

Early Vancouver

Volume Four

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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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HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION, 1892.

"I had a good job in the old wooden hospital for sometimes, about 1893, etc. we had three to ten patients only; it was an easy position at times. We could accommodate sixteen patients easily, eight beds on each side of the main floor; there was no ward for women; the one ward was a public one, with lavatory and baths and the washroom and kitchen were in the basement and sleeping quarters for the only cook.

"Upstairs there were three rooms on one side of the hallway, and they were the matron's bedroom, a bedroom for a nurse, and the nurses' dining room. On the other side of the hall was a sitting room for the matron and nurses, and two bedrooms sometimes used, if there was especial need, for a woman's room or ward. There were two long rooms where four beds could be erected in each. One was afterwards used as a surgical ward before the Cambie Street addition was erected.

"I was born in Panham, Norfolk, England on the 12th July 1865, and came to Canada in 1873 on an Allan Line steamship, and went with Mother and Father, Elijah and Mary Humphrey, to Coburg, Ontario, and remained there until April 1888, when I set out to see the world in the new west. I had a contract to stay six months, and was working on a steam shovel in the Illecillewaet" (C.P.R.) "when there was some sort of dispute between the bosses, and we skipped out; two of us. The station agent wired that we had gone; we were riding concealed in the scoop of a big steam dipper, and they found us, and called for us to come out. For a time we made no movement, but finally showed ourselves, and he like a decent fellow told us not to ride in the scoop dipper, but get into the engine room of the steam shovel" (on the same car), "where it was warmer; it was pretty cold in the dipper; and in that way we got to the coast as the shovel was being moved to Vancouver."

GENEALOGY.

"My wife, who was Miss Delphine Emily Williamson of Fordwich, Ontario, and I am glad to say, still living, and I were married at Christ Church" (Vancouver) "when it was known as 'The Root House,' by the Rev. Norman Tucker, January 3rd 1894, and we have seven children, all sons, no girls. They are in order of birth:

1. Frances Percival, died in infancy, age 4.
2. Albert Eldon in Squamish, B.C.
3. Frances James, also in Westminster, B.C.
4. Clifford Bertram in Vancouver (or vicinity)
5. Oscar Arnold
6. Ernest John
7. Robert Alexander Floyd

"Six sons in all living; three married."

Approved after corrections made and signed, F. Humphrey, 2984 Turner Street, 18 June 1937.

J.S. Matthews.

ESTABLISHMENT OF EXACT LOCATION OF INDIAN CHURCH AT GRANVILLE, BURRARD INLET, 1875-6 – 13 JUNE 1886.

1. See photostat of Fire Insurance Map, Sanborn Map Co., 1885, in *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3, Matthews, which shows oblong building in southwest corner of Lot 14, Block 6, Old Granville Townsite, and marked with a saltire cross, indicating its use as a stable.
2. See photostat of C.P.R. map, route of C.P.R. line through Granville, in *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3, and also original map in Land Registry office, Vancouver, showing small oblong building in southwest corner, Lot 14, Block 6, O.G.T. in February 1886.
3. See photograph (C.V. P. Str. 8. N. Str. 29) of Water Street, Vancouver, spring of 1886, before Great Fire, taken from between Cambie and Abbott streets looking east (stump in foreground in middle of street), and showing, on left, small cottage with verandah which was Customs Officer Archibald Johns' cottage; next, stable, presumed former Indian Church, and over roof of which can be seen white gable end of the "Parsonage." The sidewalk in front of Johns' cottage should also be noted.

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.

J.S. Matthews.

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.