

**Early Vancouver**

**Volume Five**

**By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.**

**2011 Edition (Originally Published 1945)**

*Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1936-1945.*

*Supplemental to volumes one, two, three and four collected in 1931, 1932 and 1934.*

**About the 2011 Edition**

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**Contact Information**

City of Vancouver Archives  
1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9  
604.736.8561  
[archives@vancouver.ca](mailto:archives@vancouver.ca)  
[vancouver.ca/archives](http://vancouver.ca/archives)



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of the City Hall; there was no other place to hold them, so we held them upstairs, over the Police Station. The Rev. Father Fay was the priest; he held mass there; the congregation would be about thirty men, women and children. That only lasted a little while, until they built the first little Holy Rosary Church on Richards Street. Father Newman succeeded Father Fay. I think the Presbyterians held their services in the Council Chamber upstairs of the City Hall, just as we did."

#### **GENEALOGY.**

"I had fourteen children; all lived except one. Out of the thirteen, I have lost three in the last few years, so that there are five boys and five girls now living; every one was born in my own home; our doctors were Dr. Langis or Dr. Robertson. There are thirty grandchildren, and twenty great-grandchildren, but, as yet, we have not go as far as any great-great-grandchildren."

"I think that's enough for now."

#### **CHARLES WOODWARD. WOODWARD DEPARTMENT STORES.**

Previously to my commencing to type, Mrs. Fitzpatrick told me that she recalled when Mr. Charles Woodward, founder of the Woodward Department Stores, and whose original store was on the northeast corner of Harris (now Georgia Street East) and Westminster (now Main Street) Avenue, had but one girl helping in his store. She said she (Mrs. Fitzpatrick) retained his friendship right up to the time of his death, and that about three weeks before he passed away, he complained to her of having a severe cold.

As told to me.

J.S. Matthews  
7 May 1946.

#### **CONVERSATION WITH MR. CHARLES ALEXANDER BATTISON, OF 6100 BATTISON STREET, SON OF WILLIAM JOHN AND ANN BATTISON, IN WHOSE HONOUR BATTISON STREET, VANCOUVER, IS NAMED, 17 MAY 1946.**

Mr. Battison is one of the few babies born in Vancouver during 1886, having been born on Oppenheimer Street, now Cordova Street, between Westminster Avenue and Gore Avenue, north side, 2 October 1886. His delayed registration of birth was effected in May 1946.

#### **BATTISON STREET. W.J. BATTISON. C.W. BATTISON.**

Mr. Battison: "Father came to Vancouver with Mother and one child, Frank, via Port Moody, and on the first train to arrive. Father told me that when they arrived, there was a big delegation from Victoria and Vancouver to meet them, and the boat was so heavy-loaded with people he thought it was going to upset. Then Father and Mother went to Victoria and lived in a tent down on the waterfront, and then came back to Vancouver. Then they met two fellows from New Brunswick; they were tired of Vancouver so they bought their place on the north side of Oppenheimer, now Cordova Street West, between Gore and Westminster Avenue, where Charles was born.

"After that there were other children born, but I doubt if any of them were born there as they moved over to let Father be near his work at the Leamy and Kyle Mill on False Creek just west of the Cambie Street bridge. We lived right back of the mill in a little house right beside a tiny bridge which crossed the creek west of the mill about one hundred yards. Harry was born in that house. Then we moved over to Fourth and Columbia Avenue. I can recall the move, and there one other son, Fred, was born, and one sister, Ivy, now Mrs. Murray, was born; then we moved out to Westminster Road, now Kingsway, and Father preempted seven acres under the 'Small Holdings' arrangement, and he stayed there. The original seven acres was subdivided and sold; the family own none of the original grant now. There were two children born out on the Seven Acres, Wilfred and Florence, also a Mrs. R.M. Murray.

"Father was a planerman in the Leamy and Kyle Mill, and afterwards, when we went to live on" (Battison Street) "out Westminster Road. He walked in night and morning to the Leamy and Kyle Mill—seven miles—and worked ten hours. Mayor Baxter and Reeve Churchill of Point Grey also worked in the mill."

### **EAST SOUTH VANCOUVER SCHOOL. CARLETON SCHOOL. "PIG AND WHISTLE."**

"When the East South Vancouver School was started, I attended it; it was in Peter Dubois' house; there were three in our family and the Alcock family had four or five, and a few others; there were only about eleven altogether; Martin J. Ravey was the teacher. We were there for a few months and then we moved down to John Collins' property. The first school was in Mr. Dubois' kind of a store. We had trouble getting water; we got our water from an old well in the 'Pig and Whistle Hotel,' on the north side of the road and is still standing, but our old home has gone. The 'Pig and Whistle' is in the 3300 block Kingsway; it is right on the corner of Stanford and Kingsway, on the northwest corner. They moved it around; it is now a dwelling, just a house, nothing much to look at; you would never know it had been a road house; that was all it was; they had a bar. There used to be quite a few wild cats and a few bears around. Maxwell Smith once got three bears on one day. A few cougars were around."

### **MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH JOHN HENRY SCALES, PIONEER, 1867 OR 1868, OF BURRARD INLET, AND TODAY, 28 MAY 1946, THE EARLIEST LIVING RESIDENT IN A CITY OF FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND OR MORE, I.E., VANCOUVER.**

He came to British Columbia with the Royal Engineers on the *Thames City* in 1859.

#### **THE FIRST FREEDOM OF PARKS.**

Mr. Scales in response to Major Matthews's request that he talk.

Mr. Scales: "About the freedom of the parks that the Park Board conferred upon Mrs. Scales and myself. How am I going to show anyone that I am a freeman of the parks. I might want to go for a swim in the Crystal Pool, and the fellow in charge would not let us in."

#### **ROYAL ENGINEERS, 1859. SURVIVORS IN 1946.**

Major Matthews: Mr. Scales, who is living now who came on the *Thames City*?

Mr. Scales: "Johnnie McMurphy and myself; that's all I know of; all the rest have passed away."

#### **BURRARD INLET, 1868.**

Mr. Scales: (addressing Miss Klemm, my assistant) "The first time I saw this place was when we came around Brockton Point in a row boat; there was a great big barn of a place up on the hill where Abbott Street is now; looked like a lighthouse. And then I remember when I saw the first railway locomotive; it loomed up above me like a great big thing; it seemed huge; but of course by our ideas of today it was just a little thing. Our ideas of size were different then."

(Addressing Major Matthews) "These strikes are playing the mischief with everything; I don't know what we'll have pretty soon; won't have anything to eat. I think these strikes are a regular nuisance; I think going too far; lots of people here are getting big wages but they are not satisfied. Different ones are getting one hundred and fifty and two hundred a month and yet they are not satisfied. When we got two and a half dollars a day we thought it was big wages, and lived fine."

"First job I had here on Burrard Inlet was fifty cents a day for eleven and a half hours work; wheeling sawdust at the Moodyville Mill. And when I got the money, I thought I was somebody."

#### **LYNN OF LYNN CREEK.**

"Lynn of Lynn Creek came out with us on the same boat. He was as good hard working fellow; good big healthy people. After we left here Father got work in Moodyville, that is, after we left the beach at the foot of Cambie Street now, and then he went over to Moodyville."

#### **COAL BOXING. ABBOTT STREET. STAMP'S MILL.**

Major Matthews: Mr. Scales, tell me the story of the old coal bore cabin again. Where was it? Where you lived first?

Mr. Scales: "You see when we came around Brockton Point in the row boat, Father and I, we saw the three shacks on the distant beach, and we made for the big one; it was the nearest; the middle one; it