

## **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.

### **Copyright Statement**

© 2011 City of Vancouver. Any or all of *Early Vancouver* may be used without restriction as to the nature or purpose of the use, even if that use is for commercial purposes. You may copy, distribute, adapt and transmit the work. It is required that a link or attribution be made to the City of Vancouver.

### **Reproductions**

High resolution versions of any graphic items in *Early Vancouver* are available. A fee may apply.

### **Citing Information**

When referencing the 2011 edition of *Early Vancouver*, please cite the page number that appears at the bottom of the page in the PDF version only, not the page number indicated by your PDF reader. Here are samples of how to cite this source:

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.

### **Contact Information**

City of Vancouver Archives  
1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9  
604.736.8561  
archives@vancouver.ca  
vancouver.ca/archives



*H.P. McCraney.*, Carter Cotton (*F.C. Carter-Cotton*), Mr Powell, Mr Hearshal [*Hersberg. Criticism, H.P. McCraney.*], Mr. Mouat, Tom Dun (*Dunn*), Mr McCraney (*H.P.*), George Pollay.

Mr Alexander handed in the books they had in use from the Hastings Sawmill. He was manager and their reading room was given up, at the Mill, and go to Cordova Street rooms.

To publish their endeavour a few lectures were given by Dr McGuigan and Rev. W. Pedley & C— and George Pollay had charge of the reading matter, & was first librarian. No salary attached to it till it was in progress two years before the City gave any help.

Truthful account

Janet S. Pollay

743 18<sup>th</sup> Ave E.

Mrs. Pollay preserves her faculties, conversed freely, and naturally, at her age, somewhat feeble. She receives the Old Age Pensions allowance of \$20 per month, but protests it is not, in her case, "Old Age," but an allowance as a pioneer. Her personal estate, she said, was almost negative.

Mrs. Pollay was born August 5<sup>th</sup>, and in 1931 was 90. She was 92 on 5 August 1933, and still residing with her niece Mrs. M.M. Nightingale, 743 East 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver.

A framed photograph of Mr. Pollay is in the Public Library.

## **26 NOVEMBER 1931 - C.P.R. RESERVE ON FALSE CREEK. CAMBIE STREET. HOMER STREET. THE IMPERIAL OIL COMPANY LIMITED.**

In 1899 to 1903 (the writer was a clerk in their employ), the Imperial Oil Company Limited, a company formed on 1 January 1899 by the amalgamation of a group of Canadian oil companies controlled by the Standard Oil Company, with the old Imperial Oil Company Limited, had a warehouse at the foot of Cambie Street, where it still occupies an enlarged premises on the same site.

They had one team of horses which pulled a "gooseneck" low-hung wagon, usually loaded with cases of "Eocene," "Pearl," and "Astral" coal oil in barrels and cases, and was the only warehouse supplying oil (in Vancouver) for illuminating purposes. It was a monopoly.

Bud Mulligan, the former, made a personal arrangement with the C.P.R. Land Department for the use of all their land between and bounded by Cambie and Homer streets on the north and west, and False Creek on the east up as far as the roundhouse, for grazing the team of horses on Sundays. The charge was \$10 per year, and they were to maintain the fence, a ramshackle affair, on Homer Street and Smythe Street—the other side, where the railway passed, was unfenced.

The ground was a rough pasture, quite well covered with grass, some small trees 10 or 20 feet high, willows, elms, etc., and must have been in extent 20 or 25 acres.

Most of the area thus rented was afterwards built upon, and large warehouses with tracks now stand there. At the corner of Homer and Smythe streets, a park for recreation and baseball games was in operation for several years, and it was there that the memorial services for H.M. King Edward VII were held in May 1911, and also where the Japanese sailors from the warships Aso and Soya (captured Russian warships) were entertained. Since at least 1920, it has stood barren and bare, until 1931 when a new warehouse has been erected on Homer Street at the foot of Nelson Street.

## **28 NOVEMBER 1931 - LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM HART-MCHARG.**