

## **Early Vancouver**

### **Volume Six**

**By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.**

**2011 Edition (Originally Published 1945)**

*Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1940-1945.*

*Supplemental to volumes one, two, three, four and five collected in 1931, 1932, 1934, 1939 and 1944.*

### **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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### **INDIAN CUSTOMS. RABBITS.**

"Uncle told me he was up in the Peace River prospecting, and had an Indian boy helping him to carry his stuff, and the ground was all covered with pea vine and full of rabbits. The Indian set fire to the pea vine, and Uncle asked him what he was doing that for, and the Indian replied it was to drive all the rabbits towards his illahie" (village.) "The photograph was taken at Agassiz by a Frenchman named Bishieu" (sic.) "Uncle was born at Dundee, Scotland, in 1928."

### **LAING GENEALOGY.**

Mr. Laing: "We have five children, and seven grandchildren now. Three boys and two girls. One of our sons, Richard, he is on the McRoberts farm now; he has it leased from me, and he has a boy and a girl. Arthur, another son, is living in the city and works for Buckerfield, and he has one little girl, and Tommy, the eldest boy, he died when he was nineteen, and is buried in Mountain View Cemetery. And of the girls, the eldest is Rachael, Mrs. Moodie; she lives with us at 8809 Montcalm Street, Marpole, and she has two daughters; then the other daughter, also Mrs. Moodie—the two girls married two brothers—she has two boys."

At this point the two old gentlemen felt we had done enough for the morning, and after the usual courtesies, disappeared as the elevator doors closed.

As told to me, 1 February 1945

J.S. Matthews.

### **MCROBERTS HOUSE BUILT IN 1862.**

Mr. Laing told me that "McRoberts built the house in 1862."

### **CONVERSATION AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, CITY HALL, VANCOUVER, 1 FEBRUARY 1945, BETWEEN THE REVEREND JOHN ANTLE, RETIRED, FORMERLY OF THE COLUMBIA COAST MISSION, AND NOW LIVING ON HIS YACHT, *REVERE*, ANCHORED AT THE ROYAL VANCOUVER YACHT CLUB FLOAT, COAL HARBOUR, VANCOUVER, WHERE HE HAS BEEN FOR SOME YEARS.**

Mr. Antle is now approaching 80 years of age (exact age not available), is a very active man for his age; came by street car and returned that way after spending three hours going over a docket referring to himself and his ship in the City Archives.

### **COLUMBIA COAST MISSION ESTABLISHED 1904.**

Question: (Major Matthews, City Archivist) Mr. Antle, will you please tell the story of the start of the Mission.

Answer: (Rev. Mr. Antle) "When I resigned from Holy Trinity Church—as rector—my intention was to start the Columbia Coast Mission; to visit, and to establish hospitals and hospital vessels along the northern British Columbia coast; the Mission now extends from Pender Harbour to Seymour Inlet, and includes three hospitals, one each at Pender Harbour, Rock Bay and Alert Bay."

### **REV. JOHN ANTLE, ORIGINATOR.**

"I started it in 1904; I was the originator of the whole movement. I laid my plans before the two dioceses, the diocese of New Westminster and the diocese of Columbia, and, do you know, it took me two years before I could get them to acknowledge that they were in duty bound to take the matter up. The bishop of New Westminster was Bishop John Dart, and the bishop of Columbia was Bishop W.W. Perrin. The boundary of the diocese of New Westminster is not very definite, but afterwards a boundary was established in order that the Columbia Coast Mission might know which diocese they were working in. In a general way, the diocese of Columbia is Vancouver Island, and the diocese of New Westminster is the mainland, but there are a lot of islands, large and small, so that, in a general way, the boundary line between the two dioceses is the main channel north.

“Afterwards, when the Mission became incorporated, the Bishop of Columbia became president of the Columbia Coast Mission, and the board consisted of an equal number of clergy and laity; I forget the exact numbers now.”

