

Early Vancouver

Volume Three

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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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SITE OF FIRST CITY HALL.

Dr. Israel Wood Powell gave the lots on which the first City Hall stood on Powell Street. Then, when the City Hall was moved away, there was a lawsuit; he wanted the land back. He claimed he had given it for the a site for a City Hall, but the deed was not explicit, and he lost the lawsuit.

CLARK PARK.

Clark Park, dedicated as a park in 1889, was given to the city by Mr. E.J. Clark. (Woodland, Commercial Drive, and 14th and 15th avenues.)

JERICHO.

Excerpt from Genealogy Form, Jeremiah Rogers, 31 August 1934, signed by his daughter, Mrs. S.S. Monahan.

“Jericho was reserved for the Admiralty of Great Britain about 1862. J. Rogers applied to the Admiralty twenty seven (27) acres, and in due course of time received deed.”

JERICHO. JERRY ROGERS.

(According to W.R. Lord.) “Jerry Rogers was one of at least three brothers; one was William. William had two sons, William and James. The third brother’s son was Captain Perry Rogers.

“Jerry had a son, Lincoln, who, before his death, was head of the Coast Steamship Co., and had a sister who was a nun. Jerry’s sister was the late Mrs. Strang; her daughter is Mrs. Furniss, now of the Vancouver Cannery, Sea Island, a relative of J.F. Strang, 5849 Cartier Avenue.”

CONVERSATION WITH W.H. GALLAGHER, FORMER ALDERMAN AT HIS OFFICE, SOUTHEAST CORNER OF PENDER STREET WEST AND RICHARDS STREET, 28 JUNE 1933.

I told Mr. Gallagher that I was preparing material for John Innes to paint a picture of the first meeting of the City Council, and wanted more detail than he had given me previously.

THE OLD COURT HOUSE. WATER STREET. GRANVILLE.

“The old Court House on Water Street, where the voting for the first election of the City Council of Vancouver took place, and also where the first meeting of the City Council took place, was a little, low building spread all across the lot, and stood back a few feet—a foot or so, perhaps more, perhaps it was the sidewalk which was wider there. Water Street was planked; it was our only street; the planking was burned in the fire and afterwards replaced, but at the time of the election it was planked, bridged as it were over the old beach which curved in to the alley behind; I believe they have trouble even today with the water seeping into the basements of buildings there, but, as I said, Water Street was our only street. You could get along Water Street to just a little beyond Abbott Street, and you could go down Carrall about as far as where Hastings Street is now; beyond that on both streets was just a pathway. Cordova Street was not opened up, nor was Hastings Street.

“The little court house was a little, low building; there was no entrance from Water Street; a passageway ran down the east side, and the entrance to the court room was from that passageway—a door on the east side of the building and about the centre of it.” (On other occasions, Mr. Gallagher has said that the entrance was straight off Water Street; others have said same thing. The story, at present, is confusing. See other accounts—Geo. R. Gordon, W.R. Lord, H.E. Ridley.) “At the opposite end of the court room was the exit door, and another passageway to Water Street on the west side of the building. On the inlet side of the court room, which was just a bit of a room about the size of a large sitting room, say ten or twelve feet by twenty feet, were two or three small rooms, from which windows looked out over the inlet. One was where the judge robed or disrobed, and left his things; the others were offices. On the opposite side of the court room were three or four cells where the prisoners were put; the doors to these cells were not barred with iron” (?) “but I think had keyholes in them. Just how they were lighted I do not know, was never in them, nor can I just recall how the court room was lighted. The court room walls were plan V-