

## **Early Vancouver**

### **Volume Seven**

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

**2011 Edition (Originally Published 1956)**

*Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected between 1931-1956.*

### **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 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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Joseph Jones, milk ranch, Westminster Road, 1896. This is the back portion, his home was on the north east corner of Westminster Road, now Kingsway and Wind sor street. This barn, with cedar shake roof, was to the north, behind his home facing Westminster Road. (see companion photo). He had fifty eight cows, producing 110 gallons, average, per day. In the trees on the left was a stream. In a hollow, it provided water for household and farm. On Westminster Road, nearby, it was crossed by a narrow wooden bridge. Approximately the forest is now the site of Charles Dickens School, Block 81, and, on the right, Sunnyside Park, bounded by 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Aves, Glen Drive and Tverness St. Westminster Road, now Kingsway, was a slit in the forest. Wild animals, such as a bear, cougar, deer were not numerous. Photo by Devine, 1896. Photo presented, 12 Apr. 1951, by Reuben Hamilton, 836 East 20<sup>th</sup> Ave, who has resided in D.L. 301 for over 60 years; son of William Hamilton, pioneer, and School Trustee—as was also Joseph Jones—D.L. 301 School. City Archives & S.M.



Part of Milking Herd  
Joe Jones  
Westminster Road  
Vancouver, B.C.

Devine

Item # EarlyVan\_v7\_026

*[photo annotation:]*

Part of Milking Herd

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Westminster Road

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City Archives. J.S.M.

### **THREE CREEKS OF THE FOREST, NOW VANCOUVER.**

(This would make an interesting compilation if I had time to complete it. JSM. 1953.)

#### **CREEKS WHICH CROSSED KINGSWAY.**

Penrose Cabins,  
Gunn Lake, Goldbridge, B.C.  
June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1953.

Dear Major Matthews:

I want to write about the six creeks that crossed the old Westminster Road (Kingsway) on the way to New Westminster.

#### **NO. 1 CREEK. BEAVERS. BEAVER DAM IN MOUNT PLEASANT. WATER FOR HASTINGS SAWMILL. MUSKRATS.**

[No. 1 Creek] Began in South Vancouver where the water either flowed into the Fraser River, or found its way into False Creek. This creek passed through the uncleared part of Mountain View Cemetery, and drained a part of the Fraser *[Avenue]* swamp, and somewhere about or between 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Avenues, between Prince Edward and Sophia street, was a large dam, or the first dam the Hastings Sawmill men made to get water. If this was a beaver dam, then it was the only beaver dam that I have ever seen throughout the entire district, including Trout Lake.

(Note: Mr. Hamilton errs. Beaver were in Trout Lake and at Mount Pleasant.)

#### **DOERING AND MARSTRAND BREWERY. BREWERY CREEK. EELS.**

I remember seeing signs of beaver, but never saw any. However, there were lots of muskrats. This creek crossed Westminster Road on an angle between 9<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. It left behind, in places, very deep ravines. It passed within a few feet of Trimble & Sons' butcher shop, and ran the old water wheel for Doering and Marstrand Brewery, and was called "BREWERY CREEK." This was the only creek we, as boys, caught the eels to my memory.

**JONES CREEK. CREEK NO. 2. FALSE CREEK DAIRY. CHINA CREEK. CHINESE PIGGERIES. MADDAMS RANCH. GLEN PARK.**

Creek No. 2 also drained the Fraser street swamp, the upper part was called JONES CREEK. Where it crossed the Westminster Road were two milk ranches. Samuel Garvin, called "FALSE CREEK DAIRY," with Dairy License No. 1, and JOSEPH JONES. This was a good trout stream, and plenty of dog salmon came up in the Fall. It passed through or near the old Maddams Ranch, and here it was called CHINA CREEK, after the Chinese pig ranches. This creek drained the low land, what is known today as GLEN PARK. These grounds were used, for a number of years, as Chinese pig ranches and vegetable gardens. I remember when it was in its natural state, about the corner of Windsor street, and along 21<sup>st</sup>. A large ditch was dug to drain the Fraser Swamp.

**CREEK NO. 3. GIBSON CREEK. CEDAR COTTAGE NURSERY. BENSON'S BREWERY.**

The source of this creek began somewhere about 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, between Knight Road and Thynne Road, and flowed through Arthur Wilson's thirty-five acres of Cedar Cottage Nursery. At the corner of Westminster Road and Knight Road, on the bank of this creek, is where George Raywood build his brewery about the year 1900, and later it was known as BENSON'S BREWERY. The creek flowed across Kingsway at an angle, and just touched the border of old D.L. 301, and across 20<sup>th</sup>, and through the GIBSON property of about 17 acres. We called it GIBSON CREEK.

**CREEK NO. 4. DAVY CREEK.**

This creek was a branch of the GIBSON CREEK, and we called it the DAVY CREEK. It crossed Westminster Road near Commercial street. Now I think all those creeks—the Jones, the Gibson and Davy—joined the China Creek near its mouth before it flowed into False Creek.

**CREEK NO. 5. GLADSTONE CREEK. GLADSTONE INN.**

This was a small creek just beyond the old GLADSTONE INN, and it flowed into Trout Lake.

**CREEK NO. 6. COLLINGWOOD CREEK. BOUNDARY ROAD CREEK. STILL CREEK.**

This was a larger creek and was called either Collingwood or Boundary Road Creek and flowed into STILL CREEK.

These are the six creeks which I remember, and I don't think there were any more the rest of the way to New Westminster. I do not know if there is a record of all these six creeks, but it seems rather strange—NONE OF THEM, INCLUDING FALSE CREEK, NO LONGER EXISTS.

Sincerely,

Rueben Hamilton.