

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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about in a regular junk heap, and he was busy with customers. But to my great surprise, when I told him who I was, he was interested in me, and my purpose; a thing not usual in such an establishment. As soon as he had served his customers, he took me back to his office; it wasn't a real office, but a sort of desk with papers scattered all around, stuck on nails. He explained to me his position very carefully; he got a rating of about five or ten thousand dollars, and I remember him making a striking statement. It was: 'I am not going to be satisfied until it is a million dollars.'

"For years after that, once a year, after he had made up his balance sheet for the year, he used to take the statement up to Mr. Godfrey of the Bank of British North America. Our office was just across the way, and after he had been into the bank he used to bring the statement up to me."

Major Matthews: Did he ever reach a million dollars?

Mr. Giffen: "Oh, yes! Years ago. I remember the last time he came up, he came up with a statement showing assets of over a million dollars. He had finally got what he wanted. I looked at the statement, and we talked about it, and presently I asked him if he remembered the remark that he had made to me years previously about not being satisfied until he had reached a million dollars. Mr. Woodward replied, 'Oh, yes! I remember it very well.' He was a smart man. He still goes to his office every day, gets down about eight or half past, and of course, they put such papers as are of importance on his desk for him to see." (Also see Mrs. Sanderson, Vol. 3.)

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH MISS ANNIE MORRISON, R.N. (REGISTERED NURSE), 2831 WEST 3RD AVENUE, 10 OCTOBER 1933.

SOUTH VANCOUVER. D.L. 652. NORTH ARM ROAD (FRASER AVENUE). MAIN STREET.

"My father, Thomas Henry Morrison, was born at Trebon" (?) "about forty miles from Québec; he was the son of, I think, John Morrison, who came from Scotland, farmed in Québec, had six sons and six daughters. My father, Thomas Henry, was married three times, all in London, Ontario, including my mother, Anne Meredith, of London, England. He died in Vancouver about 1913 or 1914, and was buried in Mountain View Cemetery.

"From his father's farm in Québec he went to London, Ontario, then for seven years as a merchant to Pembina, North Dakota, then one year in Winnipeg, where he was in the wagon and carriage business, then to Vancouver by C.P.R. where he arrived with wife and eight children in November 1888. The children were myself, born 1866, and my half brothers and sisters (whose mother's maiden name was Anna Kessack), Ethel, Florence, Homer, Stanley (twins), Chester, Gordon and Olive. I was born in London, Ethel to Chester in London, Gordon and Olive in Dakota. On our arrival here, all went to the Central School save Olive, who was too young. Ethel is now Mrs. William Goodwin and has one son, Lyle, and two daughters, Jean and Ruth; Florence, now dead, was Mrs. Wellington Bichart, no children; Homer married Miss Emily Syn, no children; Stanley married Miss Martha Thompson, two sons, Ralph and Lloyd; Gordon married Miss Eleanor Greer, Sam Greer's daughter, and has two sons, Gordon and Dale; and Olive married Robert Mills, one son, Robert. All these children were born in Vancouver. Father was in the carriage business on Hastings Street with Mr. Vicky." (?) "Miss Vicky married Dr. McAlpine of Point Grey Road."

SAM GREER. RICHARDS STREET.

"When we first came to Vancouver we went to live at 713 Richards Street—the house was torn down in 1931, and there is a parking station there now, but when we went there it was a wild sort of place; a big stump stood in the middle of the street in front of our house. Mrs. James Macaulay, who recently received the Good Citizen's medal, lived close by in the next block; a wonderful woman. Father Fay was the clergyman of the Catholic Church; a popular man; his hobby was his garden" (see photo of Holy Rosary Church); "my sister, Florence, was very clever—took the highest marks at the Central School, and Father Fay gave her a gold medal; we lost it when their house was robbed."

JERICHO BEACH. CAPTAIN AND MRS. DALGLIESH. LYNN CREEK.