#### **REV. JOHN ANTLE BUILT *LAVEROCK*. THE FIRST MISSION BOAT.**

“I was rector at Holy Trinity Church in Fairview” (Vancouver), “and while in that incumbency I built a small boat in my back yard at Eighth Avenue and Spruce Street, which I called the *Laverock*, a sixteen foot open boat, no cabin, with a strip of decking around the gunwale. In June 1904, together with my son, Victor, nine years old, I made my first trip in the *Laverock*; it was up the coast as far as Alert Bay and back, calling at camps, logging camps, fishing settlements, etc., of approximately five hundred miles. We did our own cooking, of course, slept on the boat, that is, slept on the boat twenty-seven nights—we were away a month, about—and returned to Vancouver. The little boat was yawl rigged—one mast and a jigger—she had been a cutter, but I changed her to a yawl rig for the trip, and she had a three-quarter horse power gasoline engine, installed by LePage marine engineers of Vancouver, of the make known as Springfield Bull-pup.”

#### **REV. JOHN ANTLE REPORTS HIS PROPOSALS, 1904. *LOG OF THE COLUMBIA*.**

“On my return, I reported to the joint committee of the two dioceses, and outlined the plan of work, including vessels, and even a magazine publication, still published, and called the *Log of the Columbia*. We had been away a month, and stopped at many places. Lund, B.C. was our first ‘port of call,’ and then followed Quathbaski Cove, Rock Bay, Granite Bay, and Alert Bay was our northern terminus. Then we turned around and came south, calling at Shoal Bay and other places. My report to the joint committee of the two dioceses contained the plan on which the Mission has worked ever since. It was printed, and I think the Head Office of the Mission has it still; that was in the summer—June—of 1904.”

#### **REV. JOHN ANTLE RESIGNS HOLY TRINITY CHURCH. MISSION BOAT *COLUMBIA* IS BUILT, 1905. DR. W.A.B. HUTTON, M.D., FIRST DOCTOR.**

“Then I resigned from Holy Trinity Church—about November—and the following year, 1905, spent my time raising money for the first Mission boat, the *Columbia*, and raised enough money to build her. I went east as far as Toronto to try and raise her cost, and got a special grant from the M.S.C.E., that is, the Church of England Missionary Society. The plans for the *Columbia* were drawn by a Mr. Trist, one of the finest marine architects who ever came to Vancouver. He happened to be in touch with the Wallace Shipyards” (the origin of the huge Burrard Dry Dock, North Vancouver) “and the *Columbia* was built down at the south end of Granville Street, on False Creek, just beside the old Granville Street bridge. She was sixty feet long, with a beam of fourteen feet, and carried a crew of three, myself, the doctor and a deckhand. She was launched in False Creek in 1905, and she had two hospital cots beside staterooms for myself and the doctor. The first doctor was a Dr. W.A.B. Hutton, M.D., at one time a very prominent medical man in Winnipeg.”

“We started out on our first voyage for Victoria, where the dedication ceremonies were performed by Bishop Perrin, and then went north and called in at Nanaimo. At Nanaimo, a Mrs. —” (Mr. Antle could not recall the name, but thought it was Schetky) “had a Girls’ Club, and came on board with her girls’ club, and installed two very comfortable hospital cots in the main cabin; they were curtained in. I don’t think they were collapsible at the commencement, but they were after we had made them so.”

#### **FIRST TRIP NORTH. *M.S. COLUMBIA*, 1905. EIGHTY CAMPS TO SERVE.**

“Nothing very exciting happened on our first trip. Our first call was Rock Bay, where, in the meantime, a small hospital was being built for us at Rock Bay by the Hastings Sawmill Company. It was Fred Beecher’s father who was responsible for that; he was one of the Sawmill Company. Rock Bay was the first hospital of the Columbia Coast Mission. The hospital building was one of those ready-made buildings which comes in parts all ready to put up, and it was capable of providing accommodation for about a dozen patients, though there used to be twice that number sometimes. You see, we had eighty camps to serve, logging camps and so on, and when we came back with the *Columbia* from a trip those requiring attention would be waiting for us, lying on the sofa, everywhere, waiting for the doctor on the *Columbia* to come.”

