

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



“Mother says that the story of the courtship of the widow of Capt. Calvin Patterson by Capt. W.H. Soule and Capt. William Rogers, the former winning her hand and earning thereby the local sobriquet of ‘William, the Conqueror,’ and Capt. William Rogers, the unsuccessful suitor, earning that of ‘Sweet William,’ is quite true; Capt. Calvin Patterson was Mother’s uncle.”

(Note: the article appeared in *The Burnaby Advertiser*, 21 July 1939, and is by George Green—see his file.)

OYSTERS, NONE ON BURRARD INLET.

Between 1898, when he owned an Indian canoe, and 1905, when he was partner in a small sloop (yacht), and on numerous family picnics to beaches on Burrard Inlet and English Bay, J.S. Matthews, who lived in Auckland, New Zealand, where oysters are on every beach, and where he was a member of both rowing and yachting clubs, states that he has never seen an oyster or an oyster shell, old or new, on a Burrard Inlet beach, from Point Grey to Roche Point.

J.S.M.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. ALICE CRAKANTHORP, 1066 BURNABY STREET (NEW ADDRESS 1218 BURNABY STREET), OVER THE PHONE, 17 OCTOBER 1939.

GEORGE BLACK, HASTINGS. FIRST KILTS. HIGHLAND DANCES.

Mrs. Crakanthorp said: “About kilts. George Black of Hastings did wear kilts on many occasions; whenever he went to a party, or ball, he used to take his kilts with him. He was a splendid dancer, and he was almost asked to don his kilts and dance.

“I cannot remember what tartan he wore, but he used to dance the sword dance. He was without swords, so he used to take two handkerchiefs and cross them. I saw him dancing many times, many places, wherever there was an entertainment, or singing; anything like that. Mr. Black wore white socks, and used to take his boots off and dance in his stocking feet—sword dance, of course—he danced beautifully. He was not very good looking, but he was an exceptionally fine figure, and well built; was tall, and when he danced he looked as though he was on springs, he was so graceful; just perfect. When they had games or sports on the 24th May, or 1st July, he could jump so high it looked as though he was on springs.”

MRS. GEORGE BLACK.

“I have read descriptions of George Black as having dark hair; he wasn’t dark; George Black was sandy; he was bald, and what hair he had was sandy, and his eyes were blue; I gave you his photo, and Mrs. Black’s, too. Neither of them were very good looking; Mrs. Black was not pretty, but very stylish, light brown hair, dark eyes, and played, sang, and danced. They had two children, Maud and May; Maud was drowned. I don’t think the children were born on Burrard Inlet. Mrs. Black’s parents were Americans; she was educated in Oregon.”

FIRST BAGPIPES. FIRST RACEHORSES. “SLEEPY DAN.” “BRYAN O’LYNN.”

“Mr. Black had the first racehorses on Burrard Inlet; one was called ‘Sleepy Dan,’ and the other was ‘Bryan O’Lynn.’ ‘Sleepy Dan’s’ eyelids drooped, looked as though he was going to sleep; horses do that. I think they both came together. They used to race at Gastown, and over at New Westminster; sometimes Mr. Black would ride, sometimes his stock riders, and Mrs. Black was a great horsewoman, too.”

HART’S OPERA HOUSE.

“The first time I ever heard bagpipes was at a Scottish ball in Hart’s Opera House on Carrall Street; it was just before I was married, 29th December 1892; there certainly was plenty of bagpipes there that night.”

ISAAC JOHNS. CHRISTMAS, GRANVILLE. MRS. JOSEPHINE SULLIVAN.

“Mrs. Sullivan of Gastown was a fine woman; she was part French, and part black; anyway, dark; her maiden name was Josephine Bassette. And another thing: it was Christmas day, and Ike Johns, the customs officer, got drunk, and Ainslie Mouat and some of them took him home in a wheelbarrow; they hadn’t far to go, just a few yards. But. The next day Mrs. Johns was about, and he was telling his cronies that ‘some of the boys got it bad last night, but I got them home safely.’”

