

## 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

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 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

### Copyright Statement

© 2011 City of Vancouver. Any or all of *Early Vancouver* may be used without restriction as to the nature or purpose of the use, even if that use is for commercial purposes. You may copy, distribute, adapt and transmit the work. It is required that a link or attribution be made to the City of Vancouver.

### Reproductions

High resolution versions of any graphic items in *Early Vancouver* are available. A fee may apply.

### Citing Information

When referencing the 2011 edition of *Early Vancouver*, please cite the page number that appears at the bottom of the page in the PDF version only, not the page number indicated by your PDF reader. Here are samples of how to cite this source:

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.

### Contact Information

City of Vancouver Archives  
1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9  
604.736.8561  
archives@vancouver.ca  
vancouver.ca/archives



**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MISS MURIEL CRAKANTHORP, GRANDDAUGHTER OF MRS. JOHN PEABODY PATTERSON, 1622 CHARLES STREET, 28 JULY 1936.**

**VISIT, LORD AND LADY DUFFERIN, SEPTEMBER 1876.**

Miss Crakanthorp phoned: "Mother says that H.M.S. *Amethyst* was escorted by the *Rocket* and arrived on Burrard Inlet about 11:00 in the morning; that there was no salute of seventeen guns as there were no guns at Hastings Mill; if she was saluted then she did not hear it."

Note: the Hastings Sawmill had two small cannons (see F.W. Alexander, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3), and the Indians at "the Mission" had another one.

"Mother" (Mrs. Crakanthorp) "was living with Grandmother Patterson at Moodyville at the time, but was on a visit to Carrie Miller, Constable Miller's daughter, in Gastown, and thus it was that she was present at the arrival of Lord Dufferin. Mrs. Raymur was not at the arrival; she was in Victoria; she very rarely came to Burrard Inlet, but Mrs. Alexander and Mrs. George Black were on the wharf. Capt. Raymur was there.

"Mother says that she is absolutely sure the vice regal party did *not* go to Moodyville, and she ought to know as she was living there at the time. There was no public reception; there were not more than 200 people all told to receive them, and she thinks luncheon was on board the *Amethyst*. Her recollection is that a public reception was held at New Westminster.

"Lady Dufferin was very interested in the Indians, and asked to be taken right up to the rancherie just east of the Hastings Sawmill. Mother has told you previously about her shaking hands with an old klotch known as the 'Virgin Mary,' much to the astonishment of some, who felt a little jealous perhaps. Mother says Lady Dufferin was a woman not especially beautiful to look at, but of a beautiful nature, a real woman; Mother says she was 'just lovely.'"

**VISIT, LORD AND LADY DUFFERIN TO BURRARD INLET, 1876.**

Excerpt, said to be taken from a book entitled *Journal of the Journey of his Excellency the Governor-General from Government House, Ottawa, to B.C. and Back*, Webster and Larkin Co., London, 1877.

**CAPT. RAYMUR. KANAKAS.**

Monday, Sept. 4 [1876]

We left Tribune Bay at 7 a.m. and made straight for the lightship at the mouth of Fraser's River. We then went to Burrard Inlet where we were to leave the *Amethyst* for our inland trip. On arriving we found that the "Rocket" had arrived with mail on board. After reading our home news, and proceeded to "do" Mr. Raymur's [*sic*] saw-mills, where we found an enormous log, hauled up ready for sawing. We then walked to some Indian huts, which we inspected and found fishy; then some Sandwich Islanders were introduced to us.

In the evening we received two more mails by the Douglas. [*Then reference to something which transpired on the Amethyst.*]

**JERICO.**

Tuesday, Sept. 5,  
Burrard Inlet.

