

Early Vancouver

Volume Two

By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.

2011 Edition (Originally Published 1933)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1932.

Supplemental to volume one collected in 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. 2 (Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011), 33.

Bibliographic Entry:

Matthews, Major James Skitt. *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2. 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



THE GREAT FIRE. JOHN MORTON'S CLEARING. W.D. HAYWOOD.

W.D. Haywood, Rogers Building, July 1932. "I came up here in September 1885. After the Great Fire I helped to pick up the body of a man who was burned to death—he must have had two fifty-cent pieces in his pocket, because when we found them they were melted into one another.

"John Morton's clearing was just a bit of a place, perhaps half an acre."

THE FIRST TRAIN INTO VANCOUVER.

A pioneer, name lost, 19 August 1932. "I was on the first train into Vancouver, just an engine and a box car filled with twenty men, labourers, and I was one of them. It must have been the 20th, or maybe the 22nd March 1887; we got as far as Hastings Sawmill, the engine could get no further.

"You see, there was a lot of trestle work on the C.P.R. line at first—along the shore" (see old maps of 1886) "the ties and rails were down on these trestles, but there was nothing underneath to support them; the gang I was with was sent down to fill in the hollows under these trestles; the ties were hanging onto the rails by the spikes, and our work was to fill in under the ties with earth. There were a number of places to be filled in; the engine could get as far as Hastings Mill, but no further. Of course, the Hastings Mill was the end and the centre of everything going on at that time; the freight landed there. As soon as the engine and box car arrived the first thing we did was to fill in the hollows—we used push cars, pushed by hand."