

Early Vancouver

Volume Three

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Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1933-1934.

Supplemental to Volumes One and Two collected in 1931-1932.

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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SAWMILL AT EAGLE HARBOUR.

"Caulfeild, who lived in this cottage" (Bailey photo) "and Mowatt, our account, started to build a mill in that little double cove just around Point Atkinson; they got it about half built, and then, I don't know exactly what happened, but it never ran."

THE MILL HOUSE.

"At first we lived in the little cottage, then we went to live in the house shown here in this C.P.R. map" (Cambie, 22 February 1886) "and finally we built our third house on the southeast corner of Dunlevy and Gore Avenue; it is still standing."

INDIAN SLAVES.

"There was a rumour once that the Cape Mudge Indians were down and were 'outside'" (English Bay.) "Our Indians were alarmed and stayed pretty close in; they were afraid. We had an Indian boy, Douglas, by name; both his parents were slaves, in slavery up north somewhere."

15 DECEMBER 1933 – CONVERSATION WITH FRED W. ALEXANDER, SON OF R.H. ALEXANDER, OF THE HASTINGS SAWMILL (MANAGER), AND AFTER WHOM ALEXANDER STREET IS NAMED.

MOODYVILLE RIFLE RANGE.

"Dr. Bell-Irving used to go over to the old Rifle Range to shoot—and shot Mrs. Lynn's cow." (Lynn Creek.) "Don't just know how he did it, got impatient or something, and let go; anyway, he 'got' the cow, and I believe paid her" (Mrs. Lynn.)

(Note by J.S.M.: The old Moodyville Rifle Range was not fenced, but just a couple of targets set up, and the small bushes on the flats between Seymour and Lynn Creek, cleared away. I was often over there about 1900; if there were any firing points, then they were very primitive ones; my recollection is that riflemen fired from clear spots in the grass at the different distances.

The Moodyville Rifle Range was never used by the militia—they used Brownsville or Central Park until they got Richmond in 1904. Occasionally an officer of the militia or the visiting warships might have an afternoon's practice over there, but for years it was the private range of the Vancouver Rifle Association, a very early semi-military organisation.)

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH HAROLD E. RIDLEY.

(See Genealogy form.)

STANLEY PARK, SECOND BEACH. VERY EARLY SQUATTERS.

"I asked Mr. Ridley what he thought of the stories of the Cariboo Miners camping for a few days or weeks at Second Beach owing to the Fraser River being in flood and the mosquitoes 'awful' in the spring and summer of 1858 when the van of the gold rush started." (See Joe Sievwright.)

Mr. Ridley: "A long time ago there was an old log cabin, built entirely of logs, which stood, perhaps, about three hundred yards from Second Beach, and about fifty yards from the water, on the west side of Lost Lagoon, about where Haro Street would touch if produced. When the Parks Board put a road through there, they destroyed it—it was still standing then—I presume because it looked ugly; it was just a tottering wreck then; and was between the road the water. The Parks Board did a lot of cleaning out in there. It was just a small log cabin; it was very old even when I first remember it. I often wondered who built it, but never knew." (See R.W. Harrison.)

WARSHIPS. CANNON SHOT.

I asked Mr. Ridley what he thought of the muzzle-loading cannon shot, seven-inch diameter, eighteen inches long (about), weight 111 pounds, with six brass or bronze rifling studs, found on the beach near the Nine O'Clock Gun, Brockton Point, 27 January 1934, where it had seemingly rolled out of the bank on to the shore. (See Otway Wilkie and Shells – Cannon Shot.)