

Early Vancouver

Volume Six

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

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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

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FURTHER CONVERSATION, 19 JULY 1940, WITH MR. WILLIAM KNIGHT MELLIS, 3228 VANNESS AVENUE, VANCOUVER, WHEN HE APPROVED OF CORRECTED DRAFT OF HIS CONVERSATION OF 2 JULY 1940.

THE “LEMON SQUASH.” GRANVILLE STREET SOUTH. NORTH ARM ROAD: FIRST HOUSE.

Mr. Mellis said: “The first house on the North Arm Road, now Granville Street South, was on a bit of clearing about Sixty-seventh Avenue, and on the west side of the North Arm Road; we called it the ‘Lemon Squash’ because you could get a glass of beer there; officially the beer was lemon squash; it was a ‘boot-legging joint,’ about two hundred feet west of the North Arm Road. That was about 1889. I never was in it. There was not much forest down there; not much timber the other side of Fifty-seventh Avenue; Shannon. No heavy timber down there; kind of swampy; mostly cedar, some scattered ones; just the same as anywhere else; it depends upon the soil.

“They moved the ‘Lemon Squash’; it is still standing; two-storey; I think it is now on Sixty-fifth, 1500 block, west side of Granville Street, north side of Sixty-fifth, and on the west corner of the lane behind Granville Street; it is a dwelling house.” (No. 1511 West 65th Avenue.) “About half a block west of Granville Street.”

SALMON.

(Looking at an early photograph of salmon lying deep on cannery floor) “I’ll tell you what I have done. I’ve gone out in the river with my boat puller, thrown half the net out, started to pull it in again, and before we could get it in, had a load of salmon. Then, go back to the cannery, and the ‘limit’ would be perhaps two hundred and fifty; the cannery would take the 250, and we threw the rest into the sea. Millions of salmon have been thrown in the Fraser River that way.”

GRANVILLE STREET SOUTH. “THE SUMMIT.” SUMMIT HILL. STEEP HILL.

“I was driving stage one day out the North Arm Road” (Granville Street) “when I made a remark that if they had put the road three or four blocks west they would have saved the ‘Steep Hill’” (16th Avenue) “and the ‘Summit’” (37th Avenue), “and saved the horses a lot of pulling, and the passengers a lot of time. There was a stranger on my stage, and he answered, ‘You’re right. I was on that survey, and made that very suggestion to the surveyors, but they would not listen; they said the government wanted the road to go straight, so they put it straight, hills and all.’”

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. M.M. BURWELL, 1058 NELSON, WIDOW OF HERBERT M. BURWELL, C.E. (BURWELL LAKE, ETC.), WHERE SHE LIVES WITH HER SISTER, MRS. (EX-ALDERMAN) CONNON, WHO, IN RESPONSE TO MY INVITATION, VERY GRACIOUSLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES AND REMAINED AN HOUR OR MORE.

Before leaving I escorted her over the City Hall, from top to bottom, showing her the mace, and introduced the Mayor, Dr. Telford, to her.

HERBERT M. BURWELL, C.E. DR. A.W.S. BLACK. MRS. (ALDERMAN) CONNON.

Mrs. Burwell: “Yes, Dr. Black was my father; yes, that’s right, he was killed by being thrown from his horse on the Douglas Road; he was a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, Scotland; he was thirty-eight when he was killed, and Mother was twenty-six, and was left with five children, the youngest of whom was not born for some months after my father’s death. Mrs. Alderman Connon is my sister; she lived with me; we live together. All three of us” (Dr. Black’s daughters) “were married at St. James’ Church by the Rev. Father Clinton. I was born in New Westminster.”

H.M. BURWELL. LITTLE MOUNTAIN RESERVOIR, 1911.

“Here are a lot of my husband’s papers and his photograph; you may have them. As you know, he did a great deal of engineering work about Vancouver, but ‘Little Mountain’ reservoir was the work in which he was very interested; conceived it, designed it, and built it. He was proud of Little Mountain reservoir. He had a lot of difficulty to contend with; some did not think it necessary, and all that sort of thing, but he said ‘You will need it some day.’ Some did not think so, but you see how it has turned out; he was right.