

Early Vancouver

Volume Four

By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.

2011 Edition (Originally Published 1944)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1935-1939.

Supplemental to Volumes One, Two and Three collected in 1931-1934.

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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Contact Information

City of Vancouver Archives
1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9
604.736.8561
archives@vancouver.ca
vancouver.ca/archives



MEMO ON CONVERSATION WITH THEODORE BRYANT, LADYSMITH, B.C. (SON OF REV. CORNELIUS BRYANT OF GRANVILLE, BURRARD INLET) ACCOMPANIED BY HIS SON.

ST. JAMES CHURCH, 1881.

Mr. Bryant said: "St. James Church on the beach was shingled with handmade shingles; I saw them make them; cut from cedar logs lying on the site of the church above the beach; cut with a great big draw knife; hard work too; big draw knife with two handles; the man sat on a bench with the section of cedar in front of him, and drew the knife towards him, and shaved them off."

WRECK OF BARQUE BEACHED AT HASTINGS MILL.

Theo. Bryant of Ladysmith has been writing the *Province* about a wreck beached near the old Hastings Mill. "I cannot remember her name, but she was a barque which broke her forefoot coming from Victoria, and was beached alongside of the Mill Store at Hastings Mill; lay there for several years until the beachcombers had nearly pulled her to pieces for the iron. She was there until 1878 or 1879, and the men who took the ship to pieces sold the little cannon to the Indians at North Vancouver; they" (the Indians) "used to fire them off once in a while."

"OK"—see original.

Theo. Bryant
6 May 1939

CANNON SHOT.

Ladysmith,
August 20th, 1936.

Major Matthews,

My Dear Sir:

I received yours yesterday, although you addressed me Nanaimo, see enclosure—it did not delay delivery. I got this shell today, it is very much corroded, about 3/8" rust on part of it, apparently hit fairly soft ground, the brass part is dented about 1/8 inch on each side, may have hit small stones. I have not seen the boy that found it to see locality—I own this property so I may say I can claim ownership.

The cap is cut a little hollow at point and a square hole in the centre, for, I presume, for opening to charge. Can't see any date on it as yet—there appears none on cap, which is brass, and a brass band about inch from the square end, is heavily rusted 1/4" deep about. Will try and get it photographed tomorrow—remember seeing one taken to New Westminster from Discovery Island about 1886—found on the beach there, the man was building the lighthouse which I see is being renewed this summer—it was about 3" one, and in excellent condition—it may have been newly fired, as the Esquimalt squadron was practicing in that area about those times—the ones used on the Indians were—round shot at the lower end of Keeper Isd., about 7 or 8 miles south of here—the navy knocked the houses to pieces of that small village. There used to be a round shot stuck in a maple tree near there some years ago, but I expect it has gone—as the place has changed ownership. I met an old Indian that lived opposite this village that gave a very graphic description of this bombardment. Don't know anything re the Electric Light at Moodyville—it would hardly be before '81 when we left there, I think.

Hope to be over later, will call and see the old photo of Gastown. Did you ever run across a school report of the old one-room Hastings school house?

Sincerely yours,

Theo. Bryant.

signed, see original.
Theo. Bryant
6 May 1939