

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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Water from Capilano first flowed through the pipes at the end of March, 1889. Observe water pipes ready for laying underground lying beside plank roadway. Therefore date of this photo is probably winter of 1888-9, and earlier than March, 1889, S.M.

STR. N. 30. P. 6

STR. N. 30. P. 6

RICHARDS ST ↑

PENDER ST



HASTINGS ST. W. LOOKING EAST FROM SEYMOUR ST.
VANCOUVER. B.C.

P.O.

C.P.R.
Hotel
Teay
Carroll on Hastings

Bank of Montreal on corner
Bank of British Columbia inside same bldg

↑ Bank of B.C. and Bank of Montreal shared
Derk Gable this building
ends Ellesmere Rooms
Pender and Homer

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. (DR.) LEFEVRE, AT “LANGARAVINE,” CHANCELLOR AND MARINE DRIVE, SATURDAY EVENING, 27 MARCH 1937.

Despite Mrs. Lefevre's great age, she is quite active, moves freely, has full possession of her faculties, is delightfully gracious and courtly; as charming and as amiable and also as beautiful an old lady as there is in all British Columbia. She complains of not having been “very well” this winter. Her guests for the Easter holidays were Miss O'Reilly, Mrs. O'Reilly, (Judge O'Reilly's family), Mrs. Morrison, and a young lady; all from Victoria.

COAL HARBOUR. CANADA LIFE INSURANCE CO.

Mrs. Lefevre said: “When we first came—in 1886—to Vancouver, Dr. Lefevre wrote to the Canada Life asking to be appointed examiner for them in Vancouver. He received a reply saying that they would be very glad to appoint him if they knew where Coal Harbour was—or Cold Harbour, as they called it—that they had consulted every map of North America they could find, but could not locate where ‘Cold Harbour’ was.”

Copy of lower portion of letter; upper portion is missing. (In Lefevre file.)

We have not opened an agency at Cold Harbour, B.C. (?). Will you kindly tell me the exact location of this place, as I am unable to find it in any map or Gazetteer at my disposal. We shall be happy to keep the name of the gentleman you refer to in view in case of an agency being opened there.

Yours truly,

Alex Ramsay.
Superintendent

9/2/89

(Note: Alexander Gillespie Ramsay was president and managing director of The Canada Life Assurance Company, at Toronto, in 1886.)

“DISCOVERY BEACH.” “POOKCHA BEACH.” “WASHOUT BEACH.”

I reminded Mrs. Lefevre that she had been requested by the Town Planning Commission to select a name for the new beach which had formed below her home as the result of the storm of January-February 1935, washing away a great section of the cliff, including a large portion of her beautiful garden. And, that I had been delegated to obtain the name selected.

After considerable discussion by the fireside, in which the other ladies joined, and during which Mrs. O'Reilly created much merriment by suggesting that it be named “Washout,” Mrs. Lefevre finally selected “Discovery Beach” for the reasons that (1) it was near the point—within a reasonable distance—where Capt. Vancouver anchored that ship, (2) that it was possible that his men actually landed there for water, (3) that it must have been from near that point of vantage that Capt. Vancouver first saw the site of the city named in his honour, and, as a minor reason, the fact that we, the citizens of Vancouver, have but recently discovered the beach.

“GIRLS BEAUTIFUL AT ALL AGES.”

As she invited me to be seated beside her, before the glowing open fire of burning bark, I remarked that “How very well you look,” and she answered, “Do you think so! I have not been well all this winter, and shall be glad when the spring comes.” I answered that I was not so very great an admirer of the smooth beauty of youth; that I believed I had a greater esteem and veneration for the beauty of old age with its wrinkles, worn into their place by the trials and tribulations of many sorrows. Then I related the story of an old gentleman who, forty years ago, as we sat on a verandah in the cool brilliance of a summer's eve, watching a dainty little lady of seven or eight years, a little doll gowned in snow white lace frock, trip down the street before us, had replied to my observation, “Don't little girls look beautiful,” that “They are beautiful at all ages.”

Mrs. Lefevre smiled graciously and observed, “I like that man.”