

## **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**

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**MEMO OF CONVERSATION OVER THE 'PHONE WITH E.G. BAYNES, ESQ., PARK COMMISSIONER, VANCOUVER, 29 APRIL 1937.**

Mr. Baynes, park commissioner for many years, helped in October 1889 to build the arch over the Stanley Park bridge under which Lord Stanley, after whom the park is named, was to pass when he drove around it.

**H.M.C.S. VANCOUVER.**

Mr. Baynes: "Where did you say she was lying, Gulf of Georgia dock on False Creek? I'll call him up. How much does he want for the mast, \$10? I'll call you back."

Later: "Well, I got it. Mr. Wootton is going to see how it is to be got to Kitsilano Beach, but it will be a week before you get it, then we must go and see where it is to be put. Yes, you can tell the Kitsilano Ratepayers tonight, and, if you want to, tell the press. And, tell the Chairman" (Alderman Crone) "at the Ratepayers meeting tonight, that as a former park commissioner, as a good citizen, and a distinguished alderman, and a future member of parliament, that it would be nice if he would put a tablet on it. It's a double standard mast, top part about 25 feet, bottom part about 40 feet; when set up will be about 55 feet."

J.S. Matthews.

Note: the mast—a wooden one—was finally erected by the Parks Board at the foot of Yew Street, Kitsilano Beach, and at a point in the centre, exactly, of the street car right of way produced about fifty yards west of Yew Street (in the centre of a round lawn).

The hoisting of the Union Jack was performed on 24 October 1937—a very wet Sunday afternoon—in the presence of an assemblage of, say, three hundred people, who braved the inclement weather. The Kitsilano Boys Band played the National Anthem, "God save the King," as the flag was slowly hoisted; afterwards, "Rule Britannia," etc. The Sea Scouts, about forty, were in uniform; the Legion of Frontiersmen were also present. The Rev. Mr. Leighton of the Seaman's Mission led the prayers, and his white surplice was so wet that it clung to him like a tight skin. His Worship Mayor Miller made a short address; also Park Commissioner E.G. Baynes, and Commander Donaldson, R.C.N.V.R.

It was a very pretty ceremony. Photographs of it are preserved in the City Archives.

Commander Donaldson said the top half of the mast was not the original one with which the *Vancouver* left England. The original was broken off in a storm so severe—Atlantic—that the original snapped off.

JSM

**THE HUDSON'S BAY SHIP *BEAVER'S* BELL.**

Memorandum of conversation with Mr. W.G. Ashthorpe, 8008 [8020] Shaughnessy Street, Marpole, evening of 10 November 1937.

Mr. William G. Hof, fuel oil superintendent, Imperial Oil Limited, Vancouver—a very reliable man—was kind enough to mention to me that Mr. Ashthorpe had a bell which came off the *Beaver*, and, by arrangement, drove me out to his home last evening.

Mr. Ashthorpe is an old and valuable employee of the same firm. He was the first, or nearly the first, attendant of the first gasoline service scow, or float, on Burrard Inlet, established by the Imperial Oil Limited in Coal Harbour some time about the middle of the Great War, and for years did a very slender business, so little as scarcely to justify its being kept there. Mr. Ashthorpe had plenty of time on his hands, and so became acquainted with the squatters at that time still resident on the eastern shore of Stanley Park, almost opposite Deadman's Island, where they, or their predecessors, had lived since the early days. One of these squatters was Jimmy Dunbar, and Jimmy was married. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dunbar were well known to Mr. Ashthorpe, and esteemed him. Mr. Ashthorpe is now in charge of the fuel oil tanks at the foot of Main Street, known as the "Grand Trunk oil tanks."