

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.

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ROAD TO NORTH ARM. Early '90s.
Asserted to be Granville st. hill
Shaughnessy Heights.

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EARLY STREETS.

"The C.P.R. opened up and rough graded, all at their own expense, a number of the streets west of Cambie Street; they had no interests east of Cambie Street. The summer of the fire, 1886, they opened up and rough graded Cordova Street, Hastings Street, Pender Street, all west of Cambie Street, and in the spring of 1887, opened up Granville Street from water to water, from the Inlet to False Creek. They did not clear it the full sixty-six feet, but made a passable road leaving the stumps on both sides. From Burrard Inlet to the Hotel Vancouver they laid down a good planked driveway, ten or twelve feet wide. There were some other streets which they opened up and made passable.

"Later the C.P.R. opened up what is now known as Granville Street South, clear through from False Creek to the Fraser River at the North Arm; of course, it ran through their own land. There was no road on Granville Street South, nor anywhere near it, before the C.P.R. opened it up; south of the creek there was not even a bush trail."

THE FIRST HOSPITAL.

"The first hospital was at the foot of Hawks Avenue, in the angle of Alexander and Powell Street. It was owned either by the C.P.R. or the construction people and consisted, in April 1886, when I came, of a small wooden building and some tents. There were a lot of accidents during construction days; some of those who died were buried on Deadman's Island. The first hospital the city built was a tall wooden building on Beatty Street; the second hospital was the brick building on the corner of Cambie and Pender streets, now used as a City Relief office. The old building of wood was torn down, I think, at the time the Rotary Clinic was built.