

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 125th anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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Contact Information

City of Vancouver Archives
1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9
604.736.8561
archives@vancouver.ca
vancouver.ca/archives



2. Ellen, widow, Mrs. Ellen Armstrong.
3. William, born in Vancouver, 6 October 1888.
4. Alfred, born in Vancouver.
5. George, now in Nanaimo.
6. Grace, Mrs. John Taylor.
7. Ernest, now on Bowen Island.
8. Percy Charles, now in Vancouver, [born] about 1909.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. C.R. DRANEY (DAUGHTER [OF] ANGUS C. FRASER OF JERICHO AND GASTOWN), 2570 HEMLOCK STREET, 22 APRIL 1936.

JERICHO. DR. J.M. LEFEVRE. ANGUS C. FRASER.

City Archivist: Mrs. Dr. Lefevre has asked me to tea at four o'clock today.

Mrs. Draney: "Oh, how I remember her when I was a little girl. We were living at Jericho then and I broke my arm, and Father" (Angus C. Fraser) "went up to Vancouver and brought Dr. Lefevre back to Jericho in a canoe. Then afterwards, when Dr. and Mrs. Lefevre lived in their little cottage on Hastings Street" (north side, between Granville and Seymour, see photo No. Str. 100, and 128) "before they built their house where the General Post Office is now, Mrs. Lefevre—when the doctor was away—used to massage my arm for me. I wonder if she remembers it?"

According to Mrs. W.E. Draney, 3263 West 2nd Avenue, daughter of Mrs. Duncan R. Reid, first lady school trustee of Vancouver, her eldest brother, eldest child of Mrs. Reid, was born in Vancouver on 31 July 1886, just six weeks after the great fire in which she (Mrs. Draney) was scorched about the head (see Mrs. Reid account in *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2) and he was born in their little house on Pender Street (West), now about the site of the C.P.R. Freight office.

Mrs. Reid claimed, before her death, that he was the first child born in Vancouver, but this has subsequently proved not to be correct, for the first child was one of the Macey family, a son, still living (1937) in Vancouver.

The name of the son born July 31st is Campbell Draney.

Mrs. Draney's younger brother was born Christmas day, 1892.

J.S. Matthews.

FIRST CHILD BORN IN VANCOUVER.

Memo of conversation with Mrs. William E. Draney, 3263 West 2nd Avenue, Kitsilano, Vancouver, over the phone, 4 May 1937.

City Archivist (Major Matthews): Mrs. Draney, I have just been down to the City Solicitor's office, and have made a sworn affidavit that your Mother told me that your brother, Alexander Campbell Reid, was the first child born in Vancouver; she could not have known at that time about the Macey boy; nor did I know.

Mrs. Draney: "Well, they did not register births in those days. Mother always said that the McNeill girl was the first child born in Vancouver. I have heard Mother and Mrs. Cordiner talking about it, and Mother was saying it was a pity the City Council honoured the wrong person when they gave Miss Jackson the address and silver service. But I don't think Miss Jackson knew she was not the first; they did not register births in those days."

ALEX MCNEILL DAUGHTER, BORN VANCOUVER, 28 APRIL 1886, REPUTED FIRST BIRTH IN VANCOUVER.

Note by City Archivist: A clipping, taken from some Vancouver newspaper a good many years ago, presumably the *Province* magazine section, states that the *Vancouver Weekly Herald* of 30 April 1886 records that the first birth in Vancouver was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex McNeill, which child was born in 28 April 1886, "two days after Vancouver's first mayor and Council were nominated." The item

states that the family lived on Richards Street, but that their present whereabouts is unknown. A copy of the newspaper cannot be found.

Mrs. Draney is the president, 1937, of the Women's Auxiliary, Vancouver Pioneers Association, and is a daughter of the late Mrs. Duncan R. Reid, first woman school trustee in Vancouver. Both mother and daughter suffered in the Great Fire of June 1886 (see *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2.) Mrs. Reid died June 1933, aged 85 years, at the residence of Mrs. Draney (see Duncan R. Reid file.)

The *second* birth was Frederick Charles Macey, born 31 May 1886.

The *third* birth was Alexander Campbell Reid, born 31 July 1886.

The *fourth* birth was Edith Jackson, born 1 August 1886.

(It was the fourth child the Council honoured in 1907.)

J.S. Matthews
City Archivist
6 May 1937

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. T.A. DUTTON OF THE PURCHASING DEPARTMENT, CITY HALL, 19 MARCH 1937.

SALMON, KITSILANO.

Mr. Dutton said: "In the spring of 1905, I was living at the corner of First Avenue and Vine Street, Kitsilano. One day I wandered up to the corner of Eighth Avenue and Yew Street, and caught a salmon with my hands in the creek or ditch beside the rough road; the land was very swampy, a sort of tea swamp then."

Note: also see Moore, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3, who records that he caught salmon in the creek on 12th Avenue, Mount Pleasant, and also there is an account, I think by Wm. Hunt, in one of the volumes of *Early Vancouver*, which records that about 1893 or 1894 he caught, or saw, numbers of salmon swimming in the pool at the corner of Cedar and Third Avenue. Trout were caught as recently as 1910 or 1913 in the neighbourhood of Henry Hudson School. JSM.

LOGGING, KITSILANO.

"Logging was going on in Kitsilano in those days; they were dumping logs into English Bay near the English Bay cannery, at the foot of about Waterloo Street. The stables were at the foot of Dunbar Hill." (Note: see Crickmay camp photos.)

STREET CARS, KITSILANO.

"One Sunday I walked to divine service at Christ Church; we walked along the C.P.R. track, and across the C.P.R. trestle bridge; the whole of the track for a mile was at that time occupied by empty box cars, stored there for the winter of 1904-5 and spring of 1905; there was no storage space for box cars in the False Creek yards; the yards had not been filled in.

"Coming home from Christ Church I walked for a mile along the top of the box cars stored on the single track from the bridge to the beach; it was easier to walk on the board walk along the top of the cars than to walk in the ditch beside the track."

J.S.M.