

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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PHANTOM, OR GHOST, NEWSPAPERS.

THE FALSE CREEK RECORD.

Excerpts, purporting to be taken from the *False Creek Record*, which appeared in one of the Vancouver newspapers (daily), I think the *Province* between approximately the years 1900-1910, were actually not excerpts at all, but were humorous or caustic articles on topical subjects from the facile pen of a versatile reporter. No such paper as the *False Creek Record* ever existed; the excerpts were purely imaginative.

THE GASTOWN GAZETTE.

No such journal ever existed, but just who was the writer who created it I am not certain, but I think Cecil Cotton, son of the Hon. F.L. Carter-Cotton, owner and publisher of the conservative and sedate *News-Advertiser*. Cecil was a pioneer reporter on his father's paper, and subsequently, when that journal ceased, on the reportorial staff of the *Province*, and I think it was whilst serving on that excellent journal that he invented the *Gastown Gazette* as an imaginary source from which to "extract" items which actually were his own recollections of early days. And, he found lots of amusement in those recollections, as I well know from conversations we have had.

FROM B.C. YEAR BOOK, 1911-1914, R.E. GOSNELL.

Page 308, "Wapiti or American Elk": "At one time wapiti were more or less numerous all over the mainland, even where the city of Vancouver stands today, but probably some severe epidemic exterminated them."

Mr. Gosnell evidently overlooked that, with the entire surface of the land covered with forest down to the water's edge—the branches at high tide almost lapped by the sea—there was no grass; consequently there was no cattle, and lacking cattle, there was no beefsteak, and Cariboo miners, Royal Engineers, and settlers liked beefsteak as much as we do. An elk is much like a cow; pastures in the open swamps, and were easily shot down by Indians armed with old rifles, guns, and their carcasses readily sold to the beefsteak hungry settlers. Their horns lying in the swamps of Vancouver and Burnaby in the seventies, tell the story. Chief Capilano got thirteen in one day at the head of False Creek, and shipped their carcasses to Victoria.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH WALTER E. GRAVELEY, AT HIS OFFICE IN THE 500 BLOCK BURRARD STREET, 13 DECEMBER 1935.

Mr. Graveley bought the first lot of land from the C.P.R. which the C.P.R. sold in Vancouver, but it was bought long before the open sale of land. (See *Early Vancouver*, vols. 2 and 3.)

THE FIRST CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY LAND SALES. W.E. GRAVELEY. FERGUSON BLOCK.

City Archivist (JSM): Mr. Graveley, you told me once about some persons sitting up half or all the night waiting to be the first at the C.P.R. land sale at the Ferguson Block on the southeast corner of Powell and Carrall streets. Tell me again?

C.D. RAND. F.C. INNES. J.M. LEFEVRE. R.G. TATLOW.

Mr. Graveley: "Ferguson had his hand on the handle of the door; Ferguson was first; Dr. LeFevre was second; F.C. Innes was third; then came R.G. Tatlow; C.D. Rand was next, and I was behind C.D. Rand. The first three, Ferguson, Dr. LeFevre, and Innes had sat up all night in Ferguson's office in the same block; the Ferguson Block was the wooden block on the corner of Carrall and Powell streets, where the C.P.R. had their first offices in Vancouver; we were waiting for the C.P.R. office to open; that was why we were there; there was no rush; we just walked in when the office opened that morning; Ferguson was first; he had his hand on the handle of the door. Of course, the lot I bought—the one on the corner of Carrall and Oppenheimer streets, where the Oyster Bay Café is now—was bought by me before the fire." (Note: this is confirmed by Mrs. Dr. LeFevre. J.S.M.)