

## **Early Vancouver**

### **Volume Two**

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

**2011 Edition (Originally Published 1933)**

*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 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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W.H. Gallagher states that it got its name from either a squatter who lived there under the assumed name of Grove, or from the fact that there was a little green open space there, two or three butternut trees, a patch of timothy grass, old logs, bush all gone, perhaps a Royal Engineers' or logger's camp on the point. The point was a very pretty place, a sort of mound, the butternut trees hung over the water at high tide; there was an Indian medicine ditch there, and the agreeable old man named Grove lived in a shack on logs on the beach. Its picturesqueness suggested it as a playground; Cambie Street was a mass of black stumps.

### **GROVE CRESCENT. EARLY PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS. SENTELL.**

Of this spot, Mrs. P.S. Saville, now of 1758 Venables Street, and sister to the three Sentell brothers who subsequently developed the point, says (November 1931):

"When I first saw that point on False Creek, it was covered with vine maples, wild crab apples, wild peas, shalal berries, and a profusion of blackberries; we went there to pick blackberries in 1889; it looked as though there might have been an old Indian encampment there, and I have been told that there was an Indian medicine ditch there, a sort of Indian Turkish bath, where in a hole in the ground they sweated themselves to cure a cold or ailment by putting hot stones in the water and sitting beneath a covering enclosed over it. Some said it was where Indians tried their fellows for crime.

"Then in 1890 my brother Alderman F.W. Sentell, bought the place at Grove Crescent. It was nothing when we went there; the bush was so thick you could not get through it. Our house, which was in the centre of block 109, faced south, looked over the waters of the creek, was slightly elevated on a bank which sloped gently down to the beach, and a popular bathing resort in summer time. The city promised my brother it would become a park; it was a delightful spot; he went ahead and cleared it, cleared the whole crescent at his own expense, spent an immense amount of time on it, put down a sidewalk, planted apple trees to the west of our house, cherries to the east, built a fine home, and for years it was an outstanding landmark for it was large and was painted white, and showed up well in the beautiful surroundings of green, and he was promised it would be a park, and never anything else; we had cut it out of the bush.

"Then all our hopes were dashed. First they put a septic tank for city sewers; we did all we could to stop it, but it was put in and finished. Finally it was wanted for Canadian Northern Railway yards; my brothers got \$100,000" (?) "for one acre in the ex-appropriation proceedings. The fine old house was torn down in 1912. It was a beautiful house, wonderfully finished, for my brothers were contractors and builders. I lived there in 1896, -7 and -8, at the time of the Klondike rush."

### **THE CITY HALL ON POWELL STREET.**

"My brothers built the City Hall on Powell Street, and when it was finished the city could not pay for it, so my brothers locked the doors, and would not let the city officials enter.

"We came here on 2 November 1887; my brothers had worked on railway construction. I forget the first building they erected, but the second was 417 Hastings Street East—next to the brick house—it is standing yet. Then my brothers, E.B., A.J. and F.W. Sentell built the tabernacle for Dr. Moody, of Moody and Sankey hymn book fame, evangelists, when he visited Vancouver in the fall of 1888. The tabernacle was built either on the Cambie Street grounds or where the old City Hospital was on Pender Street. My sister and I sang in the Moody choir. E.B. was one of the trustees of the Y.M.C.A. who guaranteed Dr. Moody's expenses."

