

## **Early Vancouver**

### **Volume One**

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

**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 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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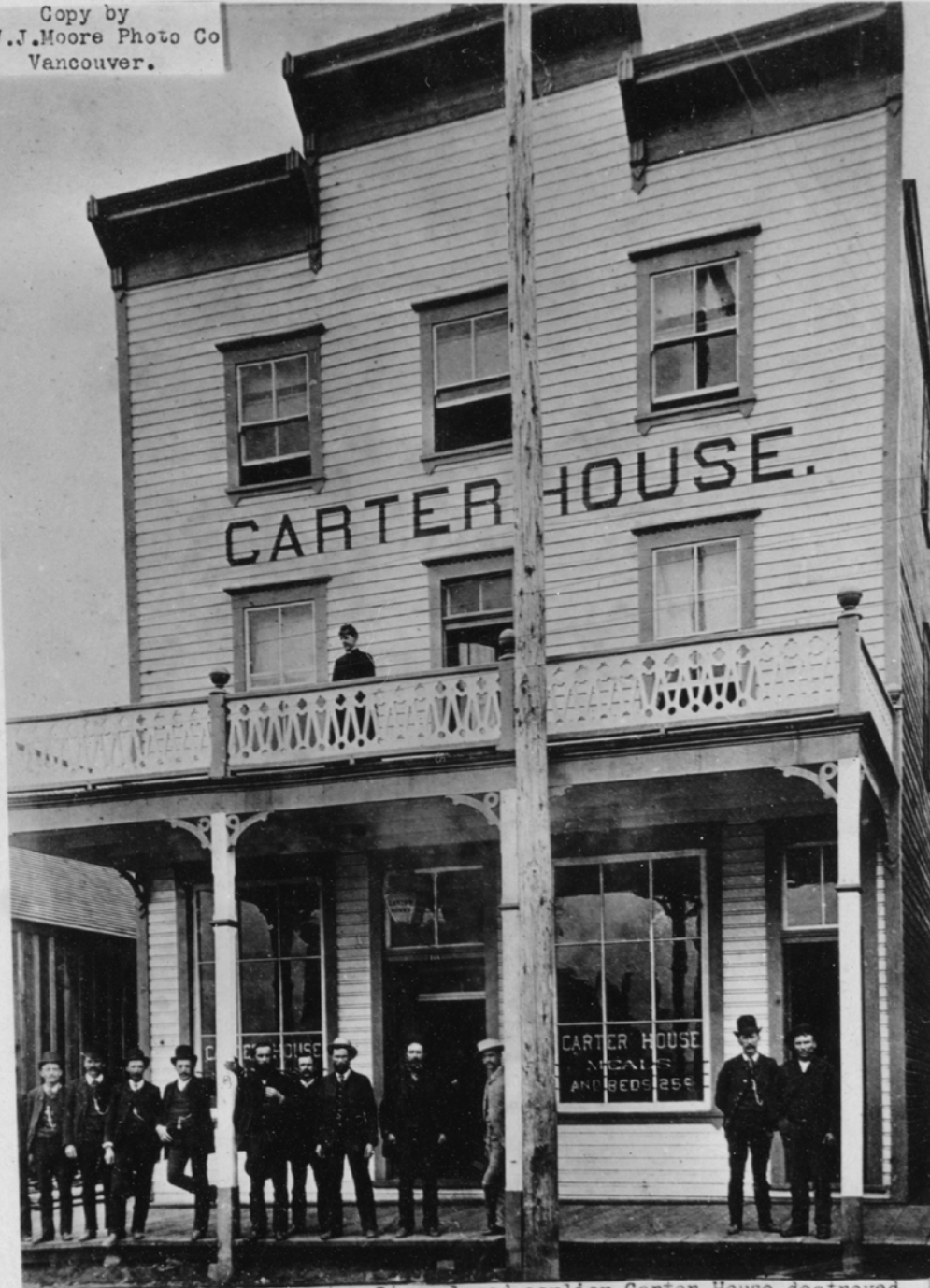
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Famous hostelry, 166 Water St, replaced earlier Carter House destroyed in great fire 1886 two weeks after opening, first three story building in Vanc'r. Demolished 1921-2. quartered police enforcing suspension city charter, Chinese Riots 1887. On verandah, Mrs (Margaret J) Carter, 3rd from left: C.E. Taggart, 4th Chas E Doering, 5th Lewis Carter, owner, 7th John L. Carter, brother. Copyright W.F. Findlay, 244 E 11th St.

For further details see conversations with pioneers for 1941. Note 5 telephone wires. Verandah removed in early years after erection. Mr Carter, wife of proprietor and sister to W.F. Findlay's brother. Hotel was considered a "good family hotel", and had splendid view of water and mountains from front windows. Erection of this building commenced on Monday, day after great fire of Sunday, June 13, 1886.  
J. M. S.  
1932



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### 24 JANUARY 1932 - THE CARTER HOUSE. THE CHINESE RIOTS. LEWIS CARTER. THE GREAT FIRE OF 1886.

