

Early Vancouver

Volume Four

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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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Queen's birthday; my father was 'mad' when they called in Vancouver; he said they should have called it by its original name, 'Gastown.'"

"DUTCH PETE."

"'Dutch Pete' lived in Stanley Park, over on the south side of Brockton Point, just opposite Deadman's Island; this big" (sic) "house with verandah over water, and fir tree beyond, here is his house; then there were two other families there."

At this point, Mr. Theo. Bryant of Ladysmith, son of Rev. Cornelius Bryant, minister, Methodist Church, Water Street, who left Granville in 1881, arrived, and was introduced to Mrs. Buss; they conversed on mutually interesting matters, and after Mrs. Buss departed with her baskets, he said: [blank].

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH ALASTER HAVELOCK CAMERON, WHO DECLINED TO STATE WHERE IN VANCOUVER HE LIVED, 17 MAY 1935.

SEYMOUR CREEK TRAIL TO CARIBOO.

"I came to Hastings Sawmill on May 2nd 1875, and that year worked on the building of the Seymour Creek Trail to Cariboo. The trail was built with the idea of getting cattle out that way from the Cariboo, but only four bands of cattle, about three hundred head to a band, ever came out that way; the trail was cut twelve feet wide, and graded three feet in the centre and covered with mattox" (gravel, etc.) "for the horses and cattle to walk on."

BIG TREES.

"The biggest tree I ever saw in British Columbia—it was a cedar—was, as near as I could judge, nineteen and a half miles up the Seymour trail; it was on a flat as you approach the rise of the creeks to the summit and benches; and on a flat, about two hundred yards down from the trail towards the river. I would have run the trail by it had I noticed it early enough. I put a small tape line around it, as high as I could reach, and it was sixty-three feet around, and about sixty feet before it forked; a cedar, of course. Maybe there yet if it has not been burned. No, never heard of George Cary.

"The next year, 1876, I worked building bridges from Hope to Princeton, and the next spring hewed timbers for the first bridge across the Fraser at Lytton."

(Note: Mr. Cameron, very elderly, does not inspire my confidence in matters of figures. He probably did see a very big tree; there was one in Stanley Park, a cedar, reputed to be fifty feet around. The big tree on George Street was about forty-eight or –nine.)

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. J.D. CAMERON, FORMERLY MRS. CHARLES BURNS, 1732 KITCHENER STREET, ONCE KNOWN AS 1732 BISMARCK STREET, GRANDVIEW, WHO KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES THIS AFTERNOON, 31 OCTOBER 1938.

Former Mrs. Burns, now also widow of Mr. J.D. Cameron, who died 7 September 1938, is one of the "real" pioneers of Grandview, and especial interest attaches to the family, as their name is associated with the *earliest mention of the name Grandview*. She is approaching her seventieth birthday. She married J.D. Cameron, 22 May 1924 or 1925. He died at Victoria, 7 September 1938.

CHARLES BURNS. ROYAL CITY PLANING MILLS. ST. LUKE'S HOME.

Mrs. Burns said: "Mr. Burns, my husband, was born in Co. Antrim, Ireland; his father, David, a joiner; his mother, Jennie, and he came to New Westminster when he was about nineteen. In Westminster he was working for John Hendry, and then came over to take charge, as foreman, of the Royal City Planing Mills on Carrall Street, when those mills were first opened.

"I was born August 9, 1869, and came from Ipswich, Suffolk, about July 1887, and before I married, was employed in St. Luke's Home, Vancouver, and then, on 22nd May 1889, I—my name is Muriel Alice Norman, daughter of Daniel and Matilda Norman—married Mr. Burns at Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria; Canon Beanlands was the clergyman."