

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.

Copyright Statement

© 2011 City of Vancouver. Any or all of *Early Vancouver* may be used without restriction as to the nature or purpose of the use, even if that use is for commercial purposes. You may copy, distribute, adapt and transmit the work. It is required that a link or attribution be made to the City of Vancouver.

Reproductions

High resolution versions of any graphic items in *Early Vancouver* are available. A fee may apply.

Citing Information

When referencing the 2011 edition of *Early Vancouver*, please cite the page number that appears at the bottom of the page in the PDF version only, not the page number indicated by your PDF reader. Here are samples of how to cite this source:

Footnote or Endnote Reference:

Major James Skitt Matthews, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 4 (Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011), 33.

Bibliographic Entry:

Matthews, Major James Skitt. *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 4. Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011.

Contact Information

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



Indian church, we had a sort of shelter for wood piles, and that did not leave much room for anything else at the back of the parsonage.”

Ladysmith, B.C.,
December 12th, 1936.

Dear Major Matthews:

I have seen in the “Province” a few days ago where Eburne Island had again been renamed as of yore—it was in 1880 that I, with my father, walked over to the North Arm to go to Lulu Island—to gather mushrooms—we got to Angus Fraser’s Log Camp that was not far to the right of the North Arm road—had dinner there—a good one just like they put up in logging camps, and while there, a bull team came along with a string of logs, there were 8 or 10 oxen in the line—from there we took a trail more to the right and came to the North Arm of the Fraser. The first time I had seen it—my father gave a call and soon Mr. Eburne came over in a skiff to Mr. Sexsmith’s farm—the place was covered with mushrooms, wagon loads I should say—Mr. Sexsmith and Mr. Eburne were friends of my father—That afternoon we reversed the course and came back to Granville, the same road—passing the Tea Swamp [*low land between Fraser and Main Street south of Kingsway*], as was known then—on our way in the morning we passed the turn-off to Jerico [*Jerico, may be merely poor spelling, but the earliest known spelling was Jerico*], it was just a trail out into the burnt timbers—must have been fires in that country many years before—a split cedar had been put in near the turn-off to Jerico—most likely as a mark to go by—it had been penciled on it quite a piece of rhyme—“If you go to Gas Town your money for to spend,” and many more lines probably put there by some lumberjack—I never went to Jerico.

I suppose you will have a fine new office in the new City Hall—will have to call in and see you early in the year—seen Domingo Silvey, asked him re pictures of his father, said he could not find it, but was looking further—may find one.

A Mrs. M.A. Elliott here, half breed, born in Yale B.C. may be able to give you some information re old times—I never spoke to her about Vancouver—she is over 70, I think getting the old age pension—if born in Yale at that time would be in the 70’s. She told me the man who made up her papers that her father was an Oppenheimer, which makes quite a Hebrew aspect to the case.

This is my busy time so must close with wishing you a very merry time at the holiday.

Sincerely,

Theo. Bryant.

Signed “OK”—see original.
Theo. Bryant
6 May 1939

EXCERPT, LETTER, 30 DECEMBER 1936, THEO. BRYANT, LADYSMITH, TO J.S. MATTHEWS.

EARLY CEMETERIES. BROCKTON POINT.

“I know nothing of the burial grounds at Brockton Point; I never saw any over there when a boy. I went and called on H. Hayden re cemeteries there, but he knows nothing; never saw any.”

(Note: merely illustrates that the Brockton Point graveyard was little more than a place in the trees “where they buried people.”)