

## **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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## **SOME EARLY TRAILS.**

Salisbury, son of W.F. Salisbury, treasurer of C.P.R. in early days: "The only remnant of the old trail to English Bay now remaining" (1932) "is where it crosses in a southwest-northeast direction across a vacant lot at the northwest corner of Nelson Street directly in front of the Nelson Street fire hall."

A city employee, name unknown, 21 December 1931, whilst tearing down the tower of the old City Hall:

"I built the first house in the district just close around 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Yukon Street and Columbia Street in 1900, the spring; just a three-room shack; got the lumber cheap from the old" (Leamy and Kyle) "mill at the southern end of the Cambie Street bridge, and dragged it up to my place on a stone boat. The city used to give us stumping powder free, but it took five years to clear the little patch. There was a single track street car on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue then, and once we blew out a stump, as big as 'a house,' it went cavorting over in the air, and landed on the street car rails, and we had to get a man to come and help us draw it off the street car line. Used lots of powder, supplied free by city. Our little house was all cedar, cost \$65, three rooms, stove pipe, no chimney, bricks too costly. When we went down to the City Hall to ask where the road was they did not seem to know, and told us to build our house 'facing the mountains.' There was salmon in the creek which ran through our property. I had to build a great big culvert, three or four feet square; in a storm it was a big creek; culvert still there. I used to amuse myself watching the snakes on the edge of the creek with necks craned like swans, then there would be a lightening jab, and they hooked out a little fish from the creek."

## **WILD CATTLE IN STANLEY PARK.**

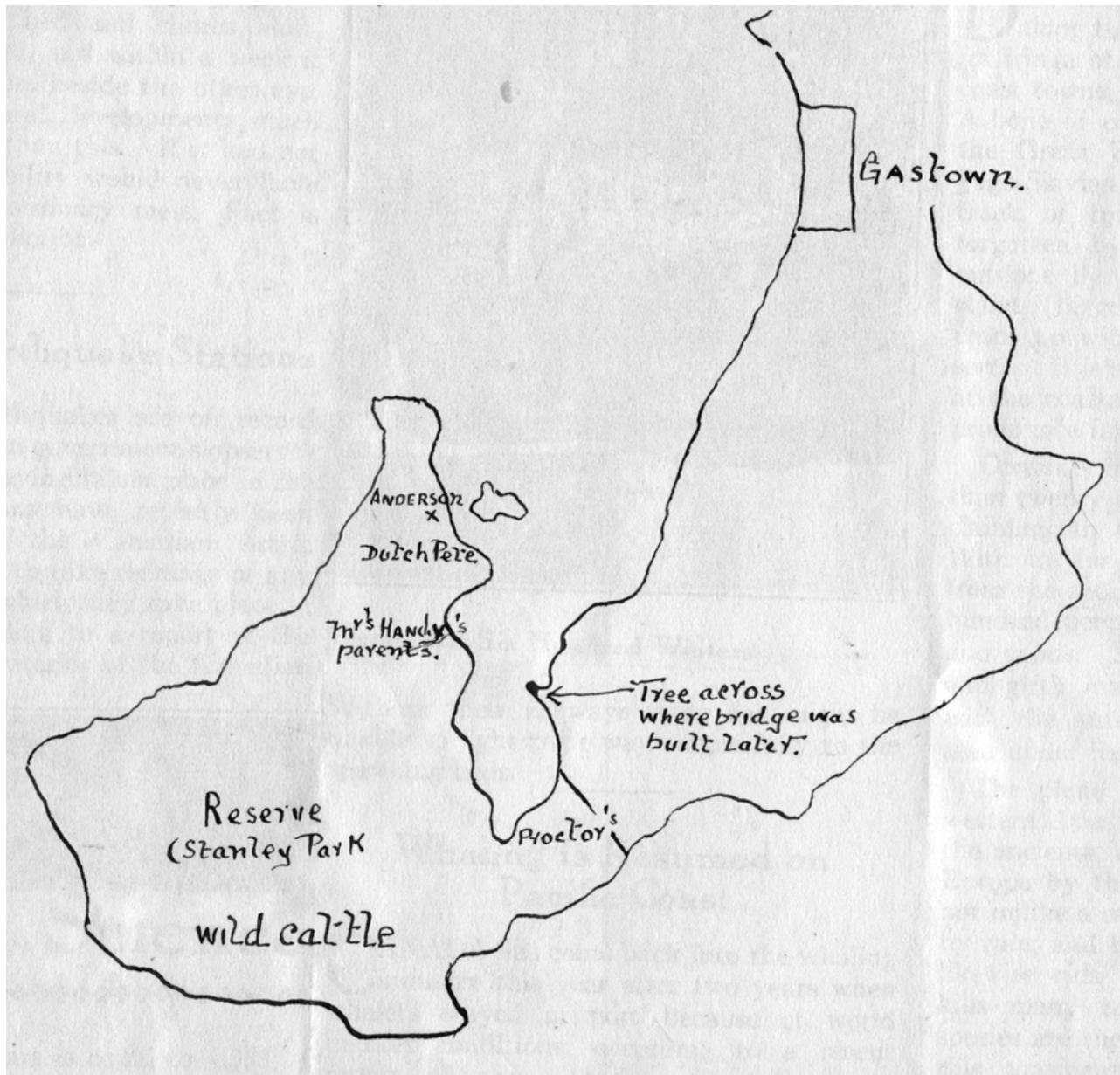
Mrs. S.W. Handy, P.O. Box 71, Chapman's Camp, 19 and 29 August 1932. Letters:

"I got into my skiff, and rowed over to the" (Deadman's) "Island, when (by the time I arrived there) the whole town was gone. I have marked the place on the map where I lived" (at the mouth of the small creek just east of the entrance to Stanley Park.) "Also where the man Anderson lived right opposite Deadman's Island, and Dutch Pete, just on the other side. Then at the head of the Bay" (head of Lost Lagoon), "was a man and his wife with two daughters. The man's name was Proctor." (Note: Dr. Langis says Proctor was living at one time in Morton's old shack and getting out spars for the British navy.) "As for the town I can hardly say with any certainty for I was only fifteen years of age. I do know that all that was left of the town was Alexander's house and the old sawmill and one church."

"Yes. There was a trail over to English Bay and also there was an old cow that went wild in there, and had a bull calf, then from them there was a herd of cattle numbering eight, so I was afraid to wander much in the woods."

Letter, 29 August 1932: "The cattle lived in the reserve now known as Stanley Park. Yes, you have marked the place correctly, also there was a tree felled across the point where the arrow points" (the site of the first bridge.) "I do not know what happened to them but heard that the government had them shot as they were very wild and dangerous."

"My dear old husband has been so very sick, and has just passed away, Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, so I have not read much."



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