

## **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**

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Note: Rev. Tate told me (JSM) he was not present at the marriage of Chief Lah-wa, but heard all about it at the time, and remember him well.

**EXTRACT FROM *COMMEMORATIVE REVIEW OF THE METHODIST, PRESBYTERIAN, AND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA*, BY REV. E.A. DAVIS, 1925:**

From this centre [*New Westminster*] regular preaching was maintained at Ladner, North Arm [*Eburne*] Burrard Inlet, in the school house at Hastings Sawmill, and in the cookhouse at Moodyville, Chilliwack, Langley and Maple Ridge. In 1874 Burrard Inlet became a separate charge, and the Rev. James Turner was stationed at that point, Granville, which was then known by the more popular name of Gastown. Gassy Jack was the nickname of a saloonkeeper from which Granville received its name. A lot was purchased from the government for the sum of two hundred dollars on which Mr. Turner built his parsonage. The following year an Indian church was built on the same lot for the use of the Indians who were working at the Hastings Sawmill. This was the first church of any kind to be built on the site of the city of Vancouver. The lot was lapped by the waters of the inlet. The disastrous fire which destroyed the first Vancouver took both church and parsonage. A large hall was afterwards erected on the lot which served for church purposes until the waterfront property was needed for business purposed when the Homer Street Church was built [*now Labor Temple*]. When residential Vancouver moved to the West End the present Wesley Church was erected, and may well feel proud of being the mother of some thirty churches throughout the city and district.

***METHODIST MISSIONARY NOTICES OF CANADA*, VOL. III, PAGES 84 AND 85, 1876:**

Burrard Inlet, Thomas Derrick. The full quotation given on previous page reads:

This is one of the busiest places in the province. The two sawmills employ in their different departments not fewer than five hundred men. Vessels from almost every part of the world come to the inlet for lumber. A fleet of eight or ten ships may be seen lying in the harbour at one time waiting for cargoes. Bro. Derrick feels especially at home among these shipmasters and lumbermen. He preaches at each mill three Sabbaths in succession, and on the fourth goes to the North Arm of the Fraser. When at home he also preaches to a congregation of Indians in the afternoon. This work among the natives has so increased on his hands that he finds it necessary to erect a church for their accommodation, and a subscription has been taken up for this purpose. The people at the Inlet are remarkable for their public spiritedness and liberality.

Thos. Derrick died on a train whilst going east from San Francisco in Spring of 1880. Authority Eb. Robson who (son of Dr. Robson) met him in San Francisco at that time, 1880.

Memo of conversation, 31 July 1936 with Mrs. R.M. Bower, daughter of Benjamin Springer of Moodyville:

"David Milligan was a Methodist, I know that. He had something to do with Sexsmith, out in Richmond, Lulu Island.

"Jonathan Miller's wife was an Anglican; Jonathan was not a very churchy man; all the Miller girls were married in the Church of England. Mrs. Todd Lees (Carrie Miller) tells me she knows nothing of any Methodist Church; she says she was christened in Church of England.

"My father, Benjamin Springer, together with all his brothers and sisters, were baptized in the Roman Catholic Church, but turned Anglican. I was born in 1882, and I remember going to our Moodyville schoolhouse to church, then to St. James, and finally father helped to build Christ Church; my godmother was Mrs. Bishop Sillitoe.

Mrs. Hugh Nelson: "He is an adherent of the Episcopal Church." *Biographical Dictionary of Well Known British Columbians*.

Memo, conversation, 31 July 1936, Mrs. Alice Crakanthorp (of Hastings Sawmill, 1873) and close friend of Miller girls:

"Capt. Soule was Church of England. David Milligan was storekeeper at Moodyville and a Methodist; Cordiner was a Freemason. Mr. Miller was a Methodist but Carrie was confirmed at old St. James Church." (See above.)

## **EXTRACT FROM RECORDS, LAND REGISTRY, VANCOUVER.**

### **5 JANUARY 1877, LOTS 14 & 15**

Grant from Crown to William Pollard. Lots 14 & 15, Block VI. O.G.T.

This property was partly on dry land, partly on beach of Burrard Inlet, see plan, Granville Townsite, 1870. Lot 16 is the northwest corner of Water and Abbott streets. Each lot was 66 feet wide. Rev. W. Pollard was chairman of the B.C. District of the Methodist Church.

### **12 APRIL 1877, LOTS 14 & 15**

William Pollard conveys property to the Trustees of the Burrard Inlet Congregation of the Methodist Church of Canada. Trustees, as shown by Land Registry books, *Registry of Absolute Fees*, Vol. 5, page 13. Jonathan Miller, Rev. Thomas Derrick, Hugh Nelson, Peter Cordiner (Mrs. D.R. Reid says Presbyterian), William Soule (Mrs. D.R. Reid says Anglican), Benjamin Springer, David Milligan.

"William Pollard," says Ernest Hall (1932), son of Rev. Joseph Hall, Methodist minister at time of Great fire, "was my grandfather."

Springer baptized R.C., turned Anglican. Auth. his daughter Ruby Bower: Church of England.

### **27 DECEMBER 1886, LOT 14**

The Methodist Church, under corporate seal, conveys lot 14 to Robert G. Tatlow. Page 253.

### **4 JANUARY 1887, EAST ½ LOT 14**

Robert G. Tatlow conveys east half of lot 14 to Rt. Hon. Ernest King, Earl of Kingston, who, 1 September 1890, conveys it to Jessie M. Major.

### **31 MAY 1890, WEST ½ LOT 14**

Robert G. Tatlow conveys west half of lot 14 to John Hill Twigg (General Twigg of Twigg Island).

### **21 SEPTEMBER 1888, LOT 15**

Methodist Church conveys lot 15 to John B. Lovell.

## **THE METHODIST HALL.**

(Stood on Lot 15, afterwards numbered 113 and 115 Water Street.)

Extract, article by Mrs. Mary O'Connor, *Western Recorder*, October 1893.

"Every Tuesday evening a class meeting was held at the house of Mrs. Josephine Sullivan, when seven was the largest number present." (March 1884.)

"The school house became too small," "decided to rent a place," "only available place was Blair's Hall, a saloon in front, hall at back," "decided to build a hall for ourselves," "Rev. Robson preached at opening services, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1886," "big fire, June 13<sup>th</sup> 1886," "after fire rebuilt same shape, same size." (Fall of 1886.)

Altered 1920. Demolished 1924. Building permit 19 February 1924. \$22,000.