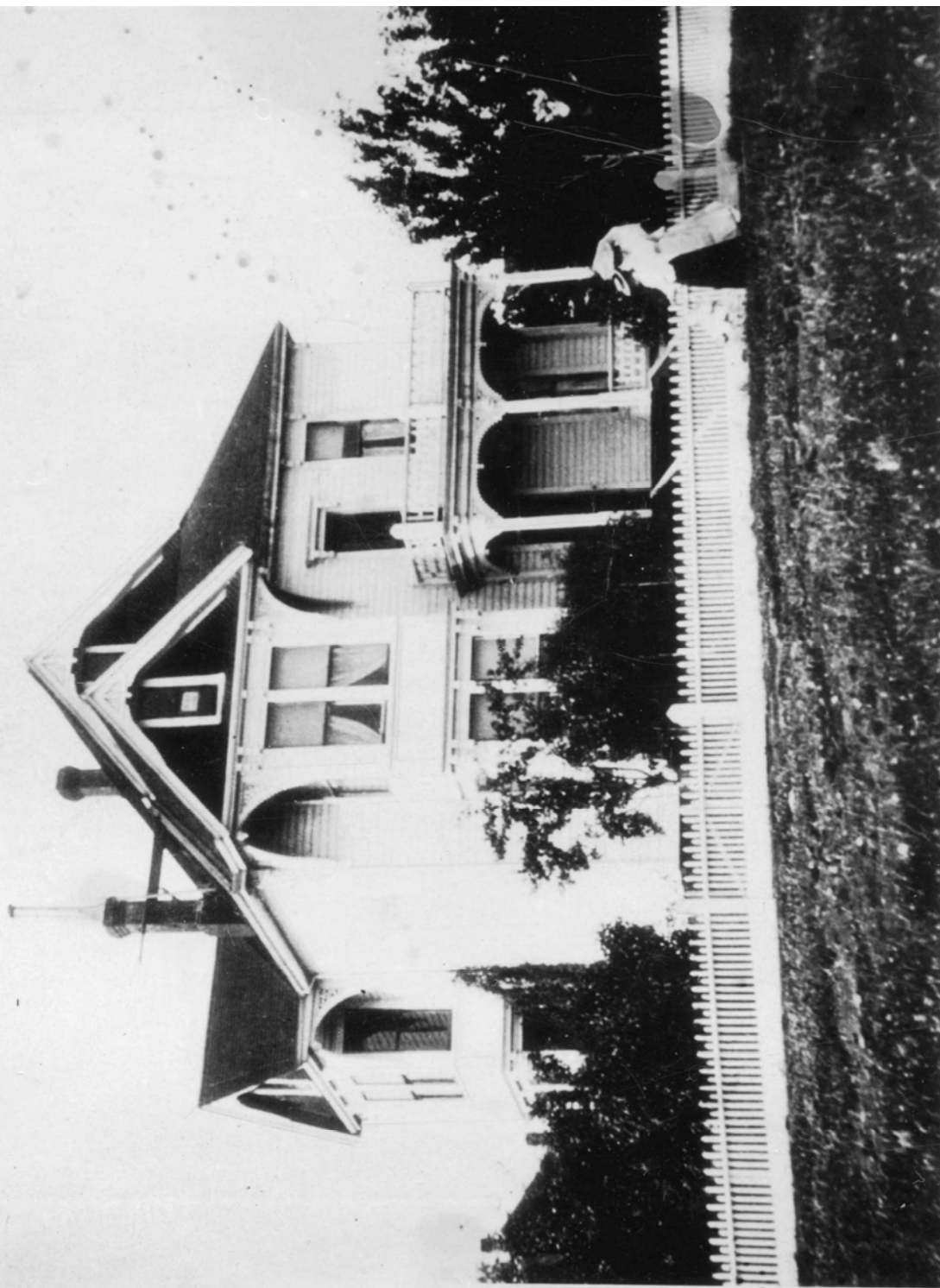
### **STANLEY PARK DRIVEWAY.**

"One thing about Stanley Park I recall very vividly. On 1 July 1898 we rowed over; the bridge was not built then; and walked along the park road, or driveway; it was all mud then."

Note: there is a photo of the Sentell home in the records.

Grove Crescent (upper False Creek), Home of the "Sextell" family, who pioneered there. It stood on block 100, faced south, construction commenced about 1892, finished 1902.

THE SEXTELL HOME, Grove Crescent.



Sold (ex-appropriated) by railway, 1912, \$100,000.00 and by them torn down. "A VANISHED LANDMARK ON FALSE CREEK" M<sup>rs</sup> Leonard Waterford, M<sup>rs</sup> Walter Prescott

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