

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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Aberdeen, and Lady Aberdeen. All the school children were there; they came from the Central School on Pender Street, and from the little wooden school house which stood on Burrard Street, at the corner of Barclay and Burrard." (The Aberdeen School is built there now.) "The Dawson School further south was built afterwards. I am somewhere in the group; Mother is also. The children of all schools were given a holiday and sang songs from the grandstand, for the edification of Lord and Lady Aberdeen. This took place in the C.P.R. Park, which faced the Hotel Vancouver." (Photo No. ?)

CHILDREN OF THE LATE JOHN JOSEPH NICKSON AND MRS. NICKSON OF SECHLT, B.C.

(Eight—three sons and five daughters.)

Catherine Louise, born at New Brighton, near Birkenhead, Cheshire, England. Widow of the late Fred S. Deal.

Thomas Ralph, born at Seacombe, near Birkenhead, Cheshire, England. Married Bay Banfield, daughter of J.J. Banfield; has three sons—John, Allen, Rex. (*NOTE ADDED LATER*: died 16 or 17 March 1939.)

Margaret Jane Lindsay, born at Somerville, near Birkenhead, Cheshire, England. Unmarried.

Edith Hilda Charlotte, born Cobble Hill, Shawnigan Lake, B.C. Widow of late Arthur Follett Paddon; has two children—Edith Frances Jane, John Reginald.

Martha Beatrice, born 1270 Melville Street, Vancouver, B.C. Married E.S. Baylis; has two sons—John, Denbigh Hoults.

John Reginald Washington, born at 1270 Melville Street, Vancouver, B.C. Went overseas in 1915 with the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles; afterwards Pilot in the Royal Flying Corps, in England; was killed on 2 January 1918 whilst training an American airman to use "Bristol Fighter" aeroplane. Was unmarried.

Robert Harold, born at 1270 Melville Street, Vancouver, B.C. Unmarried.

Jessie Irene, born at New Westminster, B.C. Married Major Thomas Douglas Sutherland, D.S.O., M.C., etc., Imperial Army. Has one son—Thomas Douglas Lindsay Sutherland.

N.B. "I notice that no mention is made of the work Father did for the Canadian Pacific Railway, including the work in connection with the Loop—Cambie Station, the Roundhouses he built for them in Regina and Kamloops—also the clearing of the original Shaughnessy Heights.

"Other works which might also be mentioned are:

"Building the Railway in the State of Washington.

"Clearing of the land in North Vancouver for the Lonsdale Estate.

"The railway, etc. built for some American firm at Three Valleys. (Mr. Mundy was one of the principals.)

"The first stone sea wall at English Bay, built near the entrance to Stanley Park, for Dr. Lefevre."

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. JANE NICKSON, MOTHER OF T.R. NICKSON, 13 JUNE 1934.

(After reading her son's narrative to her.)

CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.

"The one-storey grocery was DesBrisay's; I got my first groceries there." (Southeast corner Hastings and Granville Street. See photo No. ?)

GEORGIA STREET.

"The cart bringing our furniture got stuck in the mud on Georgia Street about Thurlow Street, and we had to carry it; everything, down to our cabin on Melville Street."

VANCOUVER WATER WORKS.

"McGillvary pulled the first line of pipe over, my husband pulled the second; they were taken up again, I believe, about a month ago; no longer of use now that the tunnel is completed."

S.S. ABYSSINIA BREAKS WATER MAIN.

"The water pressure gauge was in our house, and I used to watch the gauge; a gauge like a steam gauge; if the pressure went down, the indicator needle went back. I saw the pressure had gone, and telephoned the water works."

"The people used to come to my house, too, for water. We had a big cistern made of wood and lined with lead or zinc; all my neighbours came to us for water."

LIKELY, B.C.

"They nicknamed my husband 'The Beaver'—i.e., because he built the dam."

EARLY STREET CARS – ROBSON STREET.

"Yes, the end of the street car line was about Nicola Street. Oben was clearing the forest at the time." (See Oben.) "The street cars went right up to the forest on Robson Street." (Note: the first street cars in Vancouver operated 26 June 1890.)

BELL OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY BEAVER.

"I used it for a call to meals at one time; used to strike it."

CLEARING OF SHAUGHNESSY.

"He was the first one to start the clearing of Shaughnessy Heights and started the first fires of the huge pyramids of stumps piled up for burning."

GRANVILLE STREET SIDEWALK.

"I don't know who the boys who had the play house Captain Nye speaks of" (Vol. 2) "underneath the Granville Street sidewalk" (west side) "unless it was my boys or the Dunn boys; there weren't many boys around in those days. I used to walk over that way, through the swampy land, and bushes; it might have been myself whom Captain Nye heard calling across to him." (See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2.)

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH T.R. NICKSON, 13 SEPTEMBER 1934.**GRANVILLE STREET.**

(See Captain Nye in *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2, re boys having a play house lined with newspapers under the Granville Street sidewalk, west side, between Dunsmuir and Georgia streets.)

"That was our little playhouse; just a little place under the sidewalk, lined with newspapers, a bit of a table the boys had made, and a few boxes for seats and heater, just a little heater. I don't recall just who all the boys were which used it, there was not such a heck of a lot of boys around, but there were Norman and Andy Forbes" (Forbes Realty Co.) "and Ralph Berteau, and the Dunn boys" (Thomas Dunn's sons.) "It was only about six feet square. We used to be pretending to sell newspapers, and when we saw anyone coming who knew us, we ducked into there out of sight. The C.P.R. had their park there at the time."

MOODYVILLE.

"The Spit, Moodyville! Oh, the sawdust pile. I remember winning a race there, a running race. We ran around and around and around. I won. Old Captain Mellon was a judge, and was to give me a prize, but I never got it."