

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

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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Contact Information

City of Vancouver Archives
1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9
604.736.8561
archives@vancouver.ca
vancouver.ca/archives



"I SHALL NOT CEASE"

 IS infamy to die and not be missed,"
(I thank thee, unknown poet, for that line.)
Let me imagine lips that I have kissed,
Will still, in memory, press these lips of mine.

When I shall journey to the Unknown Land,
Shall I some memories leave Death cannot kill?
Will men, with manly grip, still take my hand?
Will children listen for the voice that's still?

Death hath no sting for me, if when I sleep,
Children—and dogs—remember where I lie;
If—missing me—some gentle women weep,
And men, recalling me, shall heave a sigh.

If word I speak, or write, helps fellow man
To nobler, braver life; to aspirations high;
I shall not—cease—when I have filled life's span.
To be remembered thus is—not to die.

"Felix Penne"
(John Francis Bursill)

Vancouver, December, 1918.

John Francis Bursill, "Felix Penne," a warm hearted litterateur and journalist, formerly of London, England; founder, Bursill Institute and Collingwood Free Library, 1911, Vancouver Dickens Fellowship, and Shakespeare Society. Died February 8th, 1928.

First published in *The Gold Stripe*, Vol. 1, page 160, a journal of the Amputations Club of British Columbia, Vancouver, as the conclusion of an article entitled "L'ENVOI," and signed "Felix Penne, (J. Francis Bursill), Vancouver, December 11th, 1918." Title, "I Shall Not Cease" added by City Archivist, 1935.

*With the compliments of the Trustees and Governors,
City Archives, Vancouver, Canada, 1945.*

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. JAMES WALKER, 721 CAMBIE STREET, DAUGHTER OF JOSEPH SILVEY ("PORTUGUESE JOE" NO. 1) AND HIS INDIAN WIFE, KHAAL-TIN-AHT, WHO KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES THIS AFTERNOON FOR A CHAT, 17 DECEMBER 1940.

PETER PLANT. ADDIE PLANT. MRS. GEORGE MYERS. SUPLIEN GUINNE.

Mrs. Walker said: "I saw Lena Myers in New Westminster recently. Peter Plant was, she told me, her father, and Addie was her mother, his wife, and she, Lena Plant, is their daughter. Lena is now Mrs. George Myers of New Westminster; fine woman. She did tell me her grandfather's name, he was French, she told me that he had 160 acres down at Marpole; he must have had money for he sold it. I cannot remember the name, it was a queer sort of name." (Note: probably Suplien Guinne.) "I cannot tell you the exact spot where his farm was, but it was just by the bridge to Sea Island at Marpole, on the mainland side of the river; he had a nice house, and a lovely big orchard, and he had a dairy farm because my father" (Joseph Silvey) "bought butter and eggs there.

"Lena's grandmother, Khah-may, was my grand-aunt, that is, she was my mother's aunt.

"Lena told me that her grandfather at Marpole got old and feeble, he was about 100 years old, and he took a trip to the Old Country, and he came back, and went to Kamloops for treatment, and died there. His wife did not go to Kamloops but went to Point Grey" (Musqueam) "and stayed with her Indian people."

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. GEO. GREEN AT CITY ARCHIVES, WHO RECEIVED HIS INFORMATION FROM REV. JAMES H. WHITE OF SARDIS B.C., 6 JANUARY 1941.

FIRST PRIVATE SCHOOL ON THE MAINLAND.

"Miss Emily Woodman arrived at Victoria from St. Thomas, Ontario, 10th February 1859, came with first party of Methodist missionaries who came to B.C. There were four missionaries, Rev. E. Evans, D.D., leader" (this from A. Begg's *History of B.C.*, page 484), "Rev. E. Robson, Rev. E. White, and Rev. Arthur Browning.

"Rev. E. White was appointed to New Westminster district, then Queensborough. He arrived in New Westminster, 1st April 1859, and his family arrived from Victoria 21st April 1859. There was a four year old boy with him, who is still living, now Rev. James Henry White, Sardis, also a one year old baby girl, now Mrs. C.L. Street of Chilliwack.

"Mrs. E. White's sister was Miss E. Woodman, approaching eighteen years. When the Rev. Mr. White arrived there were no dwelling houses in Queensborough, only a tent which was occupied by James Kennedy, later editor *Columbian*, and the two families doubled up. In the meantime, they put up a crude hut for the family to live in. Rev. Mr. White then built the first church in New Westminster. It was very crude and the back was on a cedar stump" (described in *Vancouver Province* of 25 March 1935), "there was also a cedar stump just in front of the door—John Robson, later Premier of B.C., before they had a bell to call the people to church, stood on the stump summoning the faithful to worship with a tin horn.