The repose of the sea life is over. Posts, telegrams, addresses, replies, arches, bands, and salutes are alive again. Before we finished our breakfast we were hurried into boats and put on board the "Douglas," and in her we steamed along for an hour, when we were bundled into more boats, and were set ashore in the "bush." We walked to the foot of a great tree 200 feet high and six feet in diameter, with two enormous gashes in its side, and with two men with axes standing on spring boards stuck into its trunk twelve feet from the roots. Having chosen a safe spot to stand in, and having an eye to a place of refuge to fly in case of accident, we stood with a calm pleasure to watch the downfall of this lord of the forest. The two men set to work and ten minutes sufficed to lay him low. He began slowly to bend to one side, and then came crashing down, and with a great thud fell to the ground.

“Hurry up” into the boats, into the “Douglas,” back to the ship, dress, half eat lunch, back into the boats, hold on to a tow rope and be dragged at a furious pace through the floating wooden dangers which carpet the sea; land, get into carriages and drive eight miles over a (good) corduroy road to Westminster. There, put on your ... most dignified air and remember that you are in the Royal City and must behave accordingly.

Wednesday, Sept. 6th.

We awake to a glorious view of mountain scenery from the steamer “Royal City” by which we ascending the rapid current up the Fraser ... Fort Hope ... at 3:30 we arrived at Yale.

Book in Provincial Archives, Victoria.

### **MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MISS MURIEL CRAKANTHROP, 1622 CHARLES STREET, 5 NOVEMBER 1936.**

Following a publication in the *Sun* on 3 November 1936 of a photograph of what was claimed to be the first house on Burrard Inlet, i.e. the “Big House” (Nelson’s, or Springer’s, at Moodyville.)

#### **MOODYVILLE. SENATOR NELSON. BEN SPRINGER.**

Miss Crakanthorp said: “Mother” (née Patterson) “says that they” (the Patterson family) “moved over from Hastings Sawmill to Moodyville Sawmill in 1874, and the only houses on the hill at that time” (Nelson’s house, afterwards the Springers’, i.e. the ‘Big House’ was afterwards on the hill) “were Murray Thain’s and George Hayes’; just two; the ‘Big House’ was not there then.

“But, lower down, along ‘The Spit’ was Chambers’ house and Cotterel’s house, and the DeBeck family had a house; all at the east end of the mill property, and there was George Deitz’s house, built for him and his mother. All these houses were all there in 1872, and Charlie Hughes had a house too, but Nelson’s house had not been built when the Pattersons moved over in 1874.

“Before Governor Nelson built the ‘Big House,’ he had a room at the back of the store or office, Mother is not sure which.” (Both were in the same building.)

“The first house the Springers built and occupied was back of the Chambers’ house; then, after Governor Nelson went, they occupied his house on the hill by the school.”

(See photographs of Moodyville. Also Dakin’s Fire Map, 1889. Also Goad’s Fire Map, 1897.)

### **MEMO OF CONVERSATION (PHONE) ABOUT 15 DECEMBER 1936 WITH MISS MURIEL CRAKANTHROP.**

#### **DEADMAN’S ISLAND. BROCKTON POINT. EARLY CEMETERIES.**

Miss Crakanthorp: “Mother says that Colman was buried on Deadman’s Island in 1874. Then ‘Rusty’ Pleece, he worked at Hastings Sawmill, he is buried there, and so is Bert McCartney—Albert, I suppose—McCartney, the first druggist’s little boy.”

City Archivist: Did she say anything about Peter Plant’s little girl buried about 1878-9 at Brockton Point, or the sailor who was drowned off the Hastings Sawmill wharf who was buried at Deadman’s Island, or the Chinamen?

#### **MOODYVILLE MURDER.**

Miss Crakanthorp: “No, but what she did tell me was about the murder at Moodyville. The Indians murdered a sailor of a ship. Mother says she can hear the screams yet; she says she will never forget those screams. The Indian murdered him up in the woods back of the mill. Mother says she doesn’t know what he had done, but no one went to his rescue; the Springers didn’t. They found his body up in the woods; a squaw told who had done it.”