

Early Vancouver

Volume Three

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

2011 Edition (Originally Published 1935)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1933-1934.

Supplemental to Volumes One and Two collected in 1931-1932.

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. 3 (Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011), 33.

Bibliographic Entry:

Matthews, Major James Skitt. *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3. 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



HOMER STREET METHODIST CHURCH.

The corner stone of the Homer Street Methodist Church at the corner of Dunsmuir and Homer Street was laid on 26 September 1888. (See *Weekly News-Advertiser*, 3 October 1888.)

BURRARD INLET SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Formed 27 July 1870. Comprises: "All that piece of land included within the Shore line of Burrard inlet and a line drawn round said Inlet at a distance of one mile therefrom." Teacher, Miss Laura A. Haynes, appointed July 9th under a temporary arrangement to end of year. Salary, \$40 per month. Visited school June 13th. Sixteen children in attendance—nine girls and seven boys. School orderly and quiet. All merely beginners. Reading and spelling not very good. Arithmetic and geography just commenced. No grammar. But little progress made in writing. School room small; erected and furnished by the mill proprietors, Messrs. Moody, Dietz and Nelson. No maps or blackboard. Twenty-five children of school age in district.

GRANVILLE OR HASTINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Is not yet established under the School Act. Steps were taken early in the current year to form the District, but the matter was deferred until after the passage of the school Act. A teacher, Miss Georgina Sweney, has been appointed, however, temporarily till close of year. Salary, \$40 per month. School room large and comfortable, put up by the mill proprietors, and used as a church. Desks, blackboards, etc. required. About 20 children in district.

Sgd. JOHN JESSOP.

Education Office,
Victoria, 30th August 1872.

From *First Annual Report of the Public Schools in the Province of British Columbia* for the year ending 31 July 1872.

FIRST CITY HALL.

The original aldermen's desks of the council Chamber, small, primitive "affairs" with one top hinged "drawer," numbering at first ten, afterwards twelve, and made locally of cedar, served for many years both in the old City Hall on Powell Street and afterwards in the City Hall (Old Market Hall) on Westminster Avenue (Main Street). The aldermen continued to use them until the city offices were moved to the "Temporary City Hall" (Holden Building) on Hastings Street, when they were replaced with small oak desks.

One of the originals was saved in 1934 from the basement of the old City Hall, now a Public Library reading room, and a descriptive brass label placed upon it.

17 NOVEMBER 1934 – MRS. MARGARET MCINNIS.

Residence: Middle River, Victoria Co., Nova Scotia.

Place and date of birth: Middle River, 1850.

Date of arrival in Granville or Vancouver, B.C.: 1878, from Le Mars, Iowa.

Avocation: John R. McInnis was a school teacher before going to Iowa. Live in Le Mars, Iowa before going to B.C. Farmed in Iowa.

Marriage: Le Mars, Iowa, 1875.

Bridegroom: John R. McInnis, son of Donald McInnis of Nova Scotia. Mrs. Margaret McInnis was the daughter of John Finlayson of Middle River, N.S.

CHILDREN.

Alexander John McInnis, born 8 October 1876, Plymouth Co., Iowa. Died 16 October 1882 in Granville, B.C.

Duncan Donald McInnis, born 20 April 1880, Surrey Township, B.C. Living at Middle River, N.S.

Alexander John McInnis, born 4 November 1885, Middle River, N.S. Died 4 December 1931 at Middle River, N.S.

Donald Finlayson McInnis, born 8 December 1888, Middle River, N.S. Living at Shubenacadie, N.S.

OTHER SURVIVING MEMBERS OF FAMILY.

“Grandchildren:

“Ruth Morrison McInnis of Shubenacadie, N.S. Aged 14 years.

“Donald Ross McInnis of Shubenacadie, N.S. Aged 10 years.”

- D.F. McInnis, M.D., C.M.

FAMILY ORIGINS.

Grandparents were born in the Highlands of Scotland in Inverness-shire and migrated to Nova Scotia (Cape Breton Island) about 1819. Mrs. Margaret McInnis' grandfather served his time in the British Army, mostly in India. His son, John Finlayson, was also born in Scotland and came to Nova Scotia at about the age of twelve years. Her mother's surname was McRae. John R. McInnis' mother was also a McRae.

HISTORICAL.

“John R. McInnis and his wife, Margaret Finlayson, both went to Iowa in 1869 and were married there in 1875. My father, John R., had taken up a homestead near Le Mars, Iowa, about 1871. In 1877 he sold this homestead and went to B.C. My mother and my oldest brother, then almost two years old, went to B.C. in 1878. They went by the Union Pacific Railway to San Francisco and by steamer from there to Victoria, B.C. Father followed the lumber woods until 1882 when he took over the Sunnyside and was proprietor from June 1882 to June 1885. He left B.C. in June 1885 and arrived in Nova Scotia 1 July 1885. He died in 1929 at the age of 85 years. When my parents returned from B.C., 1885, they came east by the Northern Pacific as the C.P.R. was not completed.

“A trip from N.S. to Iowa in 1869 was made by a sailing ship to Boston and by rail from Boston to Chicago.”

- D.F. McInnis, M.D., C.M.