

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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REMARKS BY JOHN H. SCALES, 26 JUNE 1933, WHO CAME, AS A CHILD, ON THE THAMES CITY WITH THE ROYAL ENGINEERS, OF WHOM HIS FATHER WAS ONE.

"Before Rowling went to live down the North Arm of the Fraser he lived just east of the little old church out Sapperton way. We called at his place as my father and I were proceeding by flat bottomed boat to Burrard Inlet in 1869." (See his narrative, Vol. 3.) "I remember he had four grape vines."

**REMARKS BY W.H. GALLAGHER, REAL ESTATE AGENT, FORMERLY ALDERMAN.
CONVERSATION ON BEACH AT KITSILANO, 23 JUNE, 1933.**

"Rowling; why yes, I know old Mr. Rowling; had my first Christmas dinner over at their house on the North Arm of the Fraser. The old man was very fond of flowers; the whole place was a picture; honeysuckle growing all over the stumps so that you could not see the stump, and flowering wonderfully, and a vine running all over the house." (This was the famous grape vine.) "I came here in April 1886."

SCHOOL.

"Funny thing, but in 1886, there was an election in Vancouver, but Vancouver had no member of parliament at that time; the election district was included in North Arm of the Fraser, Lulu Island, Ladner's, and a great big territory; Vancouver had no member of its own. Jimmy Orr, who had been the M.P.P., left Ladner's and went to live in Vancouver; this incensed the Ladner's people who put up a candidate against him. There was to be a meeting in the little old school house near Rowling's place; it is still there, not the same building, but on the same site, and we all got rigs in Vancouver and went out the River Road. The new Ladner man did not turn up for the election." (Note: the original school building is now used as an office for a meat packing firm and stands on Fraser Street between Marine Drive and the bridge.)

"After the meeting we harnessed up the rig, but the horses got frightened at something and ran away. They went off in the darkness up towards Rowling's house, and straddled an ox which was in their path of haste. We ran after them, of course, and when we came up with them, in the darkness, all we could see was a tangle of ox, horses and democrat. The ox was on his back with his feet in the air under the democrat, and bellowing for his life. One horse was down, the other trying to get away, the ox underneath the democrat and bellowing, and it was twelve midnight, dark, and raining. There never was before or since such a racket at midnight."

A KINDLY GENTLEMAN, ROWLING OF ROWLING'S.

"Old Mr. Rowling came out from his home to find out what the disturbance was all about; we got lanterns, untangled the mess, and then said, 'You had better come in and spend the night with me; too late and too wet to go home tonight'; so we all went in, all eight of us, and spent the night, stopped for breakfast, and on Sunday morning drove quietly home to Vancouver."