

Early Vancouver

Volume Five

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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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There are lots of hair seals on the rocks on the waterfront at night, but they are very difficult to catch. The fur is of practically no value, but were used by Mr. Wood and his family for mats in the bedrooms, and the fat boiled down was found very useful for oiling boots in the wintertime.

In the year 1911, my wife and I made a trip to Switzerland, and after seeing the beautiful roads around Lake Lucerne, and realizing the necessity of providing good scenic roads on the waterfront of the harbour of Vancouver, and being a member of the Municipal Council of North Vancouver District, I introduced a resolution to provide a scenic road from North Vancouver to Indian River on the waterfront of Burrard Inlet. This road has been surveyed with the intention of recording the grades, and establishing the road in order that all subdivisions on the waterfront would be made to conform with this road, which I named the "Indian River Drive." It has now been opened as far as "Woodlands" so that it is possible to drive from North Vancouver to "Woodlands" in a motor car.

Mr. H. Myddleton Wood was born in Brentford, London, England, and immigrated to Canada in the year 1868, at the age of 17 years. Before coming to the coast he was in the logging business on the Georgian Bay, and afterwards owned and operated three lumber mills at Fesserton, Ontario for several years, and could walk a log with any river driver. He was related to Sir Hugh Myddleton, who introduced the water system into London, England. A Statue was erected to his (Sir Hugh Myddleton) memory on Islington Green and is still there.

Yours truly,

J. Eades Ward

Major, C.E., ret.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. AND MRS. HIRAM W. WOODWARD, 151 WEST FOURTH AVENUE, NORTH VANCOUVER, WHO KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES THIS AFTERNOON, 27 SEPTEMBER 1939.

Mr. Woodward is the nephew of Edward Woodward, first lightkeeper at Point Atkinson.

HIRAM W. WOODWARD. PIONEER, 1873.

Mr. Woodward said: "My father and mother came to British Columbia with four daughters and one son, Hiram, that's me, and we all landed at Victoria, 24th May 1873, from St. Williams, County Norfolk, Ontario. Father was Wesleyan; Mother Church of England, and our farm at St. Williams was next to Mayor Fred Cope's, of Vancouver, old home.

"We came by Union Pacific Railroad; it was unballasted at the time, and the trip to San Francisco from Ontario took three weeks. There were two boats a month only from San Francisco to Victoria, and we 'just missed the boat,' and had to stay two weeks in a hotel in San Francisco. Then we took the *Prince Alfred* up to Victoria—she was afterwards lost at sea.

"Father had lung trouble for about a year; pneumonia; and the doctors sent him out to British Columbia. He had no idea what he was going to do, but, by trade, he was a carriage builder. On arrival at Victoria we stopped at the Pacific Telegraph Hotel.

"I don't know, exactly, how long we stopped in Victoria, but we took the ferry boat, the old *Otter* to New Westminster, and got off at New Westminster; there was a man named Robert Wood met us, and took us down the North Arm of the Fraser River to his place."

ROBERT WOOD. CHRISTOPHER WOOD.

"When my father hunted and fished on Lake Erie, he used to take Robert Wood, a young fellow, out with him, and Wood used to say, 'When I get to be a man, I am going to British Columbia, and take up a farm for each one of us.' Of course, when Father came out to British Columbia, Mr. Wood, naturally, met us; he already had his farm down the North Arm. Robert Wood was a single man, and had a shack to live in, but

Christopher Wood had a farm, and took us there. Robert's sister Mary is the mother of Margaret Elizabeth (Greta) McCleery.

"We left New Westminster in an Indian canoe; seven of us; Mother, Father, and the five children—there may have been an Indian paddler, or some others, I don't recall—anyway, we went down the North Arm. We landed on the river bank; Christopher Wood's home was not far from the river; no wharf or landing place."

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

"We stayed with Mr. Christopher Wood about three weeks; he was a farmer; had a few cattle, chickens, and around his roomy farm house—built of lumber, not cedar shakes—there was a general farm. Before the three weeks were over, the Fraser River had risen, so that when we left Mr. Wood's to go to church in an Indian canoe, we tied the canoe to the church steps while we were in church. And, too, I think, all the women were on one side of the church, and all the men on the other." (Read Calvert Simson, first wedding, Vancouver.) "And we all stood up to pray. I don't know where the church was exactly, excepting that it was on the river front."

EARLY CEMETERIES.

"While we were there, Christopher Wood had an infant die; they buried it in the garden, and Robert Wood read the burial service. Christopher Wood fell heir to an estate in England, and went back. We were living in Nanaimo at the time, and they all came over to visit us before they went."

EDWARD WOODWARD. FIRST LIGHTKEEPER. POINT ATKINSON.

"Then, from Wood's we went back up to New Westminster, and went to live in a house which belonged to Ashwell of Chilliwack. It had coloured glass lights over the door, and coloured glass lights beside the door; that was considered quite grand; it was up the hill, diagonally from the school. We were hardly settled there before Ed" (Edward) "Woodward and his wife Ann, née Salmon—she was a daughter of our family doctor—came out, together with Ed's brother Demetrius—we called him 'Meet.' 'Meet' went back, 'Ed' stayed with us.

