

## **Early Vancouver**

### **Volume Three**

**By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.**

**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**

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Chilliwack, and was responsible for two men's deaths up the Cariboo. He jumped their claim and the judge gave it to him, and the two young fellows went down river and were drowned."

#### **PORTUGUESE JOE.**

"Portuguese Joe had no store in Gastown in my day; his family is up at Pender Harbour now."

#### **NAVY JACK.**

"Navy Jack was a bartender in Robertson's Saloon."

#### **INDIAN CHURCH, GRANVILLE.**

(See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2.) "I remember the little old Indian church, just a bit of a place about twenty-four feet wide and forty long; bell on top; oh, that would be 1884 or 1885. Out Coal Harbour way the Siwashes had a little path; they used to drag their canoes across from English Bay" (into Lost Lagoon); "dragged them across in bad weather. Then around the shore they had a nice little orchard, two or three acres."

"My father was Irish, so was my grandfather; I was born in New York; been married 59 years now" (Mrs. Myers was seated nearby) "and her lips are just as sweet today as they were fifty-nine years ago."

#### **MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. WALTER E. GRAVELEY, 8 JUNE 1933.**

(See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2.)

"You see, when I left Winnipeg in the summer of 1883, I went to Victoria. It happened that at the time matters concerning confederation terms were under discussion in the House; the building of the dry dock at Esquimalt; and the building of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway; they all said it would make work, and there would be a real estate boom, and I thought I would make a bit of money in real estate. I came with just \$4,000, all I had."

"So I got interested in a piece of land owned by the Hudson's Bay Co., twenty acres, and asked them what they wanted for it; \$400 an acre, that is, \$8,000. E.V. Bodwell was in on it with me, half shares, but I had only \$4,000 and they wanted \$8,000 cash. So I asked the Hudson's Bay Co. how long it would take to get the deed, and they said, 'Six weeks to two months.' So I countered with, 'Would you take half cash, and the balance when the deeds arrive?' They said, 'Yes, that would be all right,' so I paid over all I had."

"Then I got the property surveyed, into lots, and some little dodgers printed, just little pieces of paper with a map of the property, and terms, \$3,000 a lot, \$25 down, and the balance without interest, and had them folded in with the daily newspaper, so that everybody got one. Before the deed arrived, I had the money to make the second payment."

"Ultimately, Bodwell took the unsold lots, and we, Innes and Graveley, got out, got from under. We had had one experience in Winnipeg, and did not want another. F.C. Innes and Co." (Innes, Richards and Ackroyd.) "F.C. Innes was a partner of mine in Winnipeg, and afterwards in Victoria in 1883 and 1884, and then we dissolved partnership, and Innes came over the Granville and had his first real estate office on Carrall Street. I came over later. Then Innes took in Richards, and afterwards Ackroyd, and finally Gall."

#### **TERMINUS OF C.P.R. COAL HARBOUR. A.W. ROSS. WM. VAN HORNE.**

"A.W. Ross, as you know, was a brother to Mrs. MacLean, wife of our first mayor, and had been in the real estate business in Winnipeg. He came to me one day with a letter. He made me promise that, whether or no the contents of it led to business, I would tell no one of its contents. The letter was from Van Horne. I read it. It was to the effect that the terminus was to be at Coal Harbour, not Port Moody."

#### **HASTINGS MILL LAND. GRANDVIEW.**

"The Hastings Mill people owned all that land, 264 A, at the head of False Creek, Grandview now; the Hastings Mill was practically owned by San Francisco people, Victoria and San Francisco anyhow. Ross got an option on a lot of that property for Powell, Oppenheimer, Dupont and ourselves, Innes and Graveley; Ross had no money, but was given one fifth interest. What about J.C. McLagan and the

property placed in Ross's name in trust for us? 'Us' was J.C. McLagan and Gideon Robertson; we had all known each other in Winnipeg.

"Then one day Van Horne got off the steamer from Tacoma at Victoria and A.W. Ross was with him. A sheriff tapped Ross on the shoulder as soon as he touched the wharf. It was a most awkward situation for Ross; he had come up on the boat with Van Horne and here he was under arrest as soon as he landed. Some clergyman in Australia had entrusted some funds to him for which it was said he had not accounted. It was a week or so before we found out. When we did we went to a lawyer, had him draw up an assignment—I have the document yet—and conveyed to us his interest. The outcome was that Oppenheimer and Dupont got out of the trouble, but in getting out, Ross gave our property, 1,400 or 1,500 acres in what is now Grandview, as security for their advances to him personally."

#### **POST OFFICE. A.W. ROSS, M.P.**

(Looking at Ridley photo of Maple Tree and Gastown.) "A.W. Ross, the M.P., used to come up the two-plank sidewalk from the Hastings Mill with the mail bag slung over one shoulder, walk into the Granville Hotel, and dump it on the counter; then everybody would help themselves to their letters." (This was before the Fire.)

Archivist's note: In more recent years, probably 1888-1890, A.W. Ross' office, with section of big Georgia Street tree beside it, stood on the south side (see photo No. ?) of Hastings Street, between Hamilton and Homer streets, about present DeBeck Block. Later the firm was Ross and Ceperley, now Ceperley, Rounsefell and Co.

#### **EXCERPT, *PORT MOODY GAZETTE*, SATURDAY, 16 MAY 1885, PAGE 3, COLUMN 1.**

##### **THE COAL HARBOUR LAND SYNDICATE.**

As considerable interest attaches to the above firm on account of the grievous harm that has resulted from it, not alone to Port Moody, but, we think we may truly say, to the Province at large, we have taken pains to secure the names of the original stock holders. If there are any mistakes in the names or the number of shares originally held by the gentlemen respectively, we are open to correction.

Oppenheimer Bros.	3 shares
Messrs. Mara and Barnard	3 shares
Dr. Powell	3 shares
Messrs. Hugh and Geo. Keefers	3 shares
Mr. Strous	2 shares
E.G. Pryor	1 share
R.E. Jackson	1 share
D. Harris	1 share
Wm. Powers	1 share
Dupont	1 share
Messrs. Hawks and Dunlevy	1 share

Each share represents \$17,500 x 20, the number of shares - \$350,000, total amount of stock."

#### **STREET NAMES.**

Archivist's note: The above is interesting as revealing the source from which some of our street names in that area was derived.

#### **CONVERSATION WITH WALTER EDWARD GRAVELEY (CONTINUED).**

##### **FIRST SALE OF LAND, C.P.R. THE NAME VANCOUVER.**

"I bought the first piece of land the C.P.R. sold in Vancouver" (see *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2), "that is, on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1886. Here is the receipt on which you will see is printed Vancouver, B.C., and it is dated 6<sup>th</sup> March 1886, which is a month before Vancouver became Vancouver officially, and it is for parts of Lots 1, 2 and