

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 NOVEMBER 1931 - KITSILANO, STREET NAMES.

It was, according to Mr. J.H. Calland, formerly alderman, and a very early resident of Kitsilano, Miss Bulwer, niece of Mr. Henry Bulwer, formerly a rancher of Mission City, latterly of Kerrisdale, retired, who suggested the names given to six of the well-known streets of Kitsilano, Trafalgar, Balaclava, Blenheim, Waterloo, Collingwood and Alma, formerly otherwise known. This was in or about 1909.

During a conversation at his early home on the waterfront at the corner of Trafalgar and Point Grey Road, the question of street names came up, and Miss Bulwer said to Mr. Calland, "Why not call them after battles?" A selection was made.

"So," said Mr. Calland, "I chose the best name" (Trafalgar Street) "for my own street, and afterwards approached the City Council, who put the matter through right at once. There were six of them."

J.S. Matthews

J.H. CALLAND OF KITSILANO.

J.H. Calland came to Vancouver in 1888, and in 1902 was conducting a small real estate business on Hastings Street opposite [the] Strand Hotel. One day, a gentleman came into his office and said he was going to buy a ticket on the "Derby" Sweepstake, and made a present of it to a Mrs. Kenworthy, saying that tomorrow was her birthday, she would be 40, and he and Mr. Calland went over to the Strand bar, where he bought ticket No. 40. Mr. Calland said he would take 41, so he bought No. 41, both paying one dollar. That evening, Mr. Calland was offered \$600 for his ticket, on Mrs. Calland's advice refused it. He won the sweepstake, and with it \$1,200, I think it was, a larger sum in those days than now. (The name of the Derby winner was "Ardcastle" or "Hardcastle.") Afterwards, with this and other money, he bought his estate, some hundreds of feet of waterfront on Point Grey Road between Trafalgar Street and Stephens Street. Soon afterwards, Mr. C.G. Major of New Westminster said to Mr. Calland, until then a perfect stranger, "I wish you would sell some property for me, you seem to be lucky," and as a result, according to Mr. Calland, the English Bay bathing beach became the property of the city of Vancouver. Prior to that time, bathing had for years been indulged in at English Bay, and Simpson's boat house operated at the foot of Denman Street, but the foreshore was privately owned. In early years, a by-law to raise funds to purchase several acres there had been submitted to the electorate of Vancouver, but it failed to pass. As soon as Mr. Major's property was placed in the hands of Mr. Calland, he approached the City Council, with the result that much of the foreshore where now stands the bathing pavilion was purchased for the city. At the time, there were a number of small cottages west of Denman Street on the shore between Beach Avenue and the beach, and also a large private club, the English Bay Club. All were pulled down, but not so with the property on the shore nearer to the park. That was built upon, including the huge Englesea Lodge apartments among other buildings, an unfortunate occurrence.

At the same time, Mr. Major placed a large section of Block 192 in Kitsilano in Mr. Calland's hands for sale, and he subsequently made approximately \$50,000 out of it. "That dollar set me up," said Mr. Calland once.

Subsequently, Mr. Calland sold nearly all his beautiful waterfront site, piecemeal—by many considered the most beautiful home site in Vancouver—retaining a small portion only as his home. One of the most vicious taxation outrages was perpetrated: for years, he was taxed not as a residential site, but as a very valuable waterfront or dock site. Mr. Calland once stated to me that he paid as much taxes as a steamship company. Finally, it was remedied, but not until after he was much reduced in circumstances.

