

Early Vancouver

Volume Four

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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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Footnote or Endnote Reference:

Major James Skitt Matthews, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 4 (Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011), 33.

Bibliographic Entry:

Matthews, Major James Skitt. *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 4. Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011.

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“Hurry up” into the boats, into the “Douglas,” back to the ship, dress, half eat lunch, back into the boats, hold on to a tow rope and be dragged at a furious pace through the floating wooden dangers which carpet the sea; land, get into carriages and drive eight miles over a (good) corduroy road to Westminster. There, put on your ... most dignified air and remember that you are in the Royal City and must behave accordingly.

Wednesday, Sept. 6th.

We awake to a glorious view of mountain scenery from the steamer “Royal City” by which we ascending the rapid current up the Fraser ... Fort Hope ... at 3:30 we arrived at Yale.

Book in Provincial Archives, Victoria.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MISS MURIEL CRAKANTHORP, 1622 CHARLES STREET, 5 NOVEMBER 1936.

Following a publication in the *Sun* on 3 November 1936 of a photograph of what was claimed to be the first house on Burrard Inlet, i.e. the “Big House” (Nelson’s, or Springer’s, at Moodyville.)

MOODYVILLE. SENATOR NELSON. BEN SPRINGER.

Miss Crakanthorp said: “Mother” (née Patterson) “says that they” (the Patterson family) “moved over from Hastings Sawmill to Moodyville Sawmill in 1874, and the only houses on the hill at that time” (Nelson’s house, afterwards the Springers’, i.e. the ‘Big House’ was afterwards on the hill) “were Murray Thain’s and George Hayes’; just two; the ‘Big House’ was not there then.

“But, lower down, along ‘The Spit’ was Chambers’ house and Cotterel’s house, and the DeBeck family had a house; all at the east end of the mill property, and there was George Deitz’s house, built for him and his mother. All these houses were all there in 1872, and Charlie Hughes had a house too, but Nelson’s house had not been built when the Pattersons moved over in 1874.

“Before Governor Nelson built the ‘Big House,’ he had a room at the back of the store or office, Mother is not sure which.” (Both were in the same building.)

“The first house the Springers built and occupied was back of the Chambers’ house; then, after Governor Nelson went, they occupied his house on the hill by the school.”

(See photographs of Moodyville. Also Dakin’s Fire Map, 1889. Also Goad’s Fire Map, 1897.)

MEMO OF CONVERSATION (PHONE) ABOUT 15 DECEMBER 1936 WITH MISS MURIEL CRAKANTHORP.

DEADMAN’S ISLAND. BROCKTON POINT. EARLY CEMETERIES.

Miss Crakanthorp: “Mother says that Colman was buried on Deadman’s Island in 1874. Then ‘Rusty’ Pleece, he worked at Hastings Sawmill, he is buried there, and so is Bert McCartney—Albert, I suppose—McCartney, the first druggist’s little boy.”

City Archivist: Did she say anything about Peter Plant’s little girl buried about 1878-9 at Brockton Point, or the sailor who was drowned off the Hastings Sawmill wharf who was buried at Deadman’s Island, or the Chinamen?

MOODYVILLE MURDER.

Miss Crakanthorp: “No, but what she did tell me was about the murder at Moodyville. The Indians murdered a sailor of a ship. Mother says she can hear the screams yet; she says she will never forget those screams. The Indian murdered him up in the woods back of the mill. Mother says she doesn’t know what he had done, but no one went to his rescue; the Springers didn’t. They found his body up in the woods; a squaw told who had done it.”