

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

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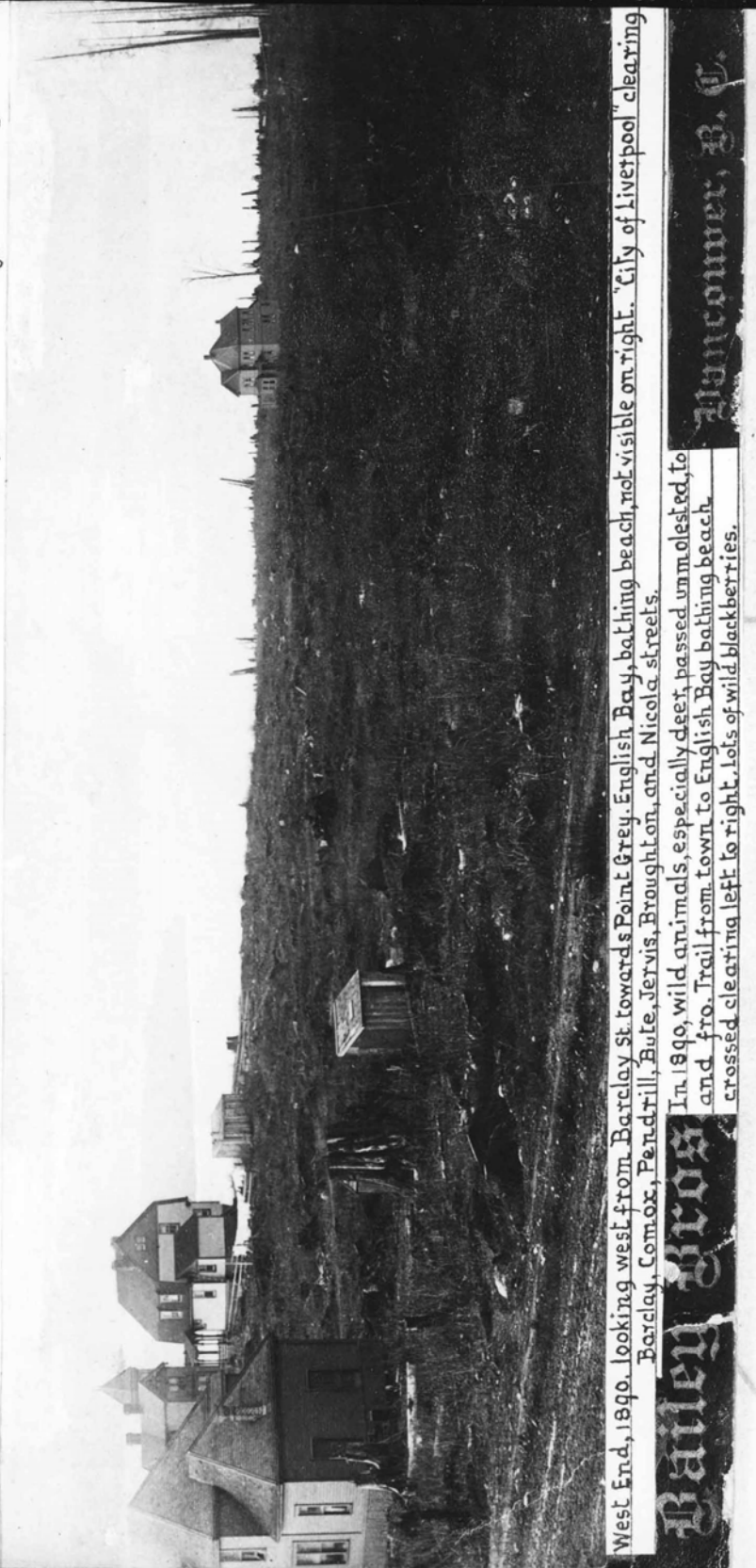
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left to right: - Bute St. graded in centre through clearing. Portion of house in lower corner is on north west corner Nelson & Bute St's. Lot 25, Blk 34 D.L. 185, and No. 1225 Nelson St. in 1944 site of Beverley Apts annex. Mr & Mrs Page Ponsford & four children lived there. All houses lighted by oil lamps. House with gable end and tower is on south east corner Comox & Jarvis. Lot 7, Blk 36, formerly 1228, now 1288 Comox St. Owner, W.H. Armstrong, of Armstrong & Morrison, standing in 1944, originally wood, rebuilt about 1897 of stone and tower removed. Erected prior to 1899.

