

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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ORGANISATION OF MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH VANCOUVER.

Statement by F.M. Chaldecott, 1174 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C., sent to Major J.S. Matthews, 15 August 1935.

I helped to organise the Municipality of South Vancouver, which at first included all that area of land west of Burnaby, South of the boundary [*as at 1891*] of the City of Vancouver, and North of the Fraser River extending to and including Point Grey.

The first meeting of the land owners, at which the resolution was passed, to petition the Government to grant a charter forming the Municipality, was held in Peter Cordiner's barn, situated [*on District Lot 327*] at the South East corner of the River Road and the North Arm Road [*afterwards Fraser Street*], opposite the old School House which was on the N.E. corner.

The meeting took place on the 10th April 1891; I cannot recall all the names of those present, but as far as my memory serves the following were there:

William Shannon, J.W. Lawson, P. Cordiner, George Martin, F.W. Hartley [*afterwards the first manager of the Royal Trust Company, Vancouver*], W.H. Rowling [*corporal of the Royal Engineers who came to New Westminster in 1858*], F.G. Whibley, Hugh Magee [*preemptor of D.L. 321*], F.M. Chaldecott, S.K. Twigge, J. Brewer, Mr. Bodwell, Mr. Campbell, Mr. McClary [*McCleery*] and others.

F.W. Hartley was appointed Secretary of the meeting.

Mr. W. Shannon addressed the Meeting, and after discussion a unanimous resolution was passed in favour of forming a new Municipality, and Messrs. Shannon and Hartley were appointed as Delegates to go to Victoria [*at their own expense*], and interview the Government. Mr. Chaldecott was instructed to draw the Petition necessary for the signatures of the landowners.

The temporary headquarters of movement was the office of Messrs. Shannon & McLachlan, Hastings St. W.

I did all the legal work of incorporating the Municipality and drew the first and several other by-laws.

Memo: the date of the meeting is taken from my diary; the draft of the above was submitted to Mr. Hartley who gave additional particulars and replied, "I have checked your enclosure and it looks correct to me." 8 August 1935.

CHALDECOTT ROAD. CHALDECOTT PARK.

Chaldecott Road [*afterwards King Edward Avenue*] was named for me by the South Vancouver Council, and Chaldecott Park [*Bk. 80, D.L. 2027*] by the Point Grey Council.

In 1891 I purchased the N. ½ of D.L. 321 [*80 acres*] from Hugh Magee, and in 1902 in partnership with Mr. J.H. Bushnell P.L.S. we purchased 50 acres from the Government [*Blocks 55, 56, 65, 66 and 80 in District Lot 2027.*]

Question by J.S.M.: Why was the meeting held in the barn?

Mr. Chaldecott: "I don't know now exactly; I think the house was a little way off; anyway, we got a table and some chairs and had the meeting in the barn; decided to make a petition to have the district incorporated as a municipality."

JERICO BEACH. DALGLEISH OF JERICO.

"The way I identify the photo of the Dalgleish house" (formerly Angus C. Fraser house) "on the site of the present Jericho Country Club, with the other two photos" (Bailey Bros.) "is as follows:

"I knew Mr. John M. Dalgleish and Mrs. Dalgleish well, she was a big woman; in the photo of the picnic party, Mr. Dalgleish stands with his hand on the scow, he is wearing the same kind of hat, coat and knee-boots that he always wore—that was his mode of dress—and Mrs. Dalgleish is beside him with a large

white bow under her chin, and two children in front of them; in the photo of the house, you will, with the aid of a magnifying glass, find these four figures grouped in the doorway, wearing the same hats, white bow, etc., and on the right are grouped some of the ladies of the picnic party, whose hats can be identified as some of those standing on the scow in the other photo, showing that all three photos were taken on the same day. Again, looking at the picture of the tug and scow with the magnifying glass, you can identify the house in the distance as being the same house as in the companion photo. There is not doubt that it is the old Dalgleish" (or Fraser) "house.

"The paddle-wheel tug beside the scow is the *Richmond*; owned I am told by a Capt. Robertson, who is looking out of the wheelhouse.

"I knew the Jericho Beach and flats well, as during the winter of 1890-91 I used to go there by boat to shoot duck and snipe on the swamps at the weekends; in fact, that was the way I came to know Mr. and Mrs. Dalgleish, and afterwards, between November 1892 and December 1894, I often saw them during that time when I played gold over the nine-hole course which the Vancouver Golf Club constructed on the flats as sub-tenants of Mr. Dalgleish, who had a lease from the Admiralty."

Statement by F.M. Chaldecott, 15 August 1935.

"The above is correct.

"(Signed) F.M. Chaldecott."

For photographs, see C.V. P.Be. 17, 40, 41.

FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH F.M. CHALDECOTT, 15 AUGUST 1935.

FIRST CUSTOMS HOUSE.

"The Hamilton Building, owned by L.A. Hamilton of the C.P.R., on the southeast corner of Hastings and Granville streets, where the Canadian Bank of Commerce is now, was occupied by Berteaux, the grocery man of the corner, the Customs House, where Capt. Worsnop, afterwards Colonel, was next up Granville Street, and John Reid next down Hastings Street; upstairs was Dr. A.M. Robertson—he was single and still is—in his office and rooms; Dr. Robertson was in charge of the first hospital."

FIRST HOSPITAL.

(See Dr. Robertson, C.P.R. doctor in Vol. 3.)

"The Springer and Braemer" (?) "block was across the street; I think Harvey Haddon who gave the park at Kitsilano Beach, owned the corner where the Royal Bank is now. Ask Calland about it. The pile of white broken boulders might be the foundation of the Delbruck Block." (See photo P. Str. 17, N. Str. 5.)

[OAK TREE.]

IF the oak tree referred to is the oak tree inside Brockton Pt. Athletic Grounds just behind the cricket pavilion, then I think the writer of the article is in error. For the reason that the tree I refer to was planted by Mrs. Hamersley [*the wife of A. St. George Hamersley, who was then president of the Brockton Point Association*] in August 1902 in commemoration of the coronation of King Edward. I was a member of the board of the Brockton A. Assn. at the time, but was not present at the planting of the tree, but I well remember that it was a small seedling in a flower pot at the time as it was August.

Of course there may have been another oak tree planted by the present king, but I have no recollection of the ceremony, but it could well have taken place without my knowledge. I think my memory is correct about the Coronation Oak, and an account of the ceremony probably could be found in the "News-Advertiser," or "Province," in the first issue after the date of coronation in 1902. All this may be quite unnecessary if it is an error of the writer of the article.

Yours sincerely,

F.M. Chaldecott.