

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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BURRARD INLET STAGE. LEWIS'S STAGE. ELLIOTT'S STAGE. POST OFFICE.

"I saw the first train come into Port Moody, July 4th 1886. Went over to meet the train on Lewis's stage, George Raymond riding; I rode the stage with him from the first I can remember as a child.

"There were two stage lines to Vancouver from Westminster; came over the Douglas Road. Alfred Mann drove for Elliott; he is still alive, see the telephone book, he lives at 827 Royal Avenue, New Westminster; George Raymond drove for Lewis. We dropped the mail at Hastings; put the Moodyville mail off there, and came on to Gastown. One of the stage lines started in front of Elliott's barn on Columbia Street, corner of Columbia and Douglas—I think it is 4th and 6th Avenue they call it now—and Lewis's stage started at the corner of Columbia and Begbie Street—opposite the B.C. Electric depot now.

"Write John Logan of Langley Prairie, and ask if he has a photo of Elliott's old barn, the old barn, where the stage started."

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. ERNEST KELLY WHO CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, 3 NOVEMBER 1938.

STAGE BUGLES. BURRARD INLET. WESTMINSTER STAGE.

Mr. Kelly: "I find I have made a mistake; they did not have a long horn to blow on the Westminster Gastown stage.

"They tell me that Mr. Lewis, who owned the stage, or Mrs. Lewis, his wife, would blow an ordinary army bugle on the front verandah, or steps, of their place when the stage was about to leave Columbia Street, New Westminster, for Burrard Inlet. That was to assemble the passengers for the stage.

"Lewis's barn was on Columbia Street, near Begbie Street; the stable, the office, and his home, were all together, about opposite the present B.C. Electric tram station for interurban cars.

"The whole story I told you about them using a long horn on the stage was wrong; they never did.

"It was a bugle Mr. or Mrs. Lewis blew in front of the stable when the stage was leaving."

Memo by J.S.M.: Someone has told me that they have seen a bugle used in Gastown on the stage; in fact, I think two persons have told me that they have seen a bugle used in Gastown, and I think one was Minnie McCord. (See her file.)

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH RONALD KENVYN, EDITOR, VANCOUVER PROVINCE, AND ARDENT YACHTSMAN AND MARINE AUTHORITY, 27 JULY 1935.

CAPT. GEORGE VANCOUVER. LOST LAGOON. SECOND BEACH. COAL HARBOUR.

I remarked to Mr. Kenvyn that the Hydrographic Board at Ottawa were going to give me the height of the tide in "Burrard's Canal" at the time Capt. George Vancouver was here, 13-14 June 1792, as I wanted to trace his movements in the inlet, and thought I could get a further glimpse if I could disclose what Capt. Vancouver knew when he reported that its entrance was almost entirely blocked by an island.

Capt. Vancouver says in his Journal, "This island, lying exactly across the channel, appeared to form a similar passage to the south of it with a smaller island" (Deadman's Island) "lying before it."

Mr. Kenvyn: "Dr. Bell-Irving wrote once, in a book I think, that he had crossed from Coal Harbour into English Bay, passed up False Creek and back again into Burrard Inlet—somewhere up the creek—without getting out of the boat."

J.S.M.: Old Haxten, the Indian woman, now over 100, at North Vancouver, says she used to go through from Coal Harbour to Second Beach in a canoe, and Herbert Neil, Squamish Indian, in his conversation, 26 June 1935, says he used to go shooting ducks in False Creek, and crossed from inlet to creek in his canoe at Campbell Avenue, whenever the tide was not too low.