

Early Vancouver

Volume One

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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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And so it is that old-timers chuckle when they tell stories of the vast shoals of smelts which once could be dragged ashore with a garden rake (a truth).

JSM

30 DECEMBER 1931 - CHIEF CAPILANO, 1792. MEETING OF CAPTAIN VANCOUVER. MRS. MARY CAPILANO, NOEL ROBINSON.

Some time ago, I asked Mr. Noel Robinson of the *Vancouver Star* and a close friend of Mrs. Mary Capilano, now a very old Indian woman, and whose oil portrait is in the Vancouver City Museum, if Mrs. Mary Capilano was actually a relative of the Indian chief who received Vancouver in Burrard Inlet, 1792. He did not seem certain, and promised to find out.

On October 29th last, he told me that he had questioned Chief Matthias of the North Vancouver Indian Reserve, a bright-minded intelligent native, who had assured him he, Chief Matthias, was sure that Mrs. Mary Capilano was a granddaughter of a brother of that Indian chief who had met Captain Vancouver in 1792. Mr. Robinson is highly regarded by and most intimate with the Indians of North Vancouver.

(Noel did a lot of guessing.)

JSM

HOW SOME INDIANS GOT ENGLISH NAMES. JOHNNY SCOW, INDIAN, ALERT BAY.

In the summer of 1927, I spent three months at Alert Bay, and one evening was sitting on a log on the beach, smoking with Johnny Scow, an intelligent Indian aged probably forty to forty-five.

"Johnny," I said, "how did you get your name?"

"You know, Mr. Munn, Westminster, him have salmon cannery," replied Johnny, and I nodded, "he call me. One day long time ago, scow break away in storm at Steveston; lot of women and children on scow; I go fetch 'um back scow. After that Mr. Munn he call me Johnny 'Scow.'"

Afterwards, I asked the Anglican rector at Alert Bay what name he was using in recording the christening of Johnny's children. "I call them all 'Scow,'" he replied, and added, "and the same with Harry Mountain's children; Harry's Indian name signifies 'Mountain,' so I am christening all his children 'Mountain' as their surname."

30 DECEMBER 1931 - EARLY LOGGING "SKID ROADS" IN VANCOUVER.

1-That which ran down Cardero Street into English Bay.

2-That which ran from the foot of Granville Street on False Creek in a northwesterly direction.

3-That which ran from approximately the corner of Robson and Granville to the C.P.R. roundhouse site.

4-That which probably ran from the Cambie Street grounds to False Creek, location unknown.

5-That which ran from approximately corner of Granville and Georgia streets to the foot of Burrard Street (Elysium Hotel).

6-That which is shown in the *World* of New Year's Day, 1888 or 1889 as being Cordova Street (and old picture of Cordova Street).

7-That which ran from Eighth Avenue West and beyond, passing Eighth Avenue between Yukon and Columbia streets on its way to the foot of Cambie Street on False Creek.

8-That which came down east of Main Street, Mount Pleasant, about St. Catherines Street, to False Creek.

9-That which came down to Kitsilano Beach, crossing Third Avenue West about Maple Street.

10-That which ran from the foot of Yew Street, Kitsilano Beach, to the corner of Second Avenue and Larch Street (remains still there in 1909 near St. Mark's).

11-That which ran in the general direction of Seventh Avenue from Granville (or Centre) Street westerly, probably joined No. 9. Ended west, foot of Vine Street.

12-That which came down Macdonald Street to English Bay.

13-That which came down Balaclava Street to English Bay.

14-Several ending at Fraser's camp, Jericho. (See old Admiralty charts.)

Others there undoubtedly were, but of the above, many of the remains could be seen thirty years ago. They were all, or nearly all, near water—springs or creeks—a necessity for oxen or horses, as well as the needs of men.

30 DECEMBER 1931 - HOLY TRINITY CHURCH (ANGLICAN), NOW ORANGE HALL.

Mr. and Mrs. William Hunt, now of 2158 West Seventh Avenue, were the first couple married in this church, 3 June 1901.

ST. MARK'S CHURCH (ANGLICAN), SECOND AVENUE WEST.

Miss Wenmoth was the first baby christened.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH (PRESBYTERIAN), RICHARDS AND GEORGIA.

Mr. W.H. Evans, engineer on the first train into Port Moody, and who occupied the first house built (by C.P.R.) in new section behind Kitsilano Beach, now 2030 Whyte Avenue, and Miss Gordon were the first couple married in St. Andrew's Church, 18 June 1890. The first concert there was 29 May 1890.

On Christmas Day, 1888, Miss Gordon and Mr. W.H. Evans walked together across the new Granville Street Bridge, which then terminated on Third Avenue. (Mrs. W.H. Evans, née Miss Gordon.)

NOTE ADDED LATER:

The earliest marriage solemnised in the little temporary church beside St. Andrew's—it faced Georgia Street—was on 9 April 1889, or as they put it, "47 years ago" (from 1936) of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Blair. Reverend E.D. McLaren was minister.

IMPERIAL OPERA HOUSE, THE OLD DRILL SHED.

The first concert (according to Mrs. Evans who had an invitation card with the date) in the old Imperial Opera House was that of the Vancouver Philharmonic Society, F.W. Dyke, Secretary, 15 May 1890.