

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



Mr. Beck, K.C., told me today that at the time it was erected, it was “up on the hill.” People wondered why “they built it up there.” He said that much the same thing was said of the Cambie Street grounds when first used. People said, “Why did they go so far out?”

Mr. W.F. Findlay, nephew of Lewis Carter (Welsh spelling of Lewis) of the Carter House, once told me that when the McDonough Hall was built at the corner (southeast corner) of Hastings and Columbia Street (where the top floor was used for a ballroom), people said, “why did they build it away out in the woods?” Away was a commonly used word to express “far off” or “remote.”

J.S. Matthews

15 OCTOBER 1931 - PENDER STREET WEST.

In conversation with Mr. H.P. McCraney today, he pointed out that “all the logging roads of the early days were located close to a spring of water or a creek. There was a logging road came out of the woods between Thurlow Street and Bute Street; that was how the logs from the West End were dragged out from points convenient, but the reason the road was there was largely on account of water, for horses and men.

JSM

THE BIG TREES. GEORGIA STREET WEST.

I told Mr. McCraney that there was some dispute as to where the big tree shown in “Vancouver Lots for Sale” (with nine men in the picture) photograph stood. “Yes,” he replied, “I know there is, but I surely ought to know—I cleared it away. It stood partly on the lot which is the southwest corner of Georgia Street and Seymour Street—on the back of the lot—and partly on the lane between Granville and Seymour, and partly on Georgia Street. When it fell, it fell almost parallel with Georgia Street, and in a westerly direction.

“The man with folded arms in that picture is A.W. Ross, M.P. for some point in Ontario. His wife, and Mrs. M.A. McLean, wife of the first mayor of Vancouver, were sisters. Mrs. MacLean is still living, though an invalid. A.W. Ross claimed that he was the man who persuaded Sir William Van Horne to adopt Vancouver as the terminal of the C.P.R.; perhaps he did, I don’t know.”

J.S. Matthews

Mr. H.T. Devine says that “at thirty feet from the butt it was nine feet diameter.”

JSM

15 OCTOBER 1931 - EARLY PUBLIC LIBRARY.

There is in the custody of Mr. E.S. Robinson, Librarian, Vancouver Public Library, corner Main and Hastings Street, now a book, title A Memoir of the Rev. Sydney Smith,” on the flyleaf of which is written,

PRESENT TO THE LIBRARY OF THE
BRITISH COLUMBIA MILL COMPANY

AT BURRARD INLET

BY

THOMAS SAUEVILLE, M.A.

Jan. 7th 1869

J.S. Matthews