

Early Vancouver

Volume Five

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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

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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"All the good timber, magnificent trees, was in the West End, out Shaughnessy way, and there was a good patch down about George Black's" (Hastings.) "It was fine timber; nothing better in the world. But no man on earth can tell how long it was since some big fire ran through all that area east of the head of False Creek; might be two or three hundred years ago."

HOLLOW TREES.

"Do you know how those big hollow trees start? There's a famous one out in Stanley Park, and another in Central Park. Why, I have seen trees three or four feet thick growing straddled over a dead log. The wind blew over the trees killed by fire; then the log all rotted out, and got covered with moss and rotten stuff, and a seed fell on top of the log and took root, and of course the tiny roots couldn't go down in the wood, so they straddle each side of the old long, like a prong; that was how the big hollow tree in Stanley Park got started, and that might have been before the birth of our Saviour."

(See photos—C.V. P. Tr. 7, N. Tr. 9, and C.V. P. St. 11, G. N. 104.)

"CUT" NAILS.

"Cut" nails were used in all the early buildings of Vancouver. Just when wire drawn nails superseded them is hard to say, but when the St. Andrew's Church, corner Richards and Georgia streets, was pulled down in July 1937, both kinds were found, although the preponderant number were "cut."

"Cut" nails had the disadvantage of being a little brittle; they broke instead of bending as a wire drawn nail bends. Samples of some are in the City Archives. It is stated that after boiling them in tallow, pioneers used them, with quite good success, for boat building.

At first "cut" nails were cast iron, but afterwards they were made malleable.

They were sold as "penny" nails.

1"	two, or tuppenny
1¼	three penny
1½	four penny
1¾	five penny
2"	six penny
2¼	seven penny
2½	eight penny
2¾	nine penny
3"	ten penny
3¼	twelve penny
3½	sixteen penny
4"	twenty penny
4½	thirty penny
5"	forty penny
5½	fifty penny
6"	sixty penny

THE NAMING OF VANCOUVER.

Note: W.E. McCartney, son of A.E. McCartney, of McCartney Creek, North Vancouver, pioneer of Granville, Burrard Inlet, asserts that claims to have been the "first (or second or third) child born in Vancouver" do not take into consideration that Vancouver was "*Vancouver*" weeks and months before the mere approval of a name, already in common use, changed "Granville" into the incorporated "City of Vancouver."

JSM

The earliest appearance we have seen of the name "Vancouver" is in the magazine *West Shore*, published in Portland, Oregon, September 1884, Vol. 10, No. 9, page 304, which says: "investigate the merits of Vancouver on Coal Harbor," etc.