**THE FIRST NURSE, MISS SUTHERLAND.**

"I don't recall how Miss Sutherland, our first nurse at Rock Bay, got there, but she reached the Rock Bay Hospital somehow, and had a little room there for herself. She was our only trained nurse, but she had to help her a woman housekeeper and a man as orderly. She did not last long. She was a wonderful nurse, probably the finest we ever had, but she was not strong, and died as a result of overwork; there is no doubt about that; it was overwork that killed her. She is buried in Vancouver, Mountain View Cemetery, I think.

"There is an obituary of Miss Sutherland in the *Log of the Columbia*."

**THE SECOND HOSPITAL. ALERT BAY, B.C. MISS MONK, NURSE. MISS MOTHERWELL, NURSE.**

"The second hospital was at Alert Bay, and was started with two nurses. Miss Monk was the senior; she came from Ottawa, and was a very well qualified nurse who had been head of hospitals in the east. The second nurse was Miss Motherwell, sister of Major J.A. Motherwell, Chief Inspector of Fisheries here." (Note: Miss Motherwell is, we think, the same Miss Motherwell who is now head of the Provincial Infirmary, Marpole, Vancouver.)

**THE THREE FIRST NURSES. MISS SUTHERLAND. MISS MONK. MISS MOTHERWELL.**

"These three nurses are the three outstanding nurses which I spoke to you about, which might perhaps be considered worthy of a place in the book" (proposed history of Canadian nurses, being compiled by John Murray Gibbon, Esq., Montréal.)

**THE THIRD HOSPITAL, VAN ANDA.**

"The third hospital was at Van Anda, Texada Island. It was provided by the Marble Bay Mines; the Tacoma Steel Company owned the place. I forget the name of the first nurse there.

"That's enough for today."

As told to me as I typed,  
CITY ARCHIVES, J  
City Hall, CITY  
Vancouver,  
1 February 1945.

.S. Matthews  
ARCHIVIST

**CONVERSATION WITH MR. F.C. GRANTHAM, OF GRANTHAM'S LANDING, HOWE SOUND, AND OF 535 WEST FOURTEENTH AVENUE, VANCOUVER, WHO, IN RESPONSE TO MY INVITATION, VERY KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES THIS AFTERNOON, AND REMAINING AN HOUR OR SO, 7 FEBRUARY 1945.**

During this time, Mr. Grantham, a very kindly quiet gentleman, slightly greying hair, presented us with a photograph of himself taken when he was very much younger by Secourable of Peckham, London, S.E.

**GRANTHAM'S LANDING. F.C. GRANTHAM.**

Mr. Grantham said: "Claude Wainwright invited us to his summer camp on Bowen Island. They had a summer camp, and we enjoyed ourselves so much that I wanted to get a place like it for myself. I hunted around, but could not find anything which suited, but, finally, heard that there was land up at Gibson's Landing. So in 1909 I went up to Gibson's with a friend, but the place I went to see wasn't suitable, and I spent the night at Gibson's as there wasn't a boat to Vancouver until the following morning."

**GRANTHAM'S LANDING. MR. GLASSFORD OF GIBSON'S. GEORGE GIBSON. D.L. 687.**

"The following morning I met Mr. Glassford, son-in-law of George Gibson, and he said I had just time, before the boat" (steamer) "came to see the prettiest spot on Howe Sound. He took me—we just walked through a trail in the standing forest, that is, through the Indian Reserve—until we stood on what is now Grantham's Landing. He had crown granted D.L. 687 some years before, and used it for hand logging purposes. He told me it was for sale, about seventy-five acres, eight hundred feet waterfront. There was more land than I wanted for my summer cottage, so I had it subdivided. I got a crew of men up there and built a floating wharf; cleared all the roads, and put in sidewalks and the water system. We got the water