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

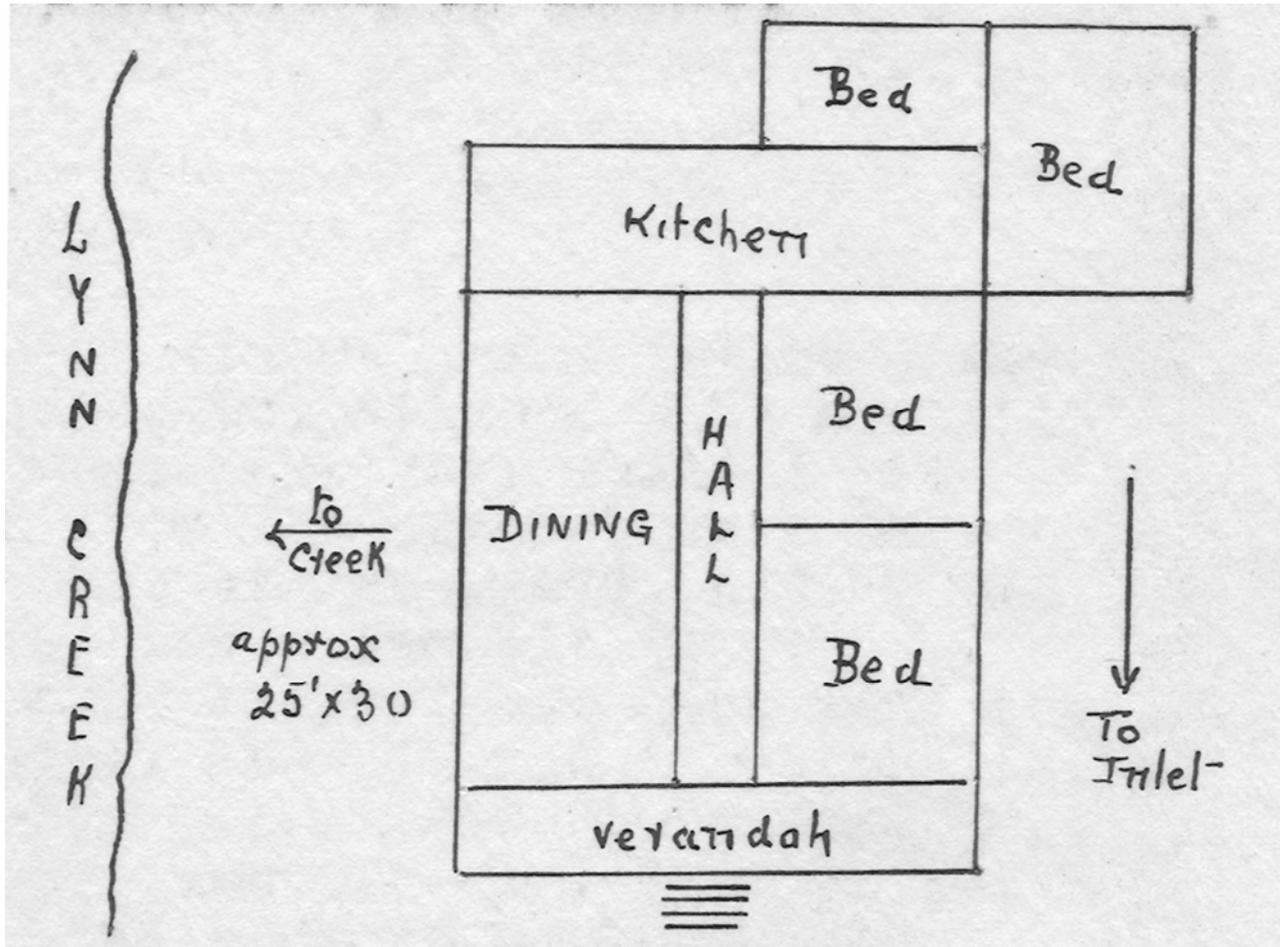
"This photo, 1884" (see C.V.N. Dist. 6) "of this house on the southwest corner of Abbott and Water streets; that was where Gertie Coughtery lived for a time; she's Mrs. W.M. Gow now. Ben Wilson lived in that house for a while, while his was being built, and Jim Gillies lived there, too."

CONVERSATION WITH MRS. ALICE CRAKANTHROP, 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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