

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

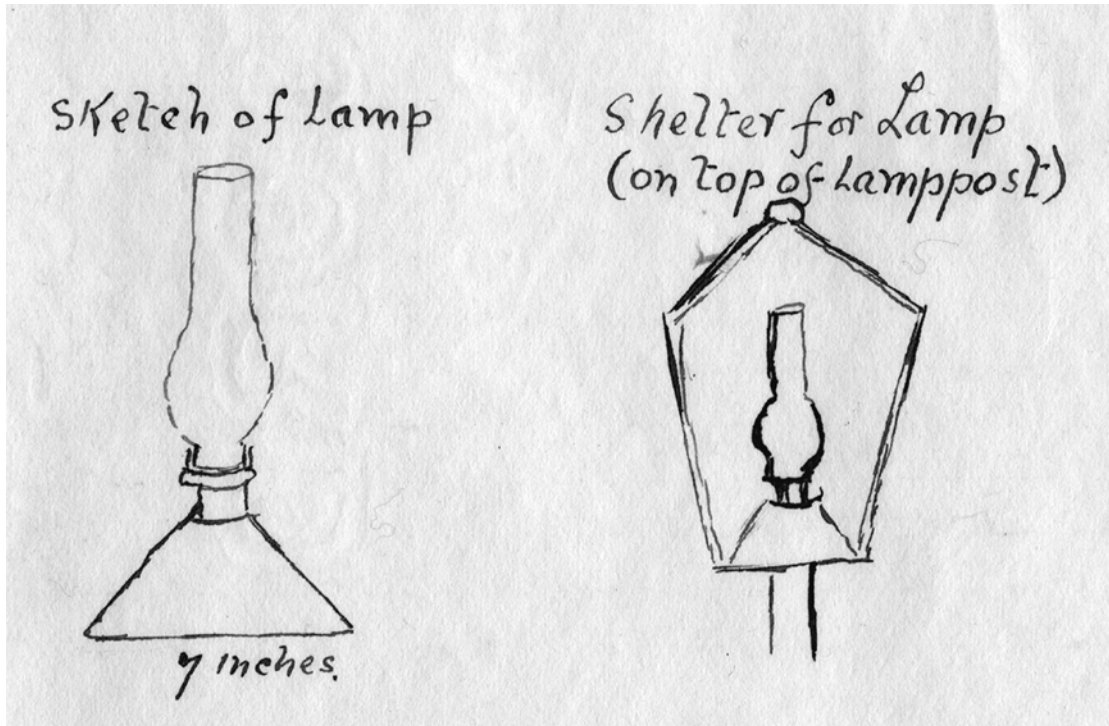
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Mr. W.M. Horie, of Baynes and Horie, tells me that the chain gang worked on streets around Balsam, York and First Avenue West in the winter of 1907. Grady was then in charge, and used to come to his house appealing for gloves, overcoats, etc., etc., "for my poor fellows, some of whom are not properly clothed for this sort of weather."

JSM

19 NOVEMBER 1931 - GRANVILLE AND SEYMOUR STREETS.

In the early 1890s and later, a shallow valley existed under, approximately, the corner of Granville Street and Dunsmuir Street. Mrs. J.R. Seymour, accompanied by Mr. Seymour's sister, Emma Seymour, once went gathering skunk cabbage in that shallow ravine, took a good armful home, thought they looked beautiful flowers, but could not understand where the awful smell came from as they carried them. They were then new arrivals in Vancouver. This ravine ran diagonally northeast and crossed Seymour Street between Pender Street and Dunsmuir, where, for years, the sidewalk on stilts was high above the ground beneath. The tree tops grew about to the level of the sidewalk, this is, second growth willows, etc. Old photos will illustrate the exact contour. Mr. J.R. Seymour was one of our early druggists and a well-known public man. In 1931 he was living in the 2000 block on Whyte Avenue, Kitsilano Beach. One of his two sons is a barrister in St. Catharines, Ontario, the other superintendent of the Edmonton General Hospital; his two daughters are unmarried. See *Who's Who*, 1923.

J.S. Matthews

J.R. SEYMOUR.

Of Mr. Seymour's two sons, one, Ainslie, was captain of the Vancouver High School Cadets, which made the trip to Australia in 1912; the other, Murton, was one of those interested in the very early aeroplane owned by Mr. Stark, photo of which is in the Archives, which is claimed to be the first aeroplane in Vancouver which flew. It was a queer looking contraption with the engine