

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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from Capt. and Mrs. Schwappe, master of the Barque *Whittier*, part of the cabin furniture, a ship's small piano? (See Crakanthorp narrative, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3.) We have photographs of Capt. and Mrs. Schwappe in the City Archives. (Photo No. P. Port. 118, N. Port. 137.)

FIRST TENNIS COURT? BENJAMIN SPRINGER DIARY.

Mrs. Bower: "I don't know, but I do know that Mother had the first tennis court on Burrard Inlet, over at Moodyville, beside the 'Big House,' our house; Mother had it made."

Major Matthews: Do you know that we have just received the minute books of the "New Westminster and Yale Pilotage Authority," 1879, which became the Vancouver Pilotage Authority, lasted until 1919, and was the beginning of the Vancouver Harbour Board, now the National Harbours Boards. It is full of your father's signatures.

Mrs. Bower: "I have Father's diary; it is written, and in good order."

Re: tennis lawn at Moodyville, see photo P.Bu.2 and P.Out.209.

HASTINGS MILL SCHOOL. BEN SPRINGER OF MOODYVILLE. THE SECOND SCHOOL TEACHER (MRS. SPRINGER.)

Mrs. Ruby M. Bower is a daughter of the second school teacher at the Hastings Sawmill School. Her mother was (Mrs. Richards afterwards) Mrs. Ben Springer (manager of the Moodyville Sawmill's wife.) See Crakanthorp in *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3, about her purchasing the first piano in Vancouver from the master of a sailing ship at the Hastings Mill.

MRS. PATTERSON.

Of Mrs. John Peabody Patterson, the "Heroine of Moodyville," first nurse (practical) on Burrard Inlet (before hospitals and doctors), 1873, Mrs. Bower said: "I recall her; she was a good woman; she brought all we children into the world."

[LETTER FROM J.H. BOWMAN.]

May 25, 1937,
4676-5th West,
Vancouver, B.C.

J.S. Matthews, Esq.,
City Archivist,
City Hall.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your favor of the 19th inst. in reference to the opening of our Stanley Park, Oct. 1889 by the then Gov. General Lord Stanley and in furtherance of your conversation with Mr. Baynes one of our well and favorably known Park Commissioners. I may say yes I can tell you about the arch built at this end of the causeway entrance to Stanley Park just to the right of Georgia Street, but as for the stone cairn, I have no recollection of this or have I ever heard if there was such a things.

In reference to the arch of which I am enclosing a sketch from memory and also of which I have seen a picture in a book that I think belongs to friend Baynes.

The arch was designed by a very young architect, at this time, by the name of Eveleigh, who like myself has now grown much older and is now the Secretary of our Architectural Institute and who I think would be able to give you some more information in this same regard.

J.W. Horne was the city councillor who appeared to be a committee in charge of the work, Mr. Charles Hilliar, the contractor, and the writer of this, a young leading hand, with Will Horrie and Ed Baynes his helpers. Since when the well known building firm of Baynes & Horrie. Our work consisted of erecting this a memorial arch with the name Stanley Park subscribed

thereon. It was erected upon two large cedar logs about 10 ft. high by four or five ft. in diameter placed one on each side of the causeway. The two towers or uprights on these logs being built of 2 x 4 studding about three ft. square by about fifteen or so ft. high, which in turn was close boarded and treated by an ornamental rustication of small cedar poles cut and nailed on horizontally all the way up, between which the arch was sprung or formed and upon which the lettering forming the words "Stanley Park" were cut out of round small cedar poles and nailed to place.

And here is where I must pause a little and toot my own horn. I was very proud of this lettering as I had cut and formed them and always felt they were of right shape and good proportion. The towers on each side were further treated on top with cedar poles pyramid shape and two small flag poles, to which of course flags were flown.

This arch stood for a number of years at the entrance of the park and was considered quite an ornamental rustic feature, but which of course due to time and traffic considerations had to be finally taken down to make way for things of a larger concept.

Trusting the foregoing will give you the desired information and willing to be of any help in regard to matters of early days in this or other regard, I am

Yours

truly,

J.H. Bowman

4676-5th Avenue,
Vancouver, B.C.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH THOS. W. BOYD OF 1203 WEST BROADWAY, 9 FEBRUARY 1938.

Partner of the pioneer contracting firm of Boyd and Clandenning, a tall well-preserved gentleman of great age (he was 80, 8 January 1938) who kindly called at the City Archives for a chat. (See James Clandenning, alderman 1895-1896; see Boyd and Clandenning, Council minutes, 1886.)

C.P.R. TOWNSITE. CLEARING THE FOREST. C.P.R. CONSTRUCTION.

Mr. Boyd says: "I came to Gastown in 1884. I had worked for the C.P.R., and was one of the first to get to the Columbia River—from the west, in the winter of 1884 and 1885. It was in that winter, 1884-1885, that we were building a wagon road, a tote road we called it, from Eagle Pass, now Sicamous, to the Columbia River bank opposite what is now Revelstoke.

"I was a young fellow of twenty; there was snow on the ground, and it was some time between the 1st and 15th of November 1884 that we reached the west bank of the Columbia River, and there was a tent on the other side, the east bank, of the engineers; that was all there was, nothing else, just a tent; we had come from Eagle Pass" (Sicamous.)

"That was the month before Christmas 1884, and I know that it was, because we spent Christmas in the tie camp at Blind Bay on the Little Shuswap Lake, and had lots to eat; it is the fact that we had been short of food, and then got lots to eat at the tie camp, that impresses the date on my memory.

"There were about one hundred men, working on the tote road from Eagle Pass to the Columbia River, and we were building about a mile a day, and the teams could not keep up. The road was so bad, and it was raining all the time, and what with the blowing of the stumps, and the great holes thus made, and the teams getting into those holes, we got short of food, but we did not blame the teams; they did their best; it was a difficult situation."