

Early Vancouver

Volume Two

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Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1932.

Supplemental to volume one collected in 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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EXCERPTS FROM CAPTAIN GEORGE VANCOUVER'S JOURNAL—TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION
WITH ANDREW PAULL'S (QOITCHETAHL) REMARKS.

1792

At five in the morning of June 13th we again directed our course to the eastern shore.

Which in compliment to my friend Capt. Grey of the navy was called Point Grey.

From Point Grey we passed to the northward of an island [*Stanley Park*] which nearly terminated its extent, forming a passage from ten to seven fathoms deep [*First Narrows*] "not more than a cable's length in width. This island lying exactly across the channel appeared to form a similar passage to the south of it [*Coal Harbour*] with a smaller island [*Deadman's Island*] lying before it. The channel [*Burrard Inlet*] in width about half a mile continued its direction about east. Here we were met by about fifty Indians in canoes, **who conducted themselves with great decorum and civility, presenting us with several fish cooked and undressed of a sort resembling smelt. These good people, finding we were inclined to make some return for their hospitality showed much understanding** in preferring iron to copper.

For the sake of the **company of our new friends** we stood under easy sail, which encouraged them to attend us some little distance up the arm. The major part of the canoes twice paddled forward, **assembled before us**, and each time a conference was held. The subject matter, which remained a profound secret to us, did not appear to be of an unfriendly nature, and they soon returned, and **if possible, expressed additional cordiality and respect.** [*See Andrew Paull's explanation of this incident.*] Our numerous attendants, who gradually dispersed as we advanced from the station where we had first met them, and three or four canoes only accompanied us up a navigation which in some places did not exceed one hundred and fifty yards in width [*probably Second Narrows.*]

We landed for the night about half a league from the head of the inlet [*about Barnet*] and about three leagues from the entrance [*Prospect Point.*] Our Indian visitors remained with us until by signs we gave them to understand we were going to rest, and, after receiving some acceptable articles, they retired, and by means of the same language, promised **an abundant supply of fish the next day**, our seine having been tried in their presence with very little success. A great desire was manifested by these people to imitate our actions, especially the firing of a musket, which one of them performed, though with much fear and trembling. They minutely attended to all our transactions, and examined the colour of our skins with great curiosity; they possessed no European commodities or trinkets, excepting some rude ornaments apparently made from sheet cooper; this circumstance and the general tenor of their behaviour gave us reason to conclude that we were the first white people from a civilized country that they had yet seen.

Perfectly satisfied with our researches in this branch of the sound [*English Bay*] at four in the morning of Thursday, 14th, we retraced our passage in; leaving on the northern shore a small opening" [*north arm of Burrard Inlet*] with two little islets before it of little importance.

As we passed the situation from whence the Indians had visited us the previous day [*probably Whoi-Whoi or Homulcheson*] with a small border of low marshy land on the northern shores intersected by several creeks of fresh water [*Mosquito, Mackey, Mission, Lynn, Seymour creeks and Capilano River*] we were in expectation of their company, but were disappointed owing to travelling so soon in the morning. Most of their canoes were **hauled up in creeks** and two or three only of the natives could be seen straggling about on the beach. None of their habitations could be discovered whence we concluded that their villages were **within the forest.** [*See Paull.*] Two canoes came off as we passed the island [*Stanley Park—canoes probably from Whoi-Whoi*] but our boats being under sail I was not inclined to halt, and they almost immediately returned.

By seven in the morning we had reached the north west point of the channel. This also, after another particular friend, I named Point Atkinson.