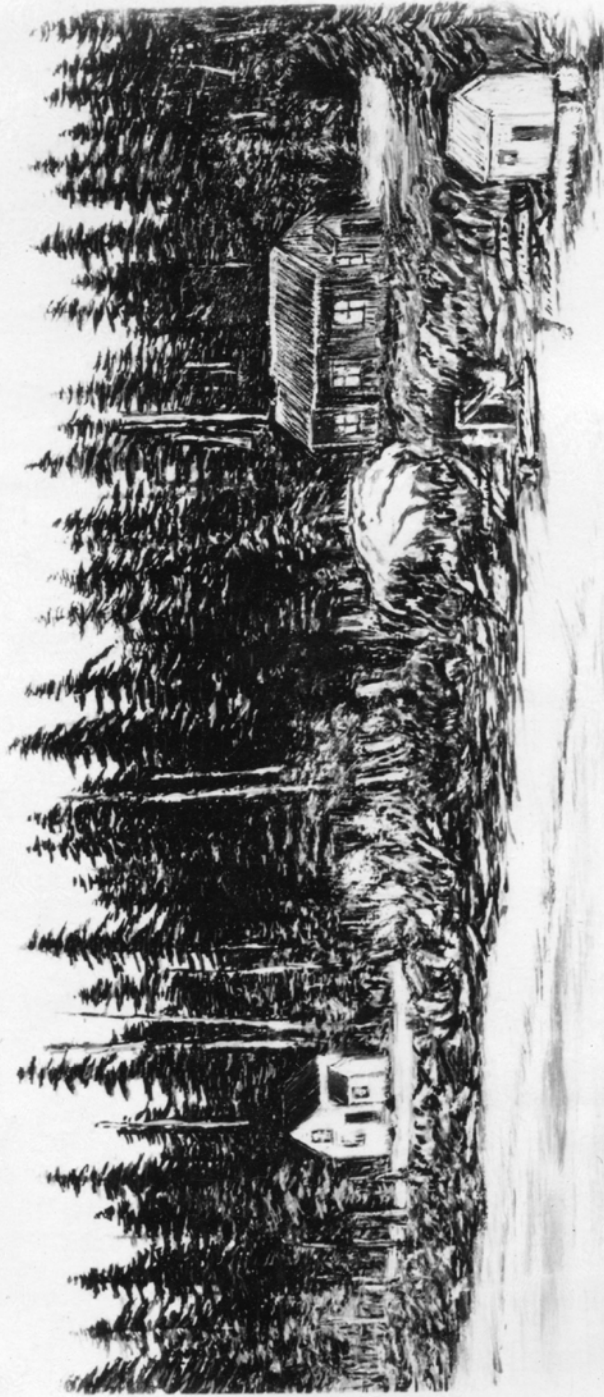
JSM

Approx. 1929



Item # EarlyVan_v1_0081

English Bay. Beach Ave. at Denman St. 1890



ENGLISH BAY 1890. Logger's shack,
first house, bathhouse, and big
stone at foot of Denman St.

Photo of oil painting owned by Cap^t Percy Nye, master mariner, Vancouver, arrived 1889. The board and batten shack was owned by Simpsons of English Bay, and occupied from fall of 1890 to spring of 1894 by M^r MacKay and her daughter, afterwards M^{rs} Percy Nye. It had been previously the shack of the loggers who logged off the West End. The white house with red roof, built approx. 1890-1894 was built by M^{rs} MacKay(?) and still stands, Feb. 1932, somewhat altered, immediately behind entrance to English Bay Pier. The white house was north of, and the shack south of Beach Ave. - the latter on shore just west of Denman St. A primitive bathhouse stands on shore just east of Denman St. (see back) 1932.

ENGLISH BAY (Beach Ave and Denman St)
first cottage--former logger's shack.
greenhouse--former pig-sty. 1889.

