

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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KWE-AH-KULTU. WHEE-WHY-LUK. SUM-QUAHT.

"Kwe-ah-kultu; that's the way to say it; he was at Whoi-Whoi. Johnny Whee-why-luk, Chief at Musqueam; don't know who Sumquaht was, but say 'Sum-kwa-ht.'" (See conversation, Mrs. James Walker, 17 July 1939.)

CARIBOO TRACTOR. JERRY ROGERS' STEAM TRACTOR. LACROSSE BALL.

(After looking at photograph received from Provincial Archives, of photo marked "Steam to Cariboo, the British Columbia," photographed from illustration in *Colonist*.)

Major Matthews: That's not like the drawing you made for me of the tractor Jerry Rogers had in the woods out Kitsilano and up Little Mountain.

August: (puzzled) "They's fixed it. They must taken the front wheel off, and put two wheels on. But the rubber here is cleats; it was solid rubber tire all around the wheels, not cleats, on the one Jerry Rogers had. I think they must have fixed it down Hastings Sawmill, but don't know. I took the rubber for the lacrosse ball I gave you from old junk as was lying on the beach at foot Macdonald Street" (English Bay.) "They put the engine on a scow, and took it away; they were through logging. After that, oxen were used, and mules and the skid road—it was cheaper. They took the engine to the Hastings Mill. I don't know what they did with it."

(Note by J.S.M. If Ayatak is grandson to "Old Man" Chief Ki-ap-a-la-no, and "Old Man" told Ayatak he saw first white man come down Fraser River when he was a boy, about four feet high, how could he be the chief who welcomed Capt. Vancouver as is frequently asserted by Matthias Joe.)

EXCERPT, *PROVINCE*, 7 OCTOBER 1938.

MAN WHO CAME HERE SIXTY YEARS AGO DIES

**WHILE THE SHIP WAS IN VANCOUVER HE EXPERIMENTED WITH
RUNNING AN ELECTRIC LIGHT WIRE FROM VESSEL TO SHORE**

James Willcox, 82, a resident of Vancouver for fifty-nine years, and believed to be one of the first men to experiment with electric light here, died today, at his home, 367 East Broadway. Mr. Willcox first came to British Columbia in 1879 as a member of the crew of H.M.S. *Triumph*. Survived by three daughters; all in Vancouver.

LETTER, JOHN C. ANDERSON.

Novato, Marin Co.,
California, U.S.A.
Saturday, Oct. 15, 1938.

Mr. J.S. Matthews.

My dear sir:

H.M.S. TRIUMPH. ELECTRIC LIGHT. FIRST SEARCHLIGHT.

Your letter I received today Oct. 14, 1938, and I was very glad, sir, to hear from you, to me it was like a voice from the deep. Now in regard to your question about landing electric lights ashore at Vancouver. It fairly gets me, Mr. Matthews, as to how that could have possibly been done? I do know the "Triumph's" first commission was about that time of 1879. And the second commission of the "Triumph" was from New Year's day 1885, till Dec. 1887, making three years when we left Esquimalt for home. The "Swiftsure" was the ship to relieve the "Triumph" on both occasions. Now, sir, I fully understand that when we commissioned the "Triumph" in January 1885, that she had just installed a 28,000 candle power search light on the superstructure deck, and we were told that we were the first ship in the service to have one. We were not wired at all for lights in the ship; only wired from the dynamo, to the light on deck. We burned candles all