White house with clothes on line is next to north east corner Comox & Jarvis. Lot 24, Blk 35, formerly 1225, now 1275 Comox St. standing in 1944. Built by L.A. Hamilton, (Hamilton St), occupied circa 1889, by nephew, A.O. Leask, owned & occupied 40 years by Geo D Mackay family, who still, 1944, resides there. Widow's dau. House in lower corner is next to north west corner Bute & Nelson. Lot 25, Blk 34, formerly 1215, now 1225 Nelson, occupied about 1890 by Mr & Mrs Page Ponsford & family. huge stumps all about. no sewerage, water well, lots of wild blackberries in clearing; in 1944 Beverley Apts's annex. Observed 2 backhouses. This photo was taken from residence on north east corner of Bute & Barclay; in 1890-1892 home of W.D. Creighton; in 1893 Wm Skene, 1147 but now 1183, & known as Coniston Lodge Apts's. Lot 11, Blk 20. Oil lamps.

House all alone in clearing is on south west corner Comox & Broughton, lot 1, Blk 38, formerly 1402 Comox, later 1079 Broughton, owned by Geo. Stevens and family of seven. No sewerage; water from well, no basement; wood shed; wood cut in clearing, nearest school - West School (Aberdeen), Burrard St. nearest street car Granville St. Heated with base burner in down stairs hall & two small stoves upstairs. Now, 1944, Gainsborough Apts, St John's Church is opposite. Spikes of dead trees, killed by clearing fires, on Comox & Nicola. Description by son, F.H. Stevens, 6090 Willingdon Place, Mr's G.D. Mackay, and Mr's Page Ponsford, other near by residents: - W.J. Trythall, J.W. Campion, T.C. Alcock. Wall bridge; Gibb; Cornish, Humphrey. See photos C.V.P. Dist. 39, N. Dist. 28; C.V.P. Dist. 59, N. Dist. 45. C.V.P. 228, N. 20, 89, and close up of Stevens' residence. Photo presented, Jan. 1944, by Mr's Page Ponsford, widow, 1627 Davie St. & Matthews City Archives.



West End, 1890. looking west from Barclay St towards Point Grey. English Bay, bathing beach, not visible on right. "City of Liverpool" clearing Barclay, Comox, Pendrill, Bute, Jarvis, Broughton, and Nicola streets.

In 1890, wild animals, especially deer, passed unmolested, to and fro. Trail from town to English Bay bathing beach, crossed clearing left to right. Lots of wild blackberries.

Blairmore, B. C.

Item # EarlyVan_v5_036

[photo annotation:]

Left to right: Bute St., graded in centre through clearing. Portion of house in lower corner is on northwest corner Nelson & Bute Sts. Lot 25, Blk 34 D.L. 185, and No. 1225 Nelson St., in 1944 site of Beverley Apts annex. Mr. and Mrs. Page Ponsford & four children lived there. All houses lighted by oil lamps.

House with gable end and tower is on southeast corner Comox and Jervis, Lot 7, Blk 36, formerly 1228, now 1288 Comox St. Owner, W.H. Armstrong, of Armstrong & Morrison, standing in 1944, originally wood; re-built about 1897 of stone, and tower removed. Erected prior to 1889.

White house with clothes on line is next to northeast corner, Comox & Jervis, Lot 21, Blk 35, formerly 1225, now 1275 Comox St., standing in 1944. Built by L.A. Hamilton (Hamilton St.), occupied circa 1889, by nephew, A.O. Leask, owned and occupied 40 years by Geo. D. Mackay family, who still, 1944, reside there. Widow & daughter.

House in lower corner is next to northwest corner, Bute & Nelson, Lot 25, Blk 34, formerly 1215, now 1225 Nelson, occupied about 1890 by Mr. & Mrs. Page Ponsford & family, huge stumps all about, no sewerage, water well, lots of wild blackberries in clearing; in 1944 Beverley Apts annex. Observe 2 backhouses.

This photo was taken from residence on northeast corner of Bute & Barclay; in 1890-1892 home of W.D. Creighton; in 1893 Wm. Skene, 1147 but now 1183, & known as Coniston Lodge Apts, Lot 11, Blk 20. Oil lamps.

