

## **Early Vancouver**

### **Volume One**

**By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.**

**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 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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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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.