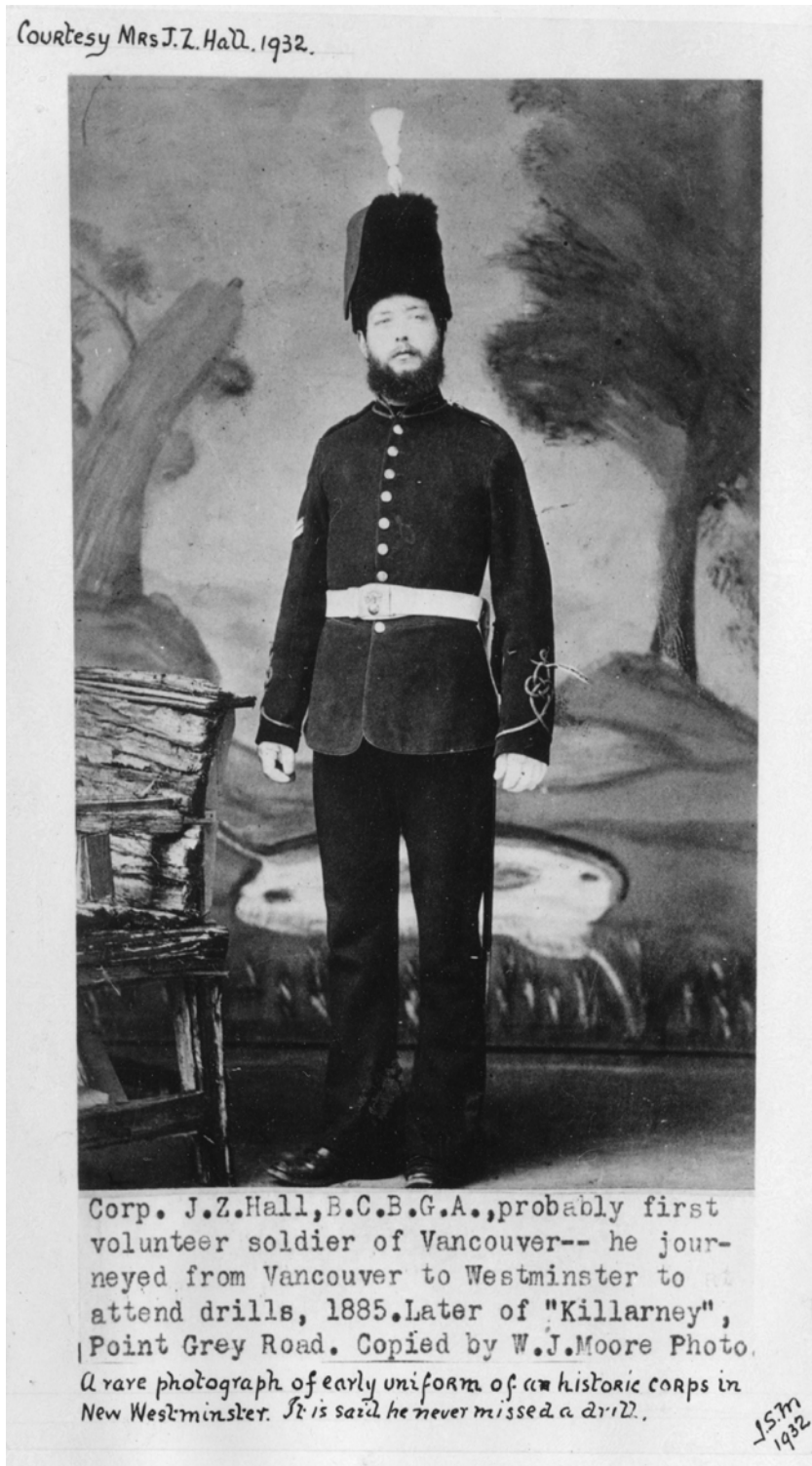
The first Carter House was an early hostelry facing the sea and whose upper rooms gave a good view of the inlet, built before the fire of 13 June 1886 which destroyed it two weeks after it opened. Reconstruction was commenced within 24 hours on the first three-storey building in Vancouver; in those days, a three-storey building was a landmark. The famous hotel, in its heyday, gave accommodation to many historic characters, finally being demolished about 1921 or 1922, and the site now (1932) occupied by the Pacific Mills Ltd. It stood at 166 Water Street. The original verandah was removed some years after erection.

Mr. Lewis Carter, who had been a surveyor on the construction of the C.P.R. from Port Moody to Vancouver, cleared the ground with his own hands. A tremendous cedar stump, over twelve feet in diameter, had to be removed from the spot where the front door afterwards stood, and in removing its roots, water was struck and added to the difficulty, a fact which illustrates the low level of the land of Water Street in those days.

A photograph of the second building, taken soon after erection, shows a verandah—the fashion with all hotels at that time—and on it Mrs. Margaret J. Carter, wife of the owner. The third from the left is C.E. McTaggart, afterwards manager of the Vancouver City Market (destroyed by fire) opposite the C.N.R. station; the fourth is Chas. E. Doering, of Doering and Marstrand, brewers of Mount Pleasant; the fifth Lewis Carter, the owner of the hotel; and the seventh John L. Carter, his brother and manager of the hotel. A painted sign states, "Meals and Beds, 25¢."

Hotel verandahs went out of fashion, and it was removed in early years.

Photo [is] in Archives and in possession of W.F. Findlay of Mount Pleasant, a nephew and a pioneer.



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