"No school existed, and the children were doing nothing. Government refused any assistance, so Miss Woodman started the first private school with attendance of five children, which soon grew to 17. The school was situated on the waterfront, site not known."

(In that early day there were only a few children. Moody's first request for a school was not until October of '59. The families of the Royal Engineers had gone up to Derby from Victoria in April and stayed there for several months. It was when shelter had been built for them at "the camp" that they first came to New Westminster, hence his application in September or October.)

"Her pupils were: (These were probably not the original five, but were some of her later pupils.)

1. Frank Barnard who was sworn in December 17th 1914 [see *Sun of that date*] as Lieutenant-Governor of B.C.
2. Johnny Irving, son of Capt. Irving. At this time, the Captain had just started to build the first steam boat to be built in B.C., named *Governor Douglas*, built on Fraser River. [See *Biographical B.C.*, Vol. 2, page 685.]

3. Frank Richards, later Sheriff of Victoria.
4. Three children of Sullivan family. Mr. Sullivan was a cook up in the Cariboo gold mines; these three children were Joe, Julie and Arthur. In later years, their father was cook at Moodyville mill. Later the family moved to Granville, or "Gastown" where they owned property. Arthur, the youngest, was a singer in Wesleyan Church.

"Miss Emily Woodman was born in 1841 at St. Thomas, Ontario, and was educated there; she was a twin, her twin sister was Mary Ann Woodman. Mary came out in 1863 with Mother and Father. Mary Woodman married James Cunningham in 1865, and Emily Woodman, teacher, married a brother, Thomas Cunningham, both of New Westminster, in 1864" (?); "Emily died in 1925. I have been told by a daughter of her twin sister that she lived at the corner of Ash and 7th Avenue, Vancouver, and died there." (See "Thomas Cunningham" in Howay's *Biographical B.C.*)

"There are two daughters and one son of James Cunningham still living.

Mrs. George Spiers, Bellingham.

Mrs. Thomas H. Talbot, 2405 West 14th Avenue, Vancouver.

Fred Cunningham, New Westminster.

"Mrs. Thomas Cunningham, née Emily Woodman, is buried in Mountain View Cemetery, Vancouver.

"Mrs. James Cunningham, née Mary Ann Woodman, died January 22nd after 1925.

"Mr. James Cunningham died May 4, 1925; buried Fraser Cemetery, New Westminster.

"Joe Sullivan was the eldest of the three boys. They lived next door to the Rev. White family, and all went to the first school, and Joe Sullivan is responsible for tempting" (James White) "him until he told his first lie."

SECOND SCHOOL.

[The second school] "was started possibly at Sapperton, likely at the camp, for the children belonged to the soldiers. It was also a private school, the teacher was the daughter of one of the men, her name is unknown.

"Rev. John Sheepshanks came in September 1859, and said that they needed another school, that it was too far to go to the school on the waterfront. Col. Moody, the military head, discouraged the mixing of civilians and militia. Rev. Sheepshanks wrote to Col. Moody and asked him to use his best endeavours with Governor Douglas, the letter is undated; Moody wrote to Douglas, letter dated October 7, 1859 asking for school—letter never answered, and next letter Sheepshank wrote dated June 27, 1860, again to Col. Moody to ask him to use his influence with Governor Douglas. One margin of Col. Moody's letter in Douglas' own handwriting is 'no funds.' Sheepshank states there were twenty-eight pupils."

FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL.

[The first public school] "was authorised by Douglas in 1863.

"The Rev. Jamieson had arrived in New Westminster, he was the first Presbyterian minister, had a large family and wanted a school—with the result that he got a grant with a promise that a school would be started in 1863.

"Jimmy White, now Rev. James Henry White, went to public school, his teacher was MacIvveen, fair hair, and stands out in his memory as a man who drank a lot and gave the pupils a holiday.

"Hughie Burr, another teacher, and the owner of a very strong raw hide strap (and he used it). Dr. White tells us how the pupils each took turns in cutting a notch each day, a little bit at a time, so that they couldn't be accused of cutting the strap."

(This was in '66. The school then was on Mary Street, now 6th Street, opposite the present *Columbian* office. Col. Moody's wife's first name was Mary, hence the name.)