Capt. Insley (John's father) died and is buried there in the family plot (Masonic section). John Insley owned, at various times, hotels in Port Moody, Yale, Vancouver and New Westminster.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH CAPT. THOMAS JAMES JACKMAN AND MRS. JACKMAN, AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, CITY HALL, 11 OR 12 FEBRUARY 1936.

Mr. Jackman came to Gastown in 1883. (No relation to Jackman of Royal Engineers.) They have arrived in Vancouver within the last few days, and are staying at the Ritz Apartments, Georgia Street. Mr. Jackman is wonderfully well preserved for his years—about 74 years.

HASTINGS SAWMILL. MOODYVILLE SAWMILL.

Mr. Jackman: "I came to Gastown in 1883; born in St. John's, Newfoundland, and came west. Steamboated, towed logs, etc. for the Hastings Mill on their little tug, *Mermaid*, and for the Moodyville Sawmill on the *Etta White*; towed logs from Seymour Narrows, Cape Mudge, Campbell River."