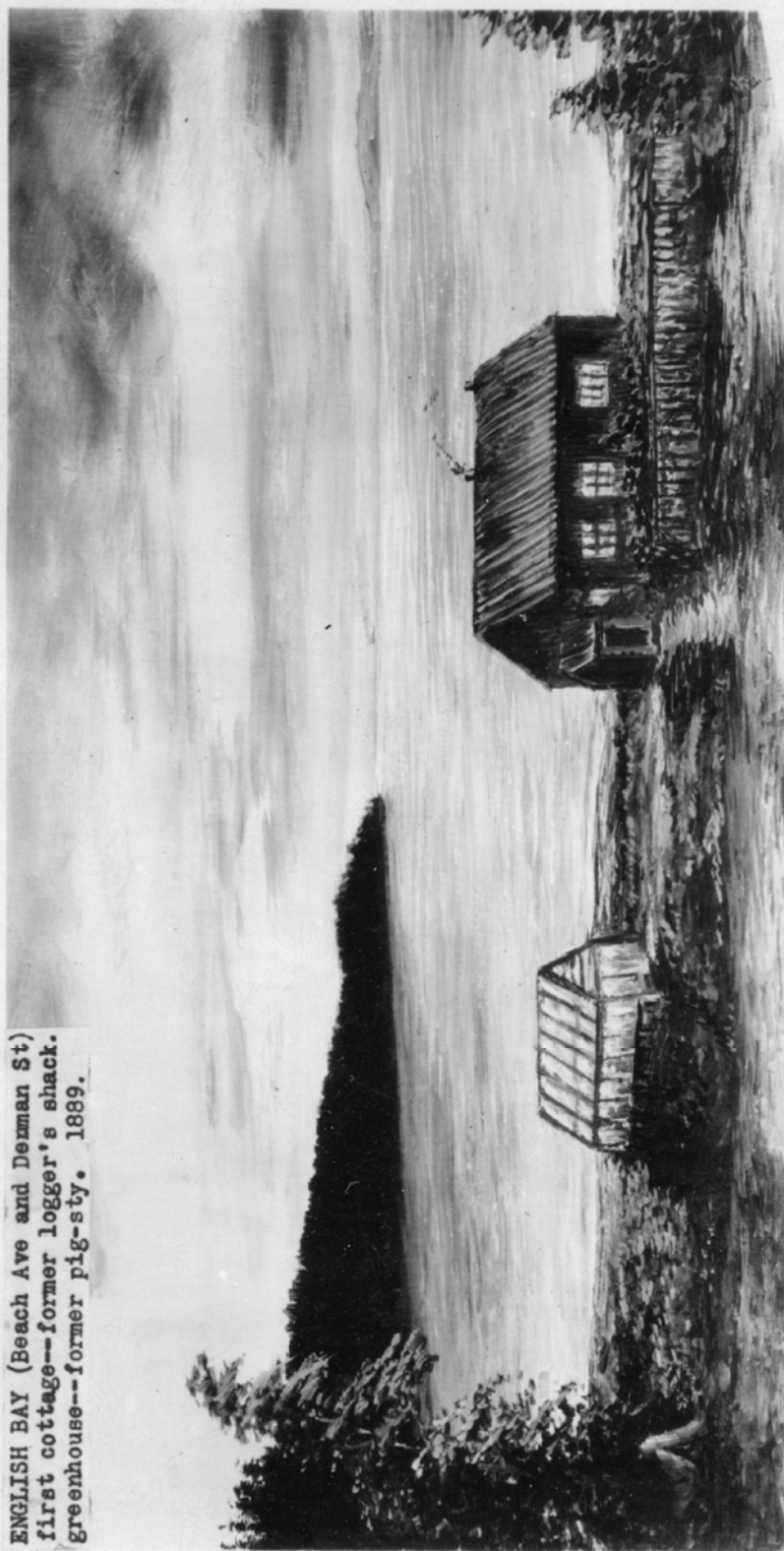
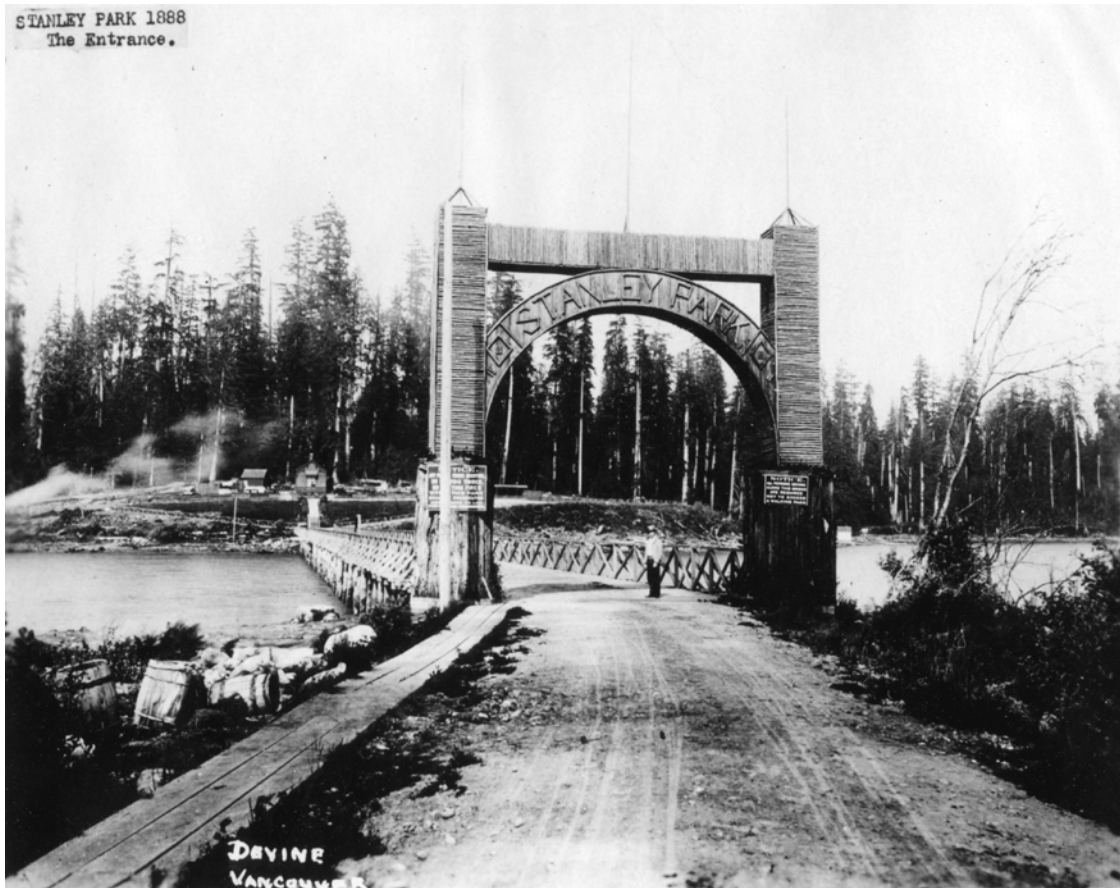