House all alone in clearing is on southwest corner Comox & Broughton, Lot 1, Blk 48, formerly 1402 Comox, later 1079 Broughton, owned by Geo. Stevens and family of seven. No sewerage; water from well; no basement; woodshed; wood cut in clearing, nearest school, "West School" (Aberdeen), Burrard St., nearest street car Granville St. Heated with base burner in downstairs hall, & two small stoves upstairs. Now, 1944, Gainsborough Apts. St. John's Church is opposite.

Spikes of dead trees, killed by clearing fires, on Comox & Nicola. Description by son, F.H. Stevens, 6010 Willingdon Place. Mrs. G.D. Mackay, and Mrs. Page Ponsford. Other nearby residents: W.J. Trythal; J.W. Campion; T.C. Alcock, Wallbridge; Gibb; Cornish, Humphrey. See photos C.V. P. Dist. 39, No. Dist. 28; C.V. P. Dist. 59, No. Dist. 45, C.V. P. Bo. 228, No. Bo. 89, and close up of Stevens' residence. Photo presented, Jan. 1944, by Mrs. Page Ponsford, widow, 1627 Davie St.

J.S. Matthews, City Archives.

West End, 1890, looking west from Barclay St. towards Point Grey. English Bay, bathing beach, not visible on right. "City of Liverpool" clearing Barclay, Comox, Pendrill, Bute, Jervis, Broughton, and Nicola streets.

In 1890, wild animals, especially deer, passed unmolested, to and fro. Trail from town to English Bay bathing beach crossed clearing left to right. Lots of wild blackberries.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH EX-SERGEANT CLAUDE H. WILLIAMS, FORMERLY OF B.C.B.G.A. AND 6TH REGIMENT, D.C.O.R., VANCOUVER, 1 MAY 1935.

SHAM FIGHT IN WEST END.

“It was, I think, after Queen Victoria died; it was July 1st, Dominion Day, and I think 1901, that we had the sham fight in the West End. Col. Worsnop was in command; Tite was captain, I think, at the time.

“The ‘enemy,’ which was the Navy and the 5th Regiment, C.G.A., Victoria, went out ahead of us; they were supposed to have landed at English Bay; we followed. We went down Georgia Street, and turned south through the clearing. I recall we had one gun with us, which we fired at the enemy as they approached through the rough clearing of shrubs, stumps and holes. It was not much of a show to look at, as in those days there were only four companies of about forty or less men in each company—the only troops of any sort, volunteer or otherwise, in Vancouver.

“They say that afterwards we went to the Hotel Vancouver, and beer and biscuits were brought out to us, but I forget.”

(Captain N.M. McNeill, late of 102nd Battalion, C.E.F., and also Prince Rupert, confirms this. J.S.M.)

[LETTER FROM J. EADES WARD.]

July 29th, 1937.

MAJOR J.S. Matthews,
Archivist
City Hall,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Major Matthews:

In reply to your letter of July 27th, 1937, the following information regarding “Woodlands” on the North Arm of the Burrard Inlet is correct.

Alexander Myddleton Wood served in the South African War with the Artillery and Infantry. He enlisted in Victoria, about the year 1899, and after returning, as his father, mother, and sisters were living in Vancouver, he returned to this city.

The Canadian Government issued script to all soldiers, who served in the South African War, for the purpose of securing a quarter-section of land or any land up to 160 acres.

Alexander Myddleton Wood secured district lot 2048 in the municipality of North Vancouver. He and his father rowed up in a boat to see the land and thought it would make a good camping place, so they camped by the stream, and then decided they would build a small cabin. His mother and sisters also became interested in the summer camp, so they built another cabin for the ladies and all of them were so pleased with the place they decided to reside there permanently, and kept on adding to the house until there were about six rooms and a large verandah.

Mr. Hugh Myddleton Wood, who is my father-in-law and is still living, age 89, and about 6'4" in height; now residing at 891 E. 11th Avenue, cleared up about 1½ acres of land, which at one time was anything from six to twelve feet deep in logs. He made this work his hobby. He planted an orchard and garden; the fruit trees are still there. Then built a greenhouse. His grapevines are still producing, and also installed a Pelton Wheel and put electric light into the house and grounds.

Mr. Wood is a Clergyman, and he and his wife and daughters used to row into town to church each Sunday, and sometimes on week days to go shopping, and row back again.

Alexander Myddleton Wood, the ex-soldier, developed tuberculosis and died a few years after his return from South Africa, in Vancouver General Hospital. Mr. Wood then had district lot