

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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Mill School with the children in front. The other building in that photo, No. ?, below our house, was a barn.” (Note: the Caulfield cottage does not seem to appear in the panorama of Vancouver before the fire, probably because the photo is patched at that point. J.S.M.)

HASTINGS MILL SCHOOL.

Interjection by Major Matthews: I hear the old school house was used on Westminster Avenue afterwards.

Mr. Ridley: “Never was; it was torn down; it faced the water too.”

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH HAROLD E. RIDLEY, 2 MAY 1934.

LONDON INSTITUTE. HASTINGS INSTITUTE. MECHANIC’S INSTITUTE. PUBLIC LIBRARY.

“I don’t know where the London Institute” (mentioned in the *British Columbian* of 18 March 1869) “as changing its name to Hastings Institute could have been—it certainly was not at Hastings, B.C.; it might have been at Moodyville, or Hastings Sawmill. I never heard the early history of the Institute at the Hastings Sawmill, but I do know that the books in there had ‘Mechanic’s Institute’ marked on the inside. They were afterwards moved to the present Vancouver Public Library.” (See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 1.)

MOODYVILLE INSTITUTE. MT. HERMAN LODGE.

“I have heard that the Moodyville Institute was started with assistance from London, England. It stood about 100 feet east of the Moodyville Hotel, photo of which you have; the stairs faced west, the building lay east and west. The ground floor was used as a reading room, library, dance hall, and for concerts. The upper floor was where Mt. Herman Masonic Lodge was instituted. It was stated at the big celebration this lodge held in 1919 that the same organ was used then as was used the night the lodge was formed. There is an oil painting of the Moodyville Institute in the Masonic Temple, Georgia and Seymour streets.”

EARLY FERRIES. HANS, THE BOATMAN. MOODYVILLE SAWMILL.

“About the first ferry I remember on Burrard Inlet was a row boat from Moodyville, Hastings and Gastown to the mill and back. He was Dutch; all I ever knew of his name was ‘Hans, the Boatman,’ that was what we called him. He had one arm; the other had been blown off at the right elbow, a hook was the remainder—he rowed well with the hook hand. He crossed about every day—took the mail down—sometimes once a day, sometimes twice; depended upon if there was a storm or not. The next ferry I remember was the old *Senator*” (Captain Stalker.) “We always took it for granted that the *Senator* and the *Leonora* belonged to the Moodyville Sawmill; the *Etta White* was bigger and did the long distance towing. The *Skidegate* came later; I don’t know who owned her.”

CAPTAIN CATES.

“Captain Charlie Cates was stevedoring at first—there were brothers. The first boat I recall them having was a little thing, the *Swan*; screw; smaller than the *Senator*, mostly did towing around the harbour; towed scows of brick, sand, gravel. The *Swan* just wore out.”

INDIAN’S FEET.

Query by J.S.M.: What do you think of George Cary’s yarns about the Indian’s feet without boots?

Mr. Ridley: “I have seen Indians go into old Pete Cordiner’s blacksmith shop, the sparks flying around, and walk right over the hot [blank]; you could smell the leather burning. Salt water and travelling over hard rocks hardens them up, the soles of the feet.”

SECOND STREAM BRIDGE. WATER SUPPLY. BEAVERS.

“I read your story in the B.C. Electric Railway *Buzzer*” (6 April 1934) “but the Hastings Mill didn’t expect to get water out of the Tea Swamp, but out of the dam below about 9th Avenue. I have myself picked up freshly chewed beaver sticks under the Second Bridge.”