

## Early Vancouver

### Volume Four

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

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 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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**MRS. W.M. GOW. COUGHTERY. BEN WILSON. JIM GILLIES.**

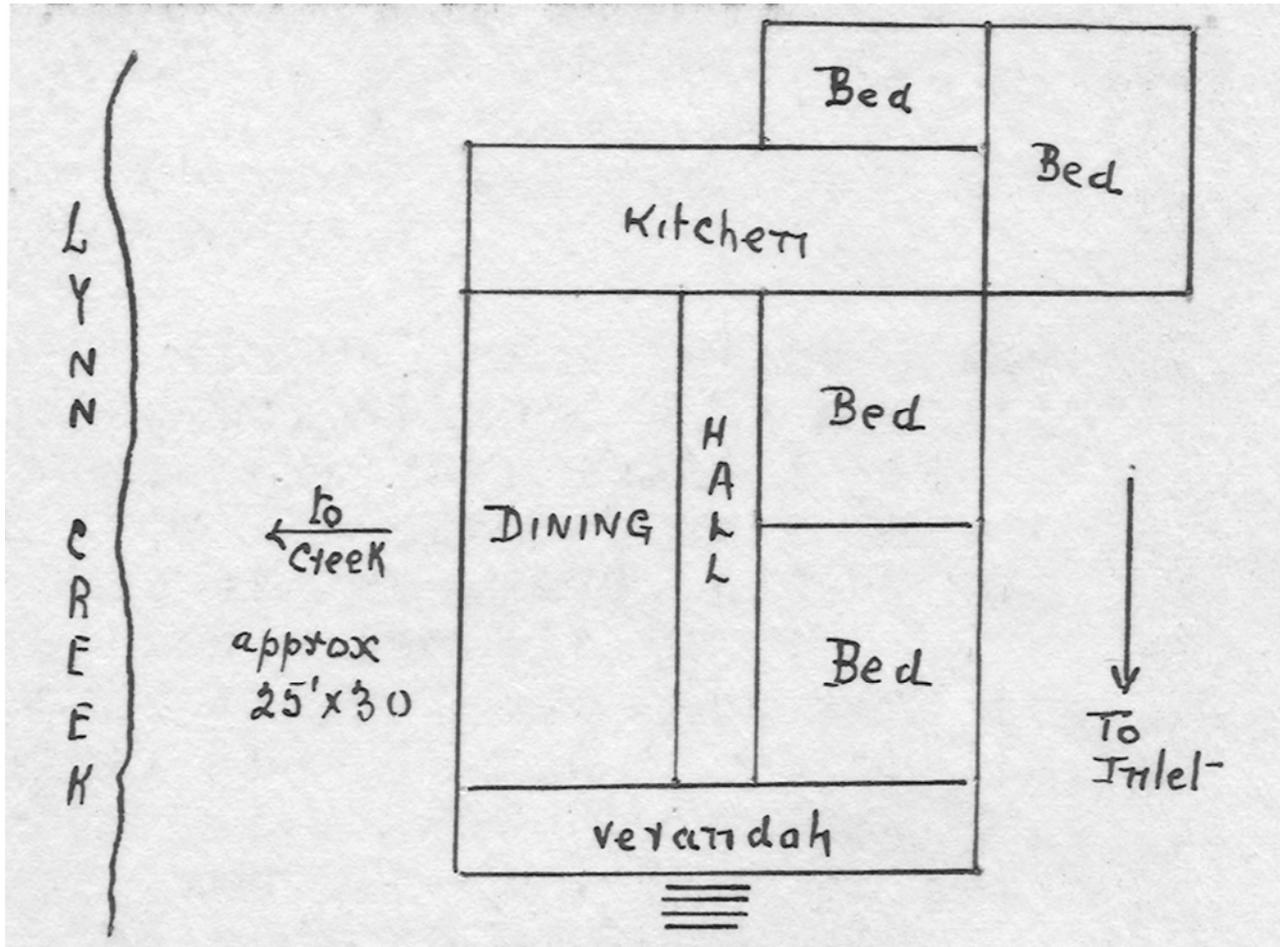
"This photo, 1884" (see C.V.N. Dist. 6) "of this house on the southwest corner of Abbott and Water streets; that was where Gertie Coughtery lived for a time; she's Mrs. W.M. Gow now. Ben Wilson lived in that house for a while, while his was being built, and Jim Gillies lived there, too."

