

Early Vancouver

Volume Five

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Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1936-1945.

Supplemental to volumes one, two, three and four collected in 1931, 1932 and 1934.

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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"L72 School", 1908. Municipality of Point Grey. In 1900, a private cottage, 500 West Nineteenth Ave north east corner Ash St., a nameless school known by number only, due to its location on District Lot 472, being 100 acres surrounding Division 2. 9 muskeg, once an elk pasture deep in forest, glade, the empty, 19 June 1972, by William Hackie, Cariboo gold miner, a remarkable tract in the centre of the extensive "C.P.A. Grant, and the location, 1882, of first vegetable garden, now Douglas Park. D.L. 472 is bounded by 16th Ave, Oak St., King Edward Ave and Cambie St. The first school, "J.L. 472, Division One School", Miss Margaret Whitefen, teacher, average attendance, November 1908, nineteen older pupils was named after a similar cottage on Eighth Ave. but scholars becoming numerous, "J.L. 472, Division Two School", Miss H.M. Hesson, who took charge, Sept. 1908 was established, average attendance, November 1908, seventeen, younger pupils, total school attendance, Point Grey Municipality, 1909, average attendance 72. This school was approached, from the north only, by a three plank sidewalk, was heated with cord wood alone and its pipe chimney, had "running water, septic tank, and the children played on the lawns, deer still roamed to the south, sometimes a bear or cougar was reported, as in the forest beyond. Both cottage schools were replaced, and succeeded by "Shaughnessy School", corner King Edward Ave and Oak St., the logical successor of all three schools is now, 1940, "Edith Cavell School", 500 West 20th Ave. This Copeland, went to one room, 18th Ave, in Italy, and thought to have been first teacher at "L72 School", Point Grey separated from old South Vancouver 10 Jan 1908. Photo presented, 1940, by Rex C. Hatch, City Archives 1210.

[photo annotation:]

"472 School," 1908. Division 2.

Municipality of Point Grey. In 1940, a private cottage, 599 West Nineteenth Ave., north east corner Ash St., a nameless school known by number only, due to its location on District Lot 472, being 160 acres surrounding a muskeg, once an elk pasture deep in forest glad, pre-empted, 19 June 1874, by William Mackie, Cariboo gold miner, a remarkable tract in the centre of the extensive "C.P.R. Grant," and the location, 1882, of first vegetable garden, now Douglas Park. D.L. 472 is bounded by 16th Ave., Oak St., King Edward Ave. and Cambie St. The first school, "D.L. 472, Division One, School," Miss Margaret Whiteley, teacher, average attendance, November, 1908, nineteen older pupils, was nearby in another similar cottage on Eighteenth Ave., but scholars becoming numerous, "D.L. 472, Division Two, School," Miss H.M. Hesson, who took charge, Sept. 1908, was established; average attendance, November, 1908, seventeen younger pupils. Total school attendance, Point Grey Municipality, 94, average attendance 74. This school was approached from the north only, by a three plank sidewalk, was heated with cordwood stove and its pipe chimney, had running water, septic tank, and the children played on trail, or in the bushes. Deer still roamed to the south; sometimes a bear or cougar was reported as in the forest beyond. Both cottage schools were replaced, and succeeded by "Shaughnessy School," corner King Edward Ave. and Oak St., the logical successor of all three school is now, 1940, "Edith Cavell School," 500 West 20th Ave. Miss Copeland went to one room, 18th Ave., in May, and thought to have been first teacher at "472 School." Point Grey separated from old South Vancouver 1st Jan. 1908. Photo presented, 1940, by Reeve J.A. Paton.

City Archives. J.S.M.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH MISS H.M. HESSON, 1164 MELVILLE STREET, 22 MAY 1938.

POINT GREY SCHOOLS. FAIRVIEW SCHOOLS. EDITH CAVELL SCHOOL.

Miss Hesson said: "Miss Margaret Whiteley, now Mrs. Cross, a widow with two sons, had a school room in a house on the north side of Eighteenth Avenue, Fairview, between Ash and Heather streets, in 1908, but before she was there, there was, about 1905, another teacher, a Miss Copeland, now Mrs. Harry B. Harvey, of Point Grey, who used the same single room in a house for a school room."

"Note: Mrs. Harvey, née Copeland, says it was one room, opened in May, and, she thinks in 1905.)

"At the time I was teacher we had two rooms, one in the old place used by Miss Copeland, and later by Miss Maggie Whiteley. The other school room was in a house, 599 West Nineteenth Avenue, and was in my charge. Miss Whiteley had twenty or thirty senior boys and girls, and I had about twenty-five junior boys and girls—all under the age of ten years."

