

Early Vancouver

Volume One

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2011 Edition (Originally Published 1932)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1931-1932.

*A Collection of Historical Data, Maps, and Plans Made with the Assistance of
Pioneers of Vancouver Between March and December 1931.*

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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28 OCTOBER 1931 - JOHN INNES, HISTORICAL SCENIC PAINTER.

Went to see him today, as he phoned he had completed the coloured preparatory sketch of Greer's Beach, Kitsilano, from my drawings and description. Am to get him more details. We sat chatting. He is now over 70.

He told me more about his early experiences on the prairies. Said he was on the survey crew. The chief surveyor was a cranky old boy who got drunk whenever a chance offered. On one occasion, he got so inebriated the DTs developed, and Mr. Innes was sent to look after him. On his arrival, the surveyor got tearful, said he was going to die, moaned "Goodbye, John, goodbye," so, said Mr. Innes, "there was a pillow close by, so I picked it up and gave him a 'bat' on the head." The chief acknowledged the blow by saying that he (Mr. Innes) was "most dishreshpeshful."

I asked if he found age and eyesight interfering with his work. He replied, "No, better than ever, more experience is improving me."

I asked how many pictures had he ever painted. He laughed and tossed his head. "Why," he said, "the Hudson's Bay have 21 in London now, and there is 30 in the store on Granville Street packed up, that's 51."

I asked, how long did he stay in New York. He replied, "Six years, but I was on illustrating work then; I don't think I painted half a dozen pictures during the whole six years."

JSM

MRS. MARY CAPILANO.

She is (may be—see the file Capilano. JSM.) the granddaughter of the brother of the chief Capilano who received Vancouver in 1792. Noel Robinson told me he asked Chief Matthias about it.

(Note: granddaughter of half-brother who was born long after 1792.)

A lot of rot—she was about 88 when she died about 1920 or 1930.

JOHN INNES.

Surveying on the prairies was onerous hard work, he said. "I was leading chain man, and what with taking notes of the soil, etc., and other work, it kept us very close and hard at it all the time."

JSM

28 OCTOBER 1931 - HOLY TRINITY CHURCH.

The first Holy Trinity Church in Kitsilano was on Pine Street, and is now, 1931, used as the "Orange Hall," 2380 Pine Street, a small wooden building probably sixty feet long by twenty-five wide, laid out in the form of a cross, with domed or cupped chancel. The first marriage there was Mr. William Hunt and Miss —, 3 June 1901. Mr. Hunt is the son of that Mr. C. Hunt who painted *Granville Street 1884*, a forest trail scene.

About the same time, St. Mark's Church was at the southeast corner of Maple Street and First Avenue West. The two churches were in too close proximity to each other. Hence St. Mark's moved westward, and Holy Trinity moved southward. At the time of Mr. Hunt's marriage, the rector was Reverend John Antle, afterwards to acquire fame as the reverend gentleman in charge of the Mission Motorship *Columbia* of northern waters with headquarters at Alert Bay Hospital, Alert Bay. See further on history of St. Mark's Church.

JSM