

Early Vancouver

Volume One

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2011 Edition (Originally Published 1932)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1931-1932.

*A Collection of Historical Data, Maps, and Plans Made with the Assistance of
Pioneers of Vancouver Between March and December 1931.*

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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Footnote or Endnote Reference:

Major James Skitt Matthews, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 1 (Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011), 33.

Bibliographic Entry:

Matthews, Major James Skitt. *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 1. Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011.

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18 JANUARY 1932 - THE CAMBIE STREET GROUNDS. QUEEN VICTORIA'S DIAMOND JUBILEE, 1897.

Excerpt, *World*, 28 June 1897: "The chain gang is being utilised in cleaning up and putting in shape the Cambie Street grounds for the sports on July 1st and 2nd. When the celebration is over some grass seed should be sown to complete the job."

GRANVILLE STREET. POST OFFICE.

Excerpt, *World*, 28 June 1897: "The west side of Granville Street between the Post Office and Georgia Street" (post office on corner of Pender Street) "should be looked after by the Board of Works Committee at once. The long grass should be cut down before the 1st of July in order to give the street a proper and business like appearance."

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION, 1897. CAMBIE STREET GROUNDS.

Excerpt, *World*, 2 July 1897: "The naval forces" (H.M. Ships *Imperieuse*, *Pheasant*, and *White Swan*) "were mustered on the Cambie Street grounds, etc. etc. The total muster" (of militia and sailors) "was most creditable, some 700 men being in line" (column of march.) "The rope surrounding the grounds" (Cambie Street) "was entirely lined with people. The grandstand was fully occupied."

Apropos of the above, there is in the Archives a photo of a naval parade of five companies marching past, and a hobbyhorse merry-go-round tent in the photograph foreground, on the Cambie Street grounds. This is the Diamond Jubilee naval parade.

The absence from this march past of military men—other than those shown restraining the crowd from encroaching on the ropes—is probably accounted for by the fact that the Victoria and Vancouver artillerymen were having a reunion elsewhere in the city.

18 JANUARY 1932 - DARKTOWN FIRE BRIGADE. DOMINION DAY CELEBRATIONS, 1 JULY 1890.

Excerpt, *Daily News-Advertiser*, 2 July 1890:

"During the greater part of the day the heat was intense.

"The firemen came next with the two engines." (This refers to Vancouver's fire brigade in procession.)

"The best gesture without doubt, and one which caused a good deal of amusement, was the Darktown Fire Brigade. It was composed of employees of the Hastings Sawmill, who manipulated the hose reel attached to that institution. The chief marched in front decked out in all the elaborate finery which is supposed to characterise his holiday attire. His stature was certainly greater than that of the average tall man, and to increase this he wore a hat which his great ancestor Ham might have worn during the Flood when high hats were the craze. His blazer was of the most blazing kind, and his nether garments had been fashioned from a barber's pole. To complete the outfit he wore a large sunflower on his breast, and blue spectacles on his nose.

"His followers were rigged out in equally unique style; the hose reel looked as if it had been through the wards. Indeed after inspecting it one saw the truth of their motto 'WE GIT DAR.'

"The Darktown Brigade was 23 strong."

A photo of this unique body is in the Archives department. It was taken on the old Hastings Road between Gastown and Hastings Mill.