

Early Vancouver

Volume Seven

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2011 Edition (Originally Published 1956)

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

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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“CRAZY GEORGE.”

Capt. Charles Warren Cates, of C.H. Cates and Sons, pioneer tug boat owners, North Vancouver, was in the City Archives last week. He told me:

“‘Crazy George’ used to do odd jobs for Mother, and Mother told me that one day he was sweeping out the kitchen with a corn broom when he gave the broom an extra strong flick, as though hurling something, off or near the floor, through the door. Mother told me she said to him, ‘What are you doing that for?’ He replied, ‘Did you see it? It was one of those devils. Funny you didn’t see it.’ Mother protested she had seen nothing, to which ‘Crazy George’ answered, ‘That’s queer—it was there all right; one of those devils.’

“Then Mother said ‘Crazy George’ went on, ‘You know,’ he said, ‘I wasn’t always like this.’ And,” remarked Capt. Cates, “I imagine that was about the sanest thing he ever said. They say he had some trouble with some woman; may have been his wife ran off with some other man or something—it was something like that.”

J.S.M.