

Early Vancouver

Volume Six

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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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MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. (ALDERMAN) HENRY E. CONNON, WHO, ACCOMPANIED BY HER SISTER, MRS. HERBERT M. BURWELL, BOTH OF 1058 NELSON STREET, VANCOUVER, VERY GRACIOUSLY PAID A VISIT TO THE CITY ARCHIVES THIS AFTERNOON, 23 AUGUST 1940.

ALDERMAN HENRY E. CONNON.

Mrs. Connon said: "Mr." (Alderman) "Connon was the son of a very clever man, Dr. Charles Connon, who, after being examiner for the British Navy at Greenwich, England, came out as a professor to the Upper Canada College, Toronto. He was, I think, LL.D. My husband was the only one of his ten children born in Toronto. All the other children are dead, and none left descendants. Dr. Connon had a brother, now deceased, of course, who had a son who served in the first Great War, who returned to Canada, but where he is I do not know. Dr. Connon died in Toronto.

"Mr. Connon" (Alderman Connon) "was in charge of the first C.P.R. wharf. He was freight agent. He came west on the first train to Port Moody; later they moved down to Vancouver. He was an alderman of the City Council in 1892, and was the first freemason initiated into freemasonry in Vancouver, Cascade Lodge, No. 12, in 1888; you will find an account of the initiation in the printed *History of Cascade Lodge*, page 18, and also an illustration—the only photograph we had. He died suddenly, cancer of the throat, 5th July 1920, and is buried in Mountain View Cemetery."

FIRST WEDDING IN VANCOUVER. GRANVILLE STREET.

"I married Mr. Connon at St. James Church, 25th June 1886—twelve days after the 'Fire.' Rev. Mr. Clinton was the clergyman; he was not called Father Clinton then. Our wedding was the first 'white wedding' in Vancouver. The whole of Granville Street was decorated with flags and they had twenty-one 'torpedoes' on the C.P.R. tracks which went off when the train ran over them. I was Miss Black, daughter of A.W.S. Black, of Cariboo and New Westminster, one of the early doctors of Burrard Inlet." (Note: "The whole" of Granville Street; i.e., a figure of speech, as it was open, but not planked, and not a building on it. Perhaps she means Cordova Street, or what there was of it twelve days after "The Fire.")

GENEALOGY.

"We had five children.

1. The eldest, Charles Arthur, with the 6th Field Co., Canadian Engineers, North Vancouver, was listed as "missing" at La Bassée, France, July 1915. He built the huts at Salisbury Plains. He was unmarried.
2. The next, Ruth Alice Beatrice, is now Mrs. A.H. Douglas, of Robertson, A.H. Douglas & Sims, barristers. They have two sons, one serving in the Royal Canadian Navy, and the other in Royal Canadian Engineers.
3. The next two were twins. Stanley Alfred, who served with the 29th Vancouver Battalion, was taken prisoner at St. Eloi by the Germans, and died unmarried in New York;
4. and Patience, now Mrs. W.A. Goldsmith of Long Beach, California. No children.
5. The youngest is Mary Kathleen, is Mrs. Roderick Morgan, now in San Francisco.

DR. A.W.S. BLACK.

"This photograph which my sister" (Mrs. H.M. Burwell) "has just given you is of our father, Dr. Arthur Walter Shaw Black, F.R.C.P." (Fellow, Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.) "He served in the Crimean War in Florence Nightingale's Hospital. He was killed in an accident on the Douglas Road whilst returning from Burrard Inlet to New Westminster. A man had cut his throat in Moodyville; Father had been over there, and was returning; he was on horseback; there was deep snow on the ground. Somewhere near Burnaby Lake, at the foot of the hill, both horse and rider were killed by a fall into a deep ditch; Father was crushed. Father was dead when found; he was 38 years old. The horse was still alive when help arrived."

Approved by Mrs. Connon, 29 August 1940 – J.S.M.