

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.

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PIONEER SQUARE. MAPLE TREE SQUARE.

The names "Pioneer Square" for the intersection of Carrall and Hastings streets, and "Maple Tree Square" for that of Carrall and Powell streets, were coined by Major J.S. Matthews, City Archivist, when in 1932, he first suggested to the Native Sons of B.C., Post No. 2, that the foresight and fortitude of our pioneers of Vancouver should be commemorated by the erection of a monument on the old C.P.R. right of way, as part of the civic jubilee celebrations of 1936. Prior to his suggestions these two open places bore no name, but, about 1925, the pioneers had placed a monument to commemorate the site of the old maple tree at the southwest corner of Carrall and Water streets. The proposed re monument progressed until 25 June 1934, the Native Sons had a public dinner at the Hotel Vancouver, to further its progress.

VICTORY SQUARE.

So named (about 1922) when proposals were first made to erect the Cenotaph there—the site of the tent used as a recruiting office during the Great War. It was previously known as "Court House Square." It was on the exact spot where the Cenotaph stands that H.R.H. The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (King George and Queen Mary) were officially welcomed on their visit in September 1901.

SAPPERTON. HENRY S. ROWLING.

"In the old days, Sapperton was never called Sapperton. It was 'we are going out to "The Camp,"' or 'he's just come in from "The Camp."' I don't know who started the 'Sapperton' name." – Henry S. Rowling, September 1933.

JANUARY 1934 – BRUNETTE RIVER.

According to Mr. C.D. Gillanders, Central Drug Store, Cordova Street, Vancouver, this river is so named on account of the colour of its water, which, having its source in Burnaby Lake and surrounding peat bogs, is brownish.

Mr. Gillanders said, "My mother told me that her mother, Mrs. William Holmes, a settler on its banks in 1860, told her (my mother) that she (Mrs. Holmes) named it thus." (I think they bought Block one on the river bank. J.S.M.)

S.S. ISLANDER.

First arrived in Vancouver on 30 December 1888.

FIRST BANK.

The first bank in Vancouver was the Bank of British Columbia. Note: one of the matters engaging the attention of the City Council in 1887 was the establishment of a Post Office savings bank. See Mrs. Emily Eldon's experiences in Victoria, week following fire of 1886, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2, Matthews, 1932.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

Excerpt from *Daily News-Advertiser*, 13 November 1888, page 8: "There were about seventy men at the evangelistic meeting at the Y.M.C.A. last evening." (See photo No. ? and ?)

VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Advertisement:

Lecture in aid of Vancouver Reading Room
144 Cordova Street
On Dec. 19
Mr. George Pollay

Subject: "Labor Problems—Past and Present."

Mr. Pollay was the first librarian, Vancouver. Mrs. Pollay, over ninety, still lives (1934). Photo of both in Public Library. (See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 1.) (93, 5 August 1934.)