D.L. 472 SCHOOL. SHAUGHNESSY SCHOOL.

"I was appointed by the Point Grey School board. If the school ever had a name, I never heard it. It was known as the D.L. 472 school, and was in the old Point Grey Municipality. I was just nineteen, and had taught for one year at Soda Creek, Cariboo, and then had had one year 'off.'

"The children came from north of Sixteenth Avenue, the old city boundary, and east of Cambie Street, and a few from what we now call Shaughnessy, which was just starting to build up. When I first went there I had to walk from the corner of Ninth Avenue and Westminster Avenue; there was no Sixteenth Avenue car line then. For years I walked up Oak Street from Broadway.

"My old school room was heated with a wood stove, but we had city water. I took my lunch with the janitor's wife, Mrs. Howard; Miss Whiteley went for lunch to her mother's; her mother was an early settler, and owned seven lots.

"The children played in the street, and in the stumps; there was no playground. It lasted a year or two; all south of the school was bush, or clearing, mostly forest and bush. The C.P.R. had not cleared it then. When I first went there, there were no sidewalks beyond Nineteenth Avenue; north of that avenue, where there were any at all, they had laid three plank boards."

KING EDWARD HIGH SCHOOL.

"Then, when they built the 'Shaughnessy School' on Oak Street, between Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth, I walked from Ninth to Twenty-fourth. The school was afterwards closed, and the 'Edith Cavell School,' built in the 500 block, West Twentieth, and the old 'Shaughnessy School,' on 24th, 25th and Oak, was later re-opened as an annex to King Edward High School."

GENEALOGY.

Miss H.M. Hesson, 1164 Melville Street, is the daughter of Mrs. Alexander Hesson, who came to British Columbia in 1885, went to Soda Creek, and came to Vancouver prior to 1889. She had seven children, and died in July 1919. In order of birth her children were:

1. Detail s unknown.
2. Miss Helena M.
3. Ruth, now Mrs. E.W. Nichols, (of B.C.E.R.) City.
4. Mabel Elizabeth, now Mrs. C.W. Colwell or Colvin of Vancouver.
5. Sandy, in United States.
6. Hilda, now Mrs. W.Q. Stirling, of Vancouver.
7. Lorne, deceased 1920.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. DAVID EVANS, NÉE AWREY (WIDOW, NOW OF 5727 NORTH EAST 33RD AVENUE, SEATTLE), WHO, IN COMPANY OF MRS. M.E. HARRIS, 1284 WEST 11TH AVENUE, ATTENDED THE VANCOUVER PIONEER ASSOCIATION PICNIC TO NEWCASTLE ISLAND, 14 JUNE 1939.

A beautiful day, calm and warm on a beautiful island fresh and verdant in the early summer. About 200 pioneers of Vancouver present.

DAVID EVANS, PIONEER TAILOR AND MUSICIAN. HASTINGS STREET, 1886. GRANVILLE STREET AT ROBSON STREET, 1886.

Mrs. Evans said: "Mr. David Evans came to Vancouver before I did; he came before the Great Fire, June 1886; I came November 16th 1886. The planks on Hastings Street were not laid at that time; afterwards they planked the centre of it. I remember that, once, Mr. Evans and I went for a walk up Granville Street; the Hotel Vancouver was building; they had more than the foundations finished. Mr. Evans and I stopped and stood in the stumps, about Robson Street somewhere south of Georgia Street; the stumps were all around us, and Mr. Evans said to me, 'I wouldn't be at all sure but there will be business on this street some day, but it won't be in our day.'" And Mrs. Evans smiled.

(See illustration in *Vancouver Daily Province*, 15 June 1939.)

MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY. HIRSCHBERG (SUICIDE). THE FIRST BURIALS.

"The first burial in Mountain View was my little son, Caradoc, about ten months old; February 1887; the date is on the headstone. At that time Mountain View Cemetery was just a little clearing in the forest; the fallen trees lying about everywhere as they had fallen. A Mr. Hirschberg had committed suicide in the Leland Hotel, and actually he was buried a day or two before my little son, but they had buried him on the side of the road, now Fraser Avenue, but all trees everywhere then; Mr. Hirschberg was not buried in the cemetery. Whether they subsequently lifted the body or not I do not know; he may be lying there yet so far as I know; I never heard that he was raised. Mrs. Hirschberg was not one who would bother much about that, and, in any case, she went off somewhere. The exact location of his grave I do not know, but it was somewhere about the location, the old entrance. Macdonald's cottage afterwards stood on the southwest corner of Fraser Avenue and East 33rd Avenue. You see, in those days Vancouver was without undertakers as we understand them today; there were no coffins to be bought; each one had to be made as required.