

## 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 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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From the whole, I deduce that, conversation between Indians and pioneer whites, being carried on largely in Chinook, would include references to the island; that the Squamish referred to it as “memaloos Siwash illahie,” “village of the dead houses on the island,” and that whitemen would, unconsciously, interpret the expression to mean, “island where the dead are,” i.e. “Deadman’s Island” or “Dead Indian Land.”

Vancouver, B.C.  
31 October 1939.

J.S. Matthews

**EXCERPT, *PROVINCE*, TUESDAY, 11 AUGUST 1936.**

**CAPT. JOHN IRVING.**

Capt. Irving knew Vancouver even before “Gastown” existed, for the famous “Gassy Jack” Deighton, after whom “Gastown” was named worked for him as a Fraser River pilot.

**EXCERPT, *MAINLAND GUARDIAN*, NEW WESTMINSTER, 15 APRIL 1874, VOL. 10, NO. 12.**

Item.

CAPT. DEIGHTON TAKES CHARGE.—Our citizens will join us in congratulating Capt. John Deighton, who is now in full charge of the steamer Onward, and will conduct her in future over the track that he has traversed so often in former days. We have at the same time to bid adieu to Capt. John Irving who goes to take command of the Glenora, and proceed with her to Stickeen River. We are sure that the community without exception, will wish him good fortune and long life. We cannot forget the fact that he has grown up amongst us, and that we feel as if we were parting with a member of the family. We sincerely trust that his new venture will realize his most sanguine expectations, and that she may acquit herself as the “Onward” has always done.

**EXCERPT, *MAINLAND GUARDIAN*, NEW WESTMINSTER, 15 APRIL 1874, VOL. 10, NO. 12.**

Advertisement.

DEIGHTON’S HOTEL  
Granville.

This newly constructed and commodious Hotel, is situated close to Hastings Sawmills, on Burrard Inlet.

The establishment is replete with all the comforts of a home. The furniture and everything connected with the fittings are new. The large and comfortable parlors, single and double bedrooms, extensive dining-rooms are furnished in every respect with care, and are under the experienced management of Mrs. Thos. Deighton.

Granville is in daily communication with New Westminster by Steamer and Stages. For Invalids or Sportsmen, no better location can be found in the Province, and the charges will be found to suit the times.

JOHN DEIGHTON,  
Proprietor.

**EXCERPT, *MAINLAND GUARDIAN*, 9 JUNE 1875.**

DEATH OF J. DEIGHTON

We have to record the passing away of another of our pioneers. Death has been busy with us lately, and he spares none, young or old, he does his fell work without respect to age or station.

Captain Deighton was an original in his way, and his name became almost a household word with most of our citizens. Although uncouth occasionally in his language, he possessed a