

Early Vancouver

Volume Three

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2011 Edition (Originally Published 1935)

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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one on the West. My first plan was based on the cancellation of the plan to the west of "Lot 185." I had a new plan drawn making great changes in it and so made that all the streets leading westerly from the C.P.R. property would run without any jog with those in Lot 185. There were a number of owners, in fact, all but one consented to it. A Mr. Pratt [*Spratt*], who owned 4 lots on the waterfront, where the lofty Marine building is now being erected, had had a disagreement with the other land owners and was determined to fight through the courts to prevent us altering the original plan. As we could not wait, I had to adapt my plans as nearly as possible with the old plan, but in doing this was only able to give a continuous line for the alternate streets. You can understand that I was obliged to switch my plan so as to have the principal streets to run northerly and southerly, inasmuch as they would thus lead to the large block of land belonging to the C.P.R. south of False Creek. Expressing my regret at not being able to meet you, I am Yours very truly,

L.A. Hamilton.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH MAJOR-GENERAL JOHN W. STEWART, C.B., ETC., AT HIS OFFICE (STEWART AND WELCH), 425 HOWE STREET, VANCOUVER, 28 DECEMBER 1933.

GRANVILLE STREET.

At my request, General Stewart received me. I called at his office, and found a picture of health and activity seated at his desk within a hundred yards of a noisy, busy artery of traffic, Granville Street, which must hold entrancing memories for a man who first saw it as a peep hole through an evergreen mass of dark, damp forest. He said:

SURVEY OF STREETS, VANCOUVER, 1885.

"No, I don't recall the stake from which the survey of Vancouver commenced, being driven. What I do recall is that we camped on the other side of False Creek; about the site of the sawmill" (Hanbury's, just west of Granville at Fourth Avenue.) "There was no mill there then; they were dumping logs into the water." (See many references to this skid road.) (Rowling.)

FALSE CREEK TO BURRARD INLET IN THREE DAYS.

"And I remember it took *three days* to cut a line from False Creek" (north side) "to Burrard Inlet for Granville Street; the timber was so heavy." (See McWhinney, Myers, Rowling.) "That was in the winter of 1885-1886." (Cambie Map of right of way was signed by Abbott 22 February 1886.)

"You see, I was here six months only; then I went east up the line on other survey work, and did not return for twenty years; consequently my recollections are not particularly vivid. Other than Mr. L.A. Hamilton, I do not recall who was on the survey party. I do recall that, on the day of the Fire of 13th June, 1886, we were camped at Hastings."

H.B. SMITH'S MAP OF VANCOUVER, 1886.

"H.B. Smith was not on the party I was on." (The lithographed map, "adopted by the Mayor and Council of Vancouver," and signed by Mayor MacLean and City Clerk McGuigan, bears "H.B. Smith.")

REFERENCES – *EARLY VANCOUVER*, VOL. 2.

"Hamilton told me he started the survey from the corner of Hastings and Hamilton streets, using a nail driven in a wooden post as a starting point." – Findley.

"The corner post from which the survey started was placed with a certain amount of ceremony at the corner of Hastings and Hamilton streets. The only ones I can remember were members of the party were Charlie Johnson, John Leask, Jack Stewart, and Louis, chief axeman, the son of an English canon whose name I cannot recall." – Hamilton letter.

"Jack Leask, whilst blazing survey lines between Carrall Street and Westminster Avenue, got lost, and the party spent all afternoon searching for him" – Mrs. D.R. Reid.