

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

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“At that time there was a large creek which came down the hill from the direction of Broadway, and crossed Third Avenue at Cedar Street and Third Avenue, and entered the bay at the foot of Yew Street—about ten yards to the west of the foot. There was another stream which entered the bay about the middle of the beach, and I think it must have been connected with the other, but am not sure, at about the Henry Hudson School. It ran through the muskeg.

“The salmon used to go up both streams when the tide was high, and go up as far as Third Avenue, where the creek ran in a ditch on the roadside. When the Australian boat first came in, the one which inaugurated the All-Red Line, the *Warrimoo* or *Miowera*, the sailors used to come up to see us at -Greer’s Beach, and they were greatly surprised to see the salmon swimming in the ditch under the electric light. At that time Third Avenue was a principal street, and had one or two electric lights; it was the only street which was open north of Seventh, and was open only as far as Vine, where it ran into the forest.

“Between the two streams I have spoken of there was a high strip of land which ran along the beach from about the foot of Yew to half way between Whyte and Creelman streets produced. It was quite narrow, wider at the base than at the point, covered with grass, and with some small bushes, green and luxuriant, very convenient for bathers to dress or undress behind. We used to come down False Creek by canoe, and camp on this high strip of land for a couple of months; others came too, some from Westminster. It would be about 1896 to 1898. It soon got noised abroad, more came, and finally the city authorities stopped it on account of sanitary conditions.”

J.S.M.

KITSILANO BEACH.

The high strip of land—it was not more than two or three feet about the surrounding swamp, though much higher, say ten feet, than the lake which once existed between Maple Street and Laburnum Street—was the old site of Mr. Sam Greer’s home, almost immediately behind the present bathhouse (1931). Ultimately the campers became so numerous, probably about 1904 to 1906, that they formed themselves in streets, and spread half way along the beach. When the Hon. and Mrs. J.W. De B. Farris, afterwards attorney-general of B.C., were first married, and not possessed of the worldly goods they afterwards acquired, they camped on the beach at the foot of McNicholl Avenue, one or more summers.

J.S.M.

KITSILANO.

A gentleman, who has lived many years at 1912 York Street (opposite Henry Hudson School) told me recently, that when he went there first he caught trout, to amuse his little daughter, in a small creek which ran through his garden.

J.S.M.

NEWSPAPERS.

Vancouver Herald

Vancouver News

Vancouver Daily Advertiser

News-Advertiser

On 30 March 1887, the *Vancouver News* publishes its last issue, and on Thursday morning, 31 March 1887, the title becomes