

**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**

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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**[LETTER FROM EDWARD STAMP TO W.G.A. YOUNG.]**

Victoria, V.I.,  
18<sup>th</sup> June, 1863.

W.G.A. Young, Esq.

Sir.

I take leave to state that in March last I employed a party of six men to prospect the inside of this Island and the Coast of British Columbia, for spar timber and a sawmill site; they have just returned and report a suitable locality at Port Neville, British Columbia.

As I have been at considerable expense in discovering this timber, I respectfully beg to request that His Excellency the Governor (by any means that he may have in his power) will grant to myself the exclusive right of cutting timber at Port Neville; I make this request that others may not pre-empt the land at that place in order to oblige me to purchase the timber from them.

My object is to establish a spar cutting place at Port Neville as soon as possible, and should the quantity of timber there (on further inspection) warrant such an outlay, also a sawmill; my agent J. Rogers has already pre-empted a piece of land at Port Neville.

I herewith enclose a tracing of the locality; the timbered land I wish to exclude from pre-emption is contained between the water and the lines marked with red ink.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your Obedient servant,

EDW. STAMP

Note: At Douglas' request, Moody declared it government reserve. G.G.

**[LETTER FROM EDWARD STAMP TO A.N. BIRCH.]**

New Westminster,  
17<sup>th</sup> May, 1865.

Sir:

I now take leave to state for the information of the Governor that I have found a suitable site on the Reserve just within the 1<sup>st</sup> Narrows, Burrard Inlet, on which I wish to build the sawmill, and the difficulty I apprehended in getting a supply of fresh water for the boilers is removed by the discovery of a lake on the same reserve of sufficient capacity to supply our wants.

After a careful examination I am now satisfied that sufficient timber exists on Fraser's River, Burrard's Inlet, Howe Sound and the adjoining coast to justify me in erecting a costly sawmill in that locality. I only now wait the government to grant me such concessions as are absolutely necessary to enable the company I represent to proceed with their undertaking.

I have already verbally, and in writing, explained to you the nature of our requirements. I now again lay before you our wants in this respect and shall be much obliged by an early reply in order that I may proceed with the works.

1<sup>st</sup>. That Burrard Inlet may be declared a Port of Entry. I expect to load a cargo of spars there in a few days.

2<sup>nd</sup>. That we shall be allowed to purchase at the customary price of \$1.00 per acre, one hundred acres of land on the Reserve adjoining the Sawmill site and on which the mill would be built.

3<sup>rd</sup>. That we shall be allowed to select as much timbered land as necessary for the use of the Sawmill (say about 15,000 acres) on Fraser's River, Burrard's Inlet, Howe Sound and the adjoining coast, including about 1,000 acres of spar timbered land at Port Neville, and that such land may be held by the company on lease of 21 years at one cent per acre.

4<sup>th</sup>. That we shall be allowed to cut timber on reserves at Burrard's Inlet.

5<sup>th</sup>. That we shall be allowed to purchase at the usual price 1,200 acres of land (if it can be found) suitable for feeding our cattle when from hard work they require rest.

6<sup>th</sup>. That we shall have the right of way for fresh water from the lake on the Reserve to the sawmill.

7<sup>th</sup>. That all iron and steel imported for the purpose of being manufactured into machinery at our own workshop; belts, leather for belts and other material for the bonafide use of the sawmill, and intended to form part of the machinery shall be admitted free.

I have had men employed prospecting for timber for the last six weeks; it takes a long time to make a thorough examination for this purpose. I again beg to request that pre-emption on timbered land on Burrard Inlet and the North Arm of Fraser's River may not be allowed until we have had reasonable time to make a further examination.

I am Sir,

Your humble obedient servant,

EDWARD STAMP

Hon. A.N. Birch  
Col. Secy.  
New Westminster.

**[LETTER FROM J.B. LAUNDERS.]**

New Westminster,  
June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1865.

Sir:

In accordance with your orders of the 31<sup>st</sup> of May I proceeded to Burrard Inlet, arriving there at 3 p.m. and marking out Captain Stamp's Mill Claim the same evening (June 1<sup>st</sup>). On referring to the sketch appended it will be seen that the N.W. corner occurs in the centre of an Indian Village to clear which would only give the sawmill about 90 acres; by the appearance of the soil and debris this camping ground is one of the oldest in the Inlet. The resident Indians seemed very distrustful of my purpose and suspicious of encroachment on their premises.

The sawmill claim does not in any way interfere with the proposed site of the Fort.

I have etc.

J.B. LAUNDERS

The Honorable  
The Colonial Secretary.