"'Ed' did not stay long because the lighthouse at Point Atkinson was just finished, and they did not have any unemployed in those days; you did not need 'pull' to get a job. You see, Ed had never done a day's work in his life, and did not know how to do anything. He was not more than twenty-five, if he was that old. I think he was married when he was twenty-one, and they had a small baby boy, a month old, when they arrived; his name was Vernon. He, Vernon, is now on the old farm in Ontario; then they had a child born at the lighthouse, and they named him James Atkinson Woodward.

"You see, the way I know about those dates is because we stayed in New Westminster in 1873 only; we went to Chilliwack in 1874, and all this happened while we were in New Westminster." (Mr. Woodward's dates are not confirmed. Point Atkinson light was established 1875.)

"I was never at Point Atkinson, but my sister, Mrs. Gough—her husband was City Clerk at Nanaimo for fifty years—she went and visited the Woodwards at Point Atkinson; before they left to go back to Ontario, of course. She said Ed had a fine garden and kept a cow. Ed had seven children; four boys and three girls altogether. The old aunt has not got it clear in this letter here; she says Vernon was born at the lighthouse, but he was not; he was a month old when he got there. James was born at the lighthouse.

"Ed had the whole north shore" (of West Vancouver) "to hunt over; he used to shoot a lot of deer, and he used to smoke venison, and send it to us in Nanaimo. Ed had a good garden, with peas and corn, at Point Atkinson.

"Well, the old folks, they objected to the marriage, to Ed marrying the girl; they said he was not able to keep her; that's why he came out here. But when they found out he was able to keep her—he was the old woman's favourite—they forgave him, and in 1877 he went back and took the farm over again. His father—the old fellow—he had rheumatism, and could not work, so he was glad enough to have Ed run the farm."

WELLWOOD. LIGHTKEEPER. POINT ATKINSON.

“Well, my sister visited Point Atkinson before they left there to return to Ontario. She told me Mr. Wellwood would only give her five dollars for the cow, and of course he could not sell it to anyone else, anyway. And she” (Mrs. Wellwood, presumably) “would only give her” (Mrs. Woodward) “two bits for down pillows, so she laid them on the rocks, and let the feathers blow away.”

GENEALOGY.

“Mrs. Woodward and I were married in Toronto; a home wedding, but Presbyterian; third June 1896. She was Miss Mary A. Burnett, daughter of Alexander and Elizabeth Burnett, of Toronto.

“Our children are:

1. Kenneth Burnett, born June 1897, at Kamloops; married, has two sons, and is school inspector at Rossland, formerly at Prince George.
2. Harriet Irene, deceased, single, died in 1923, buried at Nanaimo.
3. Eugene Douglas Burnett, born January 1st 1910, single, University of B.C.; working in the General Post Office, Vancouver.

“Clayton McCall” (C.M. McCall, 2124 Williams Street, Vancouver), “Clayton’s mother’s aunt, married Hallam Woodward, my father’s brother, who died in May 1938 at the age of 98 and six months.”

SAM GREER.

Major Matthews: Who was Eliza Jane Hall. Sam Greer’s preemption at Chilliwack was crown granted to her; why was it crown granted to her; who was she?

Mr. Woodward: “We *never did* find out; she may have been married to him; I don’t know about that; but she got twenty-four hours to leave the country; she killed her baby. Sam did nothing much to his preemption; that’s why there is no certificate of improvement. Rube Nowell—they spell it Newell, but pronounce it Nowell—he was sending to Germany for his sweetheart, and Sam said to him, ‘Get me one, too, while you’re about it,’ so his second wife Louisa came out; that’s how she came here.” (Note: Mrs. Louisa Greer always spoke with a pronounced foreign accent.)

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. JOHN WRIGHT, 4320 CAMBRIDGE STREET, (GLENBURN 262), WHO KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, 15 OCTOBER 1938.

Mr. Wright said: “I arrived in Vancouver from Stewiacke, Nova Scotia, on the 20th December 1887; went over to Vancouver’s Island, Victoria, Chemainus, for a couple of months, and returned to Vancouver on the 29th February 1888.”

ROYAL CITY PLANING MILLS. BREWERY CREEK. WATER WELLS. VICTORY SQUARE.

“I went to Bermuda in 1871, and then when I came to Vancouver—my family followed me in November 1889—I went to work for the Royal City Planing Mills on Carrall Street. The company boarded us at the boarding house nearby, and provided us with cabins near Hart’s Opera House on Carrall Street, but we had to look after ourselves otherwise.

“The Royal City Planing Mills got their water from a stream in Mount Pleasant, east of Westminster Avenue—it was piped from the stream, Brewery Creek, and they had a tank; that was the best water available; very good water, but when the mill was not running, there was no water, and we had to go up to a spring in the hillside; I don’t know exactly where it was, but it was up towards Victory Square; not quite so far; there was a natural spring there, and all the people who lived around there dipped from it until the water works were completed in the spring of 1889. That was before my family came.

“Then, when my family came from Nova Scotia in November 1889, we lived first on Carrall Street, and had a little store on that street and sold candies, soft drinks and small groceries; we were there about two years, and then I built a house on Harris Street—in the 800 block opposite the Strathcona School; that was in 1890.