

## **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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"This other photo is later; horse-drawn bread wagon across the sidewalk; Amos Hatch is third from the left; Grandfather Hatch next, in front of the door; another of the 'Scots Greys,' and a street car conductor; I don't know the other two.

"The first photo was taken about 1897, and the second about 1898."

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH AUGUST JACK KHAHTSAHLANO, OF HOMULCHESON, CAPILANO, 13 SEPTEMBER 1940.**

**PIGEONS. GREAT FIRE. BIRDS.**

Major Matthews, City Archivist: August, Fitzgerald McCleery, the first white man to settle on the site of Vancouver, down on the Marine Golf Course, North Arm, Fraser River, says in his diary—March 1865, I think—that he "shot pigeons"; that's all; just "shot pigeons"; what did he mean?

August: "I don't know. I don't think any pigeons here before white man came; I never heard old people talk about them; lots duck, goose, but no pigeons.

"The first pigeons I can remember was after the 'Big Fire'" (13 June 1886.) "There was a big flock of them flying about. I don't know; maybe somebody turn them loose. Then they get more every year. I see some over Capilano Creek last April, on the Capilano Indian Reserve, just wild. Suppose they's just somebody's pigeons got loose some time. No pigeons here before white man come.

"There's lots of pigeons up at Squamish, just flying around wild. Got loose, I suppose. No pigeons I ever hear of up there before white man come."

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. J.J. HATCH, 597 EAST 23<sup>RD</sup> AVENUE, WHO VERY KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES THIS MORNING, CARRYING WITH HER A LARGE PARCEL CONTAINING A WOODEN SHOULDER YOKE FOR CARRYING WATER BUCKETS, 19 SEPTEMBER 1940.**

**WATER FROM WELLS. BREWERY CREEK. TEA SWAMP. NORTH ARM ROAD.**

Mrs. Hatch said: "This yoke was made by the children; that is, J.J. and R.W., children of Grandfather Hatch; they made it out of a cedar log; first one would work at it, then when he got tired the other would do a bit. I give it to you for the City Archives. We used it to carry water from the creek for washing our clothes and milk cans; you see, we had twenty cows.

"We saved the water from the well for our home, and we kept it in reserve in case of a bush fire; our place at the corner of what is now Twenty-third Avenue East and Caroline, but in those days there were no streets or anything. We used to tell people that we lived a 'block off the North Arm Road'" (Fraser Avenue) "but you could not see our place from the road on account of the trees.

"At home, this morning they looked at me when I started to carry this down to you, and said, 'You're not going to take that'" (the yoke) "'down to the City Hall, are you?' I said, 'Yes, I was; it was only a pioneer who would bother to carry it down; others would probably throw it away.'"

**MILK RANCH.**

"We used to hang two five-gallon coal oil tins on it, one at each end, and many a time I have carried water from the creek, but I used a smaller tin than five gallons. The creek from which we got the water ran through our milk ranch; it was just about half a block from our barn."

**TEA SWAMP. WILD DUCKS.**

"My son, James David, used to go down to the swamp before going to school, and would come back with a dozen or twenty teal, and we used the old fashioned granite milk tins, and made teal pie; there would be a duck for each member of the family."

## **FOREST FIRES.**

"You see, we emptied our well, filling five-gallon cans of water to put on top of the roof of our house in case of fire; many times it caught fire, and we would put the children in packing cases up at the end of the trail near the North Arm Road. You see, the trees were all on fire, and we had to sleep overnight; we did not have any sleep; we had to be up watching the fire, but the children sat up in the packing cases."

## **CAROLINE STREET. D.L. 301. 23<sup>RD</sup> AVENUE EAST. H.V. EDMONDS.**

"We brought the big packing cases from Toronto with our furniture in them, and the men carried them up to the end of the trail for the children to get into. You see, there were no fire reels in those days; you had to fight the" (forest) "fire yourself, and then we would use the water up so quickly, we ran out of water, and after that we had to do the best we could, try and save the house, and let the rest go. Oh, we have had some awful fires.

"We were in D.L. 301 in those days, and Edmonds owned that ground. There were no sidewalks or anything there, nothing, and then D.L. 301 was taken into the city, and then our taxes began to go up, and finally the city took the property, our life's work, from us for taxes."

## **MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH W.C. DITMARS, ESQ., ONE OF THE ORIGINAL TRUSTEES, CITY ARCHIVES, FORMER GRANDMASTER OF GRAND LODGE OF FREEMASONS, BRITISH COLUMBIA, WHOSE OFFICE IS NOW 744 WEST HASTINGS STREET, (OVER THE PHONE), 3 OCTOBER 1940.**

### **VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY. VANCOUVER GRANITE CO., NORTH ARM. G.W. GRANT, ARCHITECT. MASONIC TEMPLE, MCKINNON BLOCK.**

Mr. Ditmars said: "Yes, I was at the ceremony of laying the corner stone of the Carnegie Library. We" (the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M.) "met at the old McKinnon Block" (now Williams Block, southwest corner Hastings and Granville streets) "and marched to the site in full regalia, and Grandmaster Young, afterwards Judge Young, he laid the corner stone and, of course, with the usual corn, wine and oil, and then we marched back again to the Temple. There was a band there, and the Mayor and Aldermen, and a crowd of onlookers.

"The Vancouver Public Library building is of Gabriola sandstone from Gabriola Island, but the foundations and base courses is from our quarries, the Vancouver Granite Co.'s quarries; not the old C.P.R. quarry, but our own quarry on the west side of the North Arm, opposite Croker Island, and perhaps—but I do not actually know—the old 'Spratt's Ark' brought the stone down.

"The architect was a little man, he had offices in the McKinnon Block; I think he was G.W. Grant; anyway, his name was Grant."