

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 125th anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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to Coal Harbour and the Causeway. That would give a sea wall walk about seven miles long right around the park shore beside the sea and under the overhanging green trees, with the added thrill of passing through a tunnel under Prospect Point. There would be nothing like it in the world. If any pedestrian got tired and did not want to complete seven miles, he could stop, walk up the steps to the Park Driveway and take the bus back."

Major Matthews: Do you know the Board is talking about your idea, and even hope to give effect to it? How high and how wide and how long do you think the tunnel should be, Mr. Logan?

Mr. Logan: "Oh, that is a matter for engineers, but if it were a foot higher than a mining tunnel, which is seven feet, and wide enough for two persons to pass two persons, that is eight by eight—that would be enough, and I don't think the tunnel would be more than 150 feet long. I have another idea. There are a lot of hardrock miners in Vancouver and men interested in mining. If the right men were approached they would take a pleasure—it would give them a little excitement—to put that tunnel through as a friendly gesture to the public. I would not suggest this."

Major Matthews: How about calling it after you? The name "Logan" would rhyme very well with sea walk.

Mr. Logan: "Modesty forbids me to answer your question."

Approved by Mr. Logan, 8 September 1949.

J.S.M.

LOST LAGOON.

THE NAMING—WHEN AND BY WHOM.

Short answer: Apparently, in the summer of 1910, or possibly 1911, by Miss Pauline Johnson.

The Vancouver city directories for 1906, 1907, 1908 and 1909 do not show the name of Miss Johnson, nor the apartment house where she subsequently lived. In 1909 the apartment house, 1117 Howe Street, appears as a new structure, and suite 2, where Miss Johnson subsequently lived, is occupied by Mr. Tolson, a grocer.

DIRECTORY.

| | | |
|-----------|-----|--|
| 1910 page | 398 | Apartment House, 1117 Howe street |
| | | (2) Johnson. Miss Pauline. |
| | 842 | Johnson. Miss Pauline. lives (2) 1117 Howe St. |
| 1911 page | 344 | Same as 1910 |
| | 800 | Same as 1910 |
| 1912 page | 433 | 1117 Howe St., Apartment House. (2) Johnson. Miss Pauline. |
| | --- | not listed individually. |
| 1913 page | 454 | 1117 Howe St., Apartment House |
| June | 962 | Not listed—she had died. |

THE PROVINCE.

Obituary, March 7th, 1913.

Later, trips to England were made in 1906 and 1907 ... about three years ago she took up residence in Vancouver, and contributed a series of "Legends of Vancouver to *The Province* ... Not long after she came to Vancouver her health broke down ... for more than two years she was an invalid ... ever since Sept. 1911 she was slowly dying.

FLINT AND FEATHER.

In which "Lost Lagoon," the poem, appears, states that the first edition was published in 1912. The poem mentions "seaweed," "gulls," and "firs"; also canoes.

It is obvious that, if Miss Johnson was not here in 1909, but was here in 1910 before June (when the directory was published), and was slowly dying before September 1911, then her canoe trips on Coal Harbour must have been in the summer of 1910 or 1911.

DAILY NEWS-ADVERTISER.

Sunday, 16 March 1913. (Nine days after her demise on 7th.)

"The Spectator," by A. Buckley, M.A.

The "Lost Lagoon" she called Coal Harbor, and perhaps some day the City will change an ugly name for beautiful one "in memory of Pauline Johnson."

"I have always resented that jarring, unattractive name," she writes, "for years ago, when I first plied paddle across the gunwale of a light canoe, and idled about the margin, I named the sheltered little cove the 'Lost Lagoon.' This was just to please my own fancy, for, as that perfect summer month drifted on, the ever restless tides left the harbor devoid of water at my favorite canoeing hour, and my pet idling place was lost for many days—hence my fancy to call it the 'Lost Lagoon.' I trust some day there will be no other name."

We have all [*continues "The Spectator"*] seen Coal Harbor, but who has seen it as Pauline Johnson did. And, who could have told us in words like these.

Note: "For years ago" seems to imply some visit earlier than 1910, for the difference between 1913, when she died, and 1910 when she "took up residence in Vancouver" does not appear sufficiently long a period to warrant the expression "for years ago."

11 December 1950. J.S. Matthews.

City Archives,
City Hall
Vancouver

THE NAMING OF "LOST LAGOON."

Stock Exchange Building
VANCOUVER, B.C.

December 13 1950.

Major J.S. Matthews,
City Archives,
City Hall,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Major:

I was delighted to hear from you again and was particularly interested in the manifestations of your assiduous endeavor, and the interesting note, which throws definite light on the fact that Pauline Johnson had the upper end of Coal Harbour in mind when she wrote her beautiful lines to the Lost Lagoon.

In 1923, when the Gyro Club held its potlatch, she had long since written "Lost Lagoon." The name, up to that time, had never been applied by anyone other than her to these waters. The Gyro held its Potlatch right on the Causeway. We called it "Tillicum Trail," and I suggested that we name the actual body of water and call it "Lost Lagoon," the name being suggested by Pauline Johnson's verse, which seemed most applicable. Pauline wrote her verse prior to the building of