

## **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**

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.

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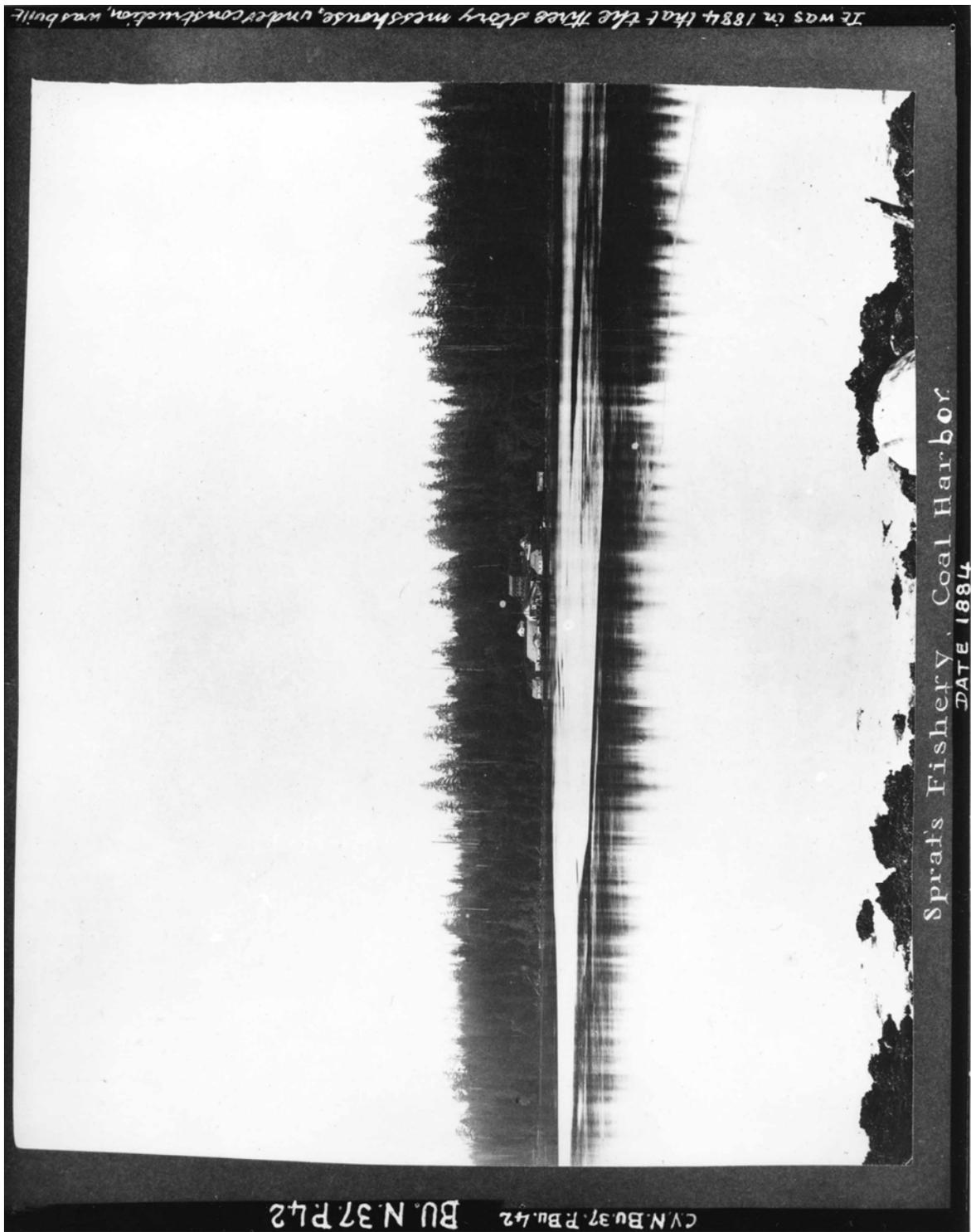
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[photo annotations:]

Spratt's Fishery, Coal Harbor.

Date 1884

It was in 1884 that the three story messhouse, under construction, was built.

**[LETTER FROM REV. P.C. PARKER.]**

Gibson's Landing  
Dec. 18, 1935.

Dear Major Matthews:

Thank you for the mss you have forwarded. You wrote them on the 73d anniversary of John Morton's advent to Vancouver site.

I was up to see Mrs. Morton on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and found her well and hearty and overjoyed to see me. We had a fine talk and she showed me the latest record of Salendine Nook Church's History, but it does not give Dr. Stocks information. The last visit I made to England was in 1897, at the time of the Diamond Jubilee of Victoria's reign, and on the last Sunday of July of that year, I preached in the church to a crowded congregation.

In my talk with you I forgot to mention that Mr. Morton told me he herded cattle for a rancher on the Banks of Thompson River, and when he was through that fall he came down to New Westminster, where he saw the lump of coal. I also forgot to say that when he had seen Judge Brew about the land he desired to locate on and found it was available, "he got in touch with Hailstone and Brighthouse, and promised he would share with them if they would join him," but when he said he stayed under the trees until a few days before Christmas when the shack was completed, he never told me they had joined him, but of course they must have as their names are on the application. I have given you what he gave me as nearly as possible in his own language. My conversations with him covered a period of years.

Further, there was a Methodist minister named Elliott S. Rowe, whom I knew when I was in Toronto, and when I came to Vancouver I found Rowe out of the ministry. He was engaged in some press work. I told Rowe about Mr. Morton and induced him to send a young man to interview Mr. Morton about his early experiences. He did so, and published in his paper the interview which was very complete. There surely must be some of Rowe's family in the city, and there must be a copy of that paper. I had one but don't know what has become of it. I imagine I gave my copy to Mr. Morton. The recovery of that publication would be a boon to you in your research.

I must have another interview with you as I know I can help you in other ways. I would like to read over Mrs. Morton's account and also Joseph's, because it seems to me he has taken more notice of his father's history that I have given him credit for.

There are surely records of the lawsuit over the property at the foot of Bidwell street where the saw mill was eventually erected.

There was also another lawsuit with Mr. Major (which I think Mr. Morton won) about that land which is now the Park at English Bay, the records of which should be available.

Mr. Morton's account of the donation of one third of his estate to the C.P.R. was interesting. He was not willing to give his; he told me the C.P.R. would be "bound" to come down to the deep water from Port Moody, and why should he give his every third lot, and he resisted for a long time Oppenheimer's request, and Lennie's [*Rev.*] when they came to withdraw him at Mission.

Did you ever hear his account of suit with the C.P.R. for the killing of his cow by the train?

I have to attend to some duties now as I am expecting some visitors and I have been away in the City since Monday, so I will close.

Yours very sincerely,

P.C. [*sic*] Parker.

P.S. I cannot lay my hand on the History of the Nook Church. I know I put it away carefully with that of another church history, and I don't just remember where. "Of books there is no end."