

**Early Vancouver**

**Volume Seven**

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

**2011 Edition (Originally Published 1956)**

*Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected between 1931-1956.*

**About the 2011 Edition**

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**[CORRESPONDENCE WITH JOHN A. KIRKPATRICK.]**

2930 Pine Street  
Vancouver B C  
June 11<sup>th</sup>

Major Matthews  
City Hall

Dear Major

Re our little talk some time ago about the Memorial Window for our late Colonel Warden. I regret that I have been unable to call and see you and our telephone connection does not seem to be very good with yours, and possibly neither of us have as good hearing as we had fifty years ago so I am writing this note to give you my opinion about having an appropriate ceremony on the unveiling of the Window.

I have discussed this matter with several of the members of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Batt. and association, and there appears to be more discension among these men than ever. Some of them are annoyed that the old Association was allowed to go out of existence and others that another Association was formed under the same name and they were not notified and that the new association never did function, and others are more or less just disgruntled. I am of the opinion that we would not get a very harmonious gathering for this or any other ceremony at the present time.

The whole credit for keeping the old Association together for so many years is due to you 100% and I know that you have always received more kicks than compliments for your efforts. We were handicapped by a very enthusiastic and very incompetent Secretary and Treasurer who never kept any books or even a list of the men and their addressees, so that we have little or nothing of any useful records are in existence.

Whatever you decide to do is agreeable to me but I do not believe that we could get a very enthusiastic gathering of the old 102<sup>nd</sup> men unless they were promised an issue of rum and beer after the ceremony and many would not be willing to await the close of the ceremony for the refreshments.

I am pleased to know that the Council are at last beginning to appreciate the great value of your work and are granting you a more remunerative salary and I wish you many years of active service and good health to enjoy the salary and retiring allowances.

With kind regards and good wishes to your Wife and self,

I remain

Yours respt

John A. Kirkpatrick

Note: see below.

Note: Captain Kirkpatrick was Paymaster of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, "North British Columbians" from its establishment, 1916, to its demobilisation in 1919. J.S.M.

14<sup>th</sup> June 1947.

102<sup>nd</sup>  
"NORTH BRITISH  
COLUMBIANS"  
Veterans

Dear Capt. Kirkpatrick:

Thank you for your letter.

I think these facts ought to be made known.

- First: That in 1945 the Canteen fund brought back from France became exhausted; it had lasted 27 years. Originally a little under \$5,000 every cent was used to aid ex-members, and, of later years, to defray the small deficits which followed each annual dinner. No officer received a single dollar from the fund. When, finally, it was reported to National Defence Headquarters that the fund had gone, the General Officer Commanding wrote complimenting on its careful disbursement. Most regimental canteen funds disappeared in three or four years after the battalion returned.
- Second: About 1921, seven hundred and fifty dollars was raised and a tablet designed, now in Christ Church Cathedral, to commemorate our Fallen. A booklet was printed for circulation, and, of course, cost money.
- Third: About 1937, a duplicate set of 102<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Colors was made for Bishop Rix's church in Prince Rupert. They cost \$250, and were sent as a gift.
- Fourth: In 1947, a stained glass window to the memory of Colonel Warden was placed in Christ Church Cathedral. It cost \$250.

The synopsis is that the "other ranks" members of the battalion got all of the \$5,000 canteen fund, and very few contributed to the items 2, 3 and 4. The officers got none of the \$5,000, and contributed all of the \$1,250 in these three items, and in addition, a very large sum, perhaps as much as \$2,000 to various laudable matters such as the deficits on the re-union banquets, which often ran as much as \$100 a banquet.

The two wooden memorials from Vimy Ridge were brought back, and one placed in the City Museum here and the other in the church at Prince Rupert.

A compilation of nine volumes, bound in fabricoid leather, of the activities of the 102<sup>nd</sup> from 1915 to 1919—as well as a record since—were prepared, and are preserved in the City Archives, Vancouver.

For some years—about 12—a very complete roll of the names and addresses of all ex-members was kept; at the end of that time it was turned over to others as I felt I had done it long enough; it was time for someone else to take a turn.

A banquet was held every year for about 27 or 28 years; no other battalion did this regularly, without an omission, for so long.

About two years ago, a telephone message reached me that the secretary was leaving town. No books or monies were turned over to me, nor so far as I know anyone else. I have not heard from the secretary since. The date for the October banquet drew near in 1945. I phoned a number requesting their aid; there was no response; the proper dinner date passed, and "no dinner." I therefore called together about twelve of the more responsible ex-members of the 102<sup>nd</sup> as my personal guests at a dinner at the Hotel Georgia. This was a month or more after the re-union dinner date had passed. We discussed the situation, and before leaving elected a committee to carry on, and decided on a battalion dinner next year. (There was some reason why you did not attend; you were ill or out of town.)

Last October, 1946, I called for the opinion of this committee as to whether a dinner should be held; the majority said "no." However, an ex-member called upon me re the dinner. I urged him to aid in getting one up; gave him a list of names to start with, and offered to pay the initial expenses. I also gave him a book for a register. He went away; did not return, and I have not heard from him since.

It was a lamentable thing that these annual re-unions ceased. I am a very much overworked man; my day does not end when the office closes; it is impossible for me to take time to get up these re-unions. Had I not been so pre-occupied they would not have ceased.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to you for your long and devoted interest in the gallant men of the 102<sup>nd</sup>. I grasp your hand.

With best wishes

Most sincerely,

J.S. Matthews

Capt. J.A. Kirkpatrick  
2930 Pine St  
Vancouver

### **ANNORE CREEK, LAKE BUNTZEN.**

Conversation with Franklin John Lancaster, 6876 Cypress Street, where he is building a new home, and who is associated with Geo. H. Hees Son & Co. Ltd., 347 Water Street. The conversation was over the phone, 27 May 1947.

### **MR. AND MRS. F.J. LANCASTER. ANNORE CREEK. LAKE BUNTZEN.**

Mr. Lancaster to Major Matthews:

"In 1912 I came to British Columbia from St. Mary's, Ontario, and acquired a tract of land north of Sunnyside, near loco, at the time when the government put that land in that area up for sale in 1914. I homesteaded it.

"A creek came down the hillside and emptied into the northeast side of Lake Buntzen. I built a cabin, and planted a few fruit trees, and, for a time, lived there although I was in business at 25<sup>th</sup> and Main" (dry goods.) "The Port Moody Sand and Gravel Co., who had gravel bunkers at Sunnyside, and water rights on an unnamed creek adjacent to my property, built a flume, and took water from my unnamed creek on my property. So I took an axe and broke the flume, and restored the creek to its rightful course."

Note: the Land Department, Victoria, say that F.J. Lancaster applied for water rights on 19 November 1914, and submitted a sketch on which his creek is marked "ANNORE."

"I then applied for water rights and that required that the creek be named. I married Miss Annie Maude Douglas, born in Newcastle, Ontario, and we have one daughter, Leonore, born in St. Mary's, Ontario, and now Mrs. W.D. Squires, 1781 West 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue, all three of us living.

"So I took the first three letters of my wife's name, and the last three of my daughter's, and compound the name ANNORE."

As told to me.

J.S. Matthews