**CONVERSATION WITH MRS. ALICE CRAKANTHORP, AT CITY ARCHIVES, CITY HALL, DURING A VISIT WITH MISS MURIEL, HER ONLY DAUGHTER, WHICH INCLUDED TEA AND CAKE, 15 DECEMBER 1939.**

**JOHN LYNN. MRS. JOHN LYNN. LYNN CREEK.**

Mrs. Crakanthorp said: "This photograph is the Lynn cottage at Lynn Creek." (Photos C.V.P. Out. 214, G.N. 356, 357, and also several glass negatives, 4 x 5, Stark photo, as yet unnumbered.)

"Their cottage had a verandah in front; it faced the inlet; a narrow hallway ran down the centre, with two tiny bedrooms on one side balancing a long living room on the other. Along the entire back was the kitchen, and two bedrooms off that; these photos do not show the kitchen, nor sheds, and barn; I think they must have been removed, or fallen down, before these photos were taken by Vancouver pioneers who, in later years, used the old place for a picnic rendezvous in summer."



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“The Lynn farm was a pretty place, but she had to work it. ‘Jock’ Lynn; they always called him ‘Jock’; he was Scotch; he was crippled and was always drunk; the two sons would not work, and the two girls were too young.

“The tide used to come right up to the Lynn Cottage, at high tide all around it, and one time, when Mrs. Lynn arrived there, there was a canoe tied to the verandah post. These photos do not do justice to the place; it is shown as untidy; it was always so very neat and tidy; Mrs. Lynn was such a clean, tidy woman; Mrs. Lynn was ‘boss,’ and very clean; the girls had to scrub and clean. And she was very religious.”

#### **HUGH LYNN, SON.**

“Mrs. Lynn had a terrible time with her sons. Of course, you know, her son Hugh was hung—the same day my little son, my only son, died—and her trials made her severe. One day she came home, and Hugh was inside, and she threw all his stuff out of the front door. It must have been in the spring, for the creek, and the tide, too, were high, and, of course, Hugh’s belongings fell into the water. This was the way it happened.

“The other daughter came down to the cottage one day, and it was arranged that Mrs. Lynn should go back with her to Moodyville, and stay a few days. While she was away, and their home empty, a passing Indian saw smoke coming out of the chimney, and immediately went to Moodyville and told Mrs. Lynn, and she went down at once. Inside, Mrs. Lynn found Hugh—the one who was hung—with a klotch; they were living in the houses, had been drinking, and everything was in a mess. Mrs. Lynn flew in a rage; threw their possessions out of the front door, and into the water; the canoe was tied to the verandah post, and—so the story goes—kicked Hugh and the klotch out after their goods. There was always trouble when her sons were about; the one who was hung had no respect for anything; the hanging was merely the end of it; we did not feel safe when he was up at Moodyville.”

#### **MOODYVILLE JAIL. GEORGE CALBICK, JAILER.**

“Hugh got into jail again; the little one-room jail at Moodyville, with iron bars; he was always in jail at intervals; Mrs. Lynn used to get him out, and this time, after she had paid his fine to George Calbick, the policeman and jailer, she said to her son, ‘Now, get down on your knees, and thank God you are out of here, and take damn good care you don’t get in again.’ The jail was behind the hotel.”

#### **MRS. LYNN.**

“Mrs. Lynn and I were always great friends; she never called me Alice, but Alison; that was the name of her daughter who died young. One day while I was there someone came, and I showed them the crochet work Mrs. Lynn had done, and I said, ‘You made this all yourself, didn’t you, Mrs. Lynn,’ and she replied, ‘Yes, every damn bit of it.’ Another day, my sister’s baby, David Pierce, you know him, and Muriel, here, got out my best china, and carried it upstairs with tea and cake, and put it under our window where Mrs. Lynn was sitting. The curtain rod fell, and hit Mrs. Lynn on the head. She exclaimed, ‘God-a-mighty!! Your mother’s china.’ Then, another time, Mrs. Lynn was over at the New Westminster exhibition, and they wanted someone to open the Scotch dance, the ‘Reel O’Tulloch.’ She told me afterwards that she thought the dance very nice. I don’t know who she danced with, but she opened the ‘Reel O’Tulloch.’”

