

Early Vancouver

Volume One

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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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which were knocked down that night. The Chinamen were living in tents. You see, there was quite a space of vacant land, unoccupied, between Gastown and Burrard Street, in those days; many people did not know that the Chinamen had landed there; they had been there a mere two or three days when the riot occurred. McDougall had hired all the Chinamen in Victoria, sent them over, and presumably kept out of the way, fearful that something might happen. McDougall was very unpopular, and he would have had rough handling if he had been there that night.

“A day or so following, the Provincial Government suspended the city charter, sent over a number of special constables, and took charge of the city. An effort was made by these officials to convict those who had taken part in the Chinese Riots; they made two arrests of supposed ringleaders. A special magistrate was sent over from Victoria, but they had no success in getting evidence against the men arrested. It was stated in court that the two ringleaders had gone to bed comparatively early in the evening, and had not left each other during the night, which was true. They had gone to bed comparatively early, got up again and gone to the riot, and then returned to the Sunnyside, and gone to bed a second time.”

“One of the prominent ringleaders was a smooth-tongued agitator, Locksley Lucas, who stopped at my uncle’s hotel, the Carter House. He was elected treasurer of an organisation to keep the Chinamen out of Vancouver for all time. Membership was \$2.00 to raise a fund to get legislation passed. A lot of money was collected that way. It was out of the question.” W.F. Findlay, 12 April 1932

THE FIRST POST OFFICE, “GRANVILLE.”

“Before the fire, the post office was in a little store on the east side of Carrall Street, next to the Ferguson Block on the corner of Carrall and Powell streets. Up to the incorporation of the city as ‘Vancouver,’ it had been known as ‘Granville’ for some years; after incorporation, of course, it became ‘Vancouver.’

“After the fire, the temporary post office was established in a cheap little shack at the extreme south end of Carrall Street, which Mr. John Hendry, manager of the Royal City Planing Mills Company of New Westminster, had erected to keep his books in. John Hendry had some small sawmills up the Fraser River, and afterwards bought out the Hastings Sawmill. The post office remained in that shack for a short time only, and was then moved to the north side of Hastings Street between Homer and Hamilton streets, near where the Kent Piano Company is now, and located in a small frame building afterwards used as a store by Bailey Brothers, early photographers. Its location there brought bitter complaints from the citizens that it had been moved ‘so far out,’ and the City Council was petitioned to use its influence to have it brought nearer in, and closer to the business section of the city. It remained there a year or so, and was then moved into the next block west, opposite the present C.P.R. Telegraph, later to the southwest corner of Pender Street and Granville Street, and finally to its present location at Hastings and Granville streets.”