

Early Vancouver

Volume Six

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Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1940-1945.

Supplemental to volumes one, two, three, four and five collected in 1931, 1932, 1934, 1939 and 1944.

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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MEMO OF CONVERSATION OVER THE PHONE WITH MR. J.M. PRENTICE, 4433 WEST 4TH AVENUE, WHO VERY KINDLY CALLED IN RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.

Mr. Prentice has owned property in that district since 1907, went to live there in 1910, and has lived there continuously since.

SIMPSON AVENUE. ASH STREET.

Mr. Prentice said: "Simpson Avenue, as I understand it, was named after the Simpsons who had the boat house at English Bay at the foot of Denman Street, on the beach; they rented boats; there are lots of photographs of their old place; they had the first gasoline launch, the *Sea Foam*, for hire there. One of the Simpson family built out at Point Grey about 1908 or 1909, right down on the beach; the house is there yet, between Trimble and Sasamat; it is the tallest building there. But it is not the original cottage; moved to 4422 Queens Avenue."

Note: it stands on Lot [blank], Block [blank], D.L. [blank], 4459 Queens Avenue. Mr. Simpson died some years ago, his widow remarried; then she died, and the property was sold.

HADDEN AVENUE. QUEEN AVENUE. MARINE DRIVE.

"Hadden Avenue, which, properly, should be spelt Haddon Avenue, was named after Harry Haddon, of Nottingham, England. He invested in Vancouver real estate in very early days; then he had that 'Haddon Hall' in West Vancouver, now British Pacific Properties, and part of the Capilano View Cemetery; and he owned the lot the Royal Bank is on, the northeast corner, Hastings and Granville, and he presented the city, about 1929, with Haddon Park on Ogden Street. Kitsilano Beach; that cost him \$50,000. So to honour him, there was no street in Kitsilano called Haddon; they named that one Hadden Avenue. I don't think he had any property out there.

"You see, it used to be Queen Avenue; Queen Avenue was a continuation of Marine Drive, but there was no name to that part of it going through Locarno Park, so they named it Hadden Avenue."

LOCARNO PARK. ALDERMAN DR. R.N. FRASER. TRIMBLE STREET. IMPERIAL STREET. CHAS. T. DUNBAR.

"The original Locarno Park was between Imperial and Trimble streets, where all those firs and cedars are. Chas. T. Dunbar, after whom Dunbar Street and Dunbar Heights are named, owned all that property down there; that is, the old Locarno Park. The Inmans of the Inman Line of steamships, with offices in Liverpool, England, owned a mortgage, and when Dunbar died, and the estate was insolvent, the Inman people wanted to sell.

"We had an awful time getting the Municipal Council of Point Grey to buy the property, but finally we succeeded in persuading them to do so for use as a park. Then there was a prize offered for the best name for it, and Councillor Dr. R.N. Fraser" (he was afterwards an alderman of the greater city following amalgamation in 1929) "he suggested Locarno, as it was just about the time that the 'Locarno Pact' was signed, in connection with the League of Nations at Locarno, Switzerland. Locarno Park, as we know it today, is not the original park; it has been extended; originally it was the Dunbar property only, between Trimble and Imperial.

"You will notice the Point Grey by-law of 1916 refers to eight acres; the other two acres were made up, more or less, by the Simpson" (Simpson Avenue) "lots."

Approved by Mr. J.M. Prentice, his letter, 27 August 1940.