"Among the incidents I recall were our picnics; sometimes we took a rowboat and went over to Lynn Creek; there was a milk ranch there. And then, another time, the Homer Street Methodist Church held a

big picnic at Jericho Beach. The Rev. Ebenezer Robson was there. It was a big picnic and we all went on a scow towed by a tug boat” (see Bailey photo, No. ?), “but the government stopped that; they said it was too dangerous to take children out through the Narrows on a scow. Captain and Mrs. Dalgliesh lived on the beach—just where the Golf Club House is now. They were just in the woods, and were the only people there. We asked Mrs. Dalgliesh if she was lonely; she said, ‘Why, no! Would not live any place else.’ Her father had been a sea captain, and she was fond of the water.” (Also see J.A. Brock photo No. ?)

THE FIRST STREET CARS. SCHOOLS.

“Oh, yes, I recall the first street car” (June 1890); “all the people in town went down to see the street cars start; they gave the school children a half holiday; they were tiny things. When we were in Winnipeg they had horse-drawn street cars; we had never seen electric; the cars ran by the Hotel Vancouver, down Hastings, Carrall and Westminster Avenue to False Creek. They had lots of trouble taking them up the Mount Pleasant hill; the hill was too steep for the electric cars—they have cut that hill down three times to get its present grade. Some of the cars were closed, the others the seats ran longways, back to back, and you just stepped right into the street again when you wanted to get off.” (See elsewhere, J.B. Kay.)

OLD BRICK HOSPITAL (CORNER OF CAMBIE AND PENDER).

“I trained in the old brick hospital, now City Relief headquarters; was one of the first pupils; joined in 1899 and graduated in 1902; they had a class before that, but it was not the full course. Miss O’Connor, who died Good Friday, 1933, was there, Miss Roycroft, who afterwards had Miss Roycroft’s Hospital, and Miss Fonsieca was another; all dead now.”

Y.M.C.A. CREEK CROSSES HASTINGS STREET.

“There was a creek—I recall seeing the water running—just east of the Y.M.C.A., the two-storey wooden building on Hastings Street, north side, just east of Cambie.” (See photo No. ? and J.H. Scales.)

WESTMINSTER AVENUE. PARKS. MAIN STREET.

“I was just 21 when we arrived in Vancouver. My mother’s estate was in chancery, and we had to wait until I was 21. We thought it a good thing to invest in acreage; others were doing it, so” (step-) “Mother and I went partners, fifteen acres each, thirty in all, on what is now Main Street, at \$25 an acre. That was about 1890; it was subdivided and sold in lots about 1908.”

MAIN STREET. JIM McGEER. SUNSET NURSERIES.

“The way we got to our property was up Westminster Avenue and Westminster Road, then out North Arm Road” (Fraser Avenue) “and took a bush trail westwards to what is now Main Street; there was no road there then; we afterwards gave the right of way for Main Street. It was part of D.L. 652. Jim McGeer’s place, father of G.G. McGeer, K.C., was the last place we passed on the road to our acreage. There was no swamp on our place; all dry land; we sold the timber to loggers; then there was a lot of cordwood on it after the loggers got through, and we sold that, and then the Chinamen went there burning charcoal, so that we got the taxes out of it. We bought through Martin and McCloskey, and sold to Lalande and Clough, real estate agents, part of it for \$10,000, sold another piece for \$8,000, and have one lot left. Lalande and Clough lost their money; that was about twenty years ago. The property is now a civic park.” (See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 1, *Echoes of the Real Estate Boom*.) “Park greenhouses are there now.”

Annie Kessack Morrison—born 14 July 1842; died 14 February 1905.

Florence Elizabeth Morrison—born 25 September 1874; died 28 August 1911.

Thomas Hendry Morrison—born 14 March 1834; died 8 April 1917.

James Wylie Morrison—born 10 March 1862; died 27 June 1917.