Photo of oil painting owned by Cap Percy Nye, master mariner, Vancouver, arrived 1889. The shack stood between Beach Ave and water at foot of Denman St, and on site of present concrete bathhouse, west of Denman St (see back). Mrs Mackey and her daughter, afterwards Mrs Percy Nye went to live there in fall of 1890 and remained until spring of 1894. It belonged to The Simpsons, well known; was of unpainted board and batten, and had been purchased, for \$50, by Simpsons from those who had logged off the West End. The small buildings the pig sty. A creek ran into the sea, a short distance westward. The Simpsons changed the pig sty into a glasshouse.



Item # EarlyVan_v1_0084



Item # EarlyVan_v1_0085

COAL HARBOR 1887, now "Lost Lagoon"
(between Georgia and Robson Sts)



Item # EarlyVan_v1_0086



Item # EarlyVan_v1_0087

30 NOVEMBER 1931 - OPENING OF STANLEY PARK, 1888. BURRARD INLET. VISIT OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

One of the features of the ceremonies in connection with the visit to Stanley Park by Lord Stanley was an excursion trip for Lord Stanley of Preston (the Earl of Derby afterwards), probably the first excursion on the waters of Burrard Inlet. The C.P.N. steamship *Princess Louise* was used. Lord Stanley was accompanied by his son, the present Earl of Derby, as A.D.C. [aide-de-camp], and who afterwards became such a distinguished statesman, and originator of the "Derby Recruiting Scheme" during the Great War.

In 1931 the Earl of Derby wrote that he had searched his own and his mother's papers for documents, etc. relating to the opening of Stanley Park, but could find none.

JSM