#### **MOODYVILLE RIFLE RANGE.**

“There was a rifle range at Moodyville afterwards; it was close to Lynn’s. Dr. Bell-Irving used to come over rifle shooting, and Mrs. Lynn would give them meals; then, at the end of the season, there would be a big affair, and Mrs. Lynn would provide the eatables.”

#### **GENEALOGY.**

“Some people think the Lynn children were half-breeds; they were not; they were Scotch, but all had very dark hair.

“The eldest son, Hugh, was hung. The next son, Tom, cut his throat, a suicide.

“Then came Janet, she has been married three times, and lives in Hastings Townsite. Mary is Mrs. Perry, 1500 block Charles Street, Grandview.

“The youngest is Mrs. Peters, a widow, about sixty now, lives with her daughter on Robson Street; she was always a fine woman; both mother and daughter are fine women; the eldest son was married, went overseas, and died as a result of it.”

#### **THE LYNN ESTATE.**

“‘Jock’ Lynn died intestate; no will; and they could not get his property until Maria was twenty-one; when the Lynns sold the place they were well off; they had a lot of money, and then they were left some money by a relative in Scotland. Maria Lynn, always a fine woman, took her money and entered a convent in New Westminster, and got an education for herself.”

#### **“LYNADA.”**

“Maria made quite a lot of money; she had property on Howe Street, and she bought a rooming house on Robson Street; she owns it, and, as she got her money through her mother, she calls it ‘Lynada Apartments’; I thought it was so nice of her; it is part Lynn, to commemorate her mother’s name; pronounce it ‘Lyn-ah-da’; no, her mother’s name was not Ada; the ‘ada’ comes from the last part of ‘Canada.’

“But, in the Lynn family, it was ‘all for the boys,’ and—both of them no good.”

#### **MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. AND MRS. HERBERT CREELMAN, AT THEIR SUITE NO. 46, 2625 HEMLOCK STREET, FAIRVIEW, VANCOUVER, 25 MAY 1937.**

#### **ANDREW ONDERDONK. M.J. HANEY. C.P.R. CONSTRUCTION.**

Mr. Creelman: “I came west with the first gang, when M.J. Haney commenced in March 1883; the gang had finished in Winnipeg; M.J. Haney was the bridge contractor—he was superintendent—and we came by the Union Pacific. The Northern Pacific and Great Northern were not through then; then we came up from San Francisco by the, I think it was, the ‘Geo. W. Elder’ to Victoria, then over to New Westminster, and up the Fraser. Yale was headquarters, and there were only three or four locomotives there, and two or three miles of track each side of Yale; Mrs. Creelman was not with me then; she came in 1886; there were a few railroad men with me; all the rest were bridge men, and for about two months I fired on ‘Old Curly’ (Emory, or No. 2), “wood burner, two foot lengths.”

#### **C.P.R. TUNNELS.**

“The end of the track was up past the big tunnel, past Spuzzum. The east end of the tunnel fell in, and there was one engine east of the tunnel; Ed Austin was her engineer and was with her, and, do you know, that engine was on the other side of that tunnel for *seven months*. The track was just a few miles to what we called ‘Cariboo Joe’s’ tunnel, i.e. the first tunnel on the other side of the big one.

“The track on this side” (west) “of Yale was down nearly to Hope—at American Creek—that was all the track—the two lengths, east and west of Yale, was all the track there was west of the mountains, when I came.”

#### **EARLY RAILWAY LOCOMOTIVES.**

“When I came first the engines were: Yale (known as No. 1), Emory (known as No. 2 or ‘Old Curly’), New Westminster (known as No. 3) and I think another one. Later that year, they got five engines, new Baldwin locomotives, all unloaded at Port Moody.”

#### **C.P.R. LOCOMOTIVES. C.P.R. ENGINEERS.**

“I was senior man as locomotive engineer, except Ed Austin, and I said to Mr. Cotterel, superintendent, C.P.R. here the other day, that I was now the senior man connected with the C.P.R. living. Jim Doig is older than I am, but I was here first. About all I know now living who worked for Onderdonk on the construction are W.H.” (Billy) “Evans, C.C. Brown, Teddy Hosker, Jim Doig, who was conductor, W.O. Miller, who was train despatcher at Yale, and, of course, Peter Barnhart, who lives in Kamloops; the rest live in Vancouver.