

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 125th 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





Item # EarlyVan_v1_0056

31 JULY 1931 - TELEPHONE COMPANIES.

According to Mr. W.H. Gallagher, the first telephone in Vancouver was burned in the Great Fire, and the news sent to Westminster by phone from George Black's, Hastings, to which point an extension had been made.

"Dr. Lefevre reorganised the first telephone company," said Mr. H.P. McCraney. "Joe Armstrong and his crowd controlled it at first. Dr. Lefevre practically 'put a gun' to Joe's head, and told him he would organise another company if he was not given control."

Query: Was that the New Westminster and Burrard Inlet Telephone Company?

"Yes, that would be the one. The original line was built from New Westminster to Port Moody to keep in touch with the Onderdonk construction of the C.P.R."

31 JULY 1931 - CENTRAL PARK. RIFLE RANGES. RICHMOND RIFLE RANGE.

It was at the suggestion of Captain T.O. Townley, then of New Westminster (Captain, 2 July 1890) but afterwards Mayor of Vancouver (1901), that a strip of land on the west side of Central Park was set aside as a rifle range. The old rifle range which had served New Westminster was across the river at South Westminster and was hard to get at; there was no bridge then, and those of the Vancouver Rifle Association, organised 1889, used a rifle range of a sort at Moodyville, across the flats. (See Rules and Regulations, Vancouver Rifle Association, in Archives.)

By establishing a rifle range at a central location such as Central Park, one of these two ranges could be abolished; and besides, now that the electric street car, the interurban line, was running, it would be far more convenient to go by street car, take less time, and be more convenient than a long circuitous journey across water, followed by a considerable walk.