

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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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



HAND LOGGING ON JERVIS INLET, ETC., 1883-4.

City Archivist: That was a long way to go for logs in those days, wasn't it?

Mr. Jackman: "Oh, no. There were a lot of hand loggers up there, no horses, no oxen, no donkey engines. Hand loggers were mostly two men partners; side hill logging, screw jacks; pushed the logs downhill, then let the logs slide into salt water; there was a lot of hand logging up Jervis Inlet. I did a lot of towing in 1883 and 1884. Then, in 1890, I went over to Vancouver Island, and went east in 1920; just come back."

SUNNYSIDE HOTEL.

"Harry Hemlow was running the hotel as I recollect it, and I looked after the office for him. Nowadays I suppose I should be termed managing director, or president, but in those days I simply 'ran the office.'"

DOUGALL HOUSE, CORDOVA STREET. MAYOR DAVID OPPENHEIMER.

"Jack Boulton (magistrate), "David Oppenheimer" (mayor), "Tom McGuigan" (City clerk) "and his brother, Dr. McGuigan, stopped at the Dougall House." (Note: where the first big civic banquet hotel was held. See photo No. Bu. 24, corner of Cordova and Abbott.) "I remember once, when Oppenheimer was running against Templeton, afterwards mayor, for the mayoralty, I bet \$500 that Oppenheimer would win. We were in the bar of the Dougall House when Oppenheimer passed; something happened which made me remark that I had \$500 on his success; he leaned over to my ear and whispered, 'If you lose, charge it to me.' That was the sort of man Oppenheimer was."

MAYOR FRED COPE.

"Mayor Cope died on the Skagway Trail."

MAJOR GENERAL J.W. STEWART, C.B.

"Jack Stewart" (Major General Stewart, C.B.) "worked on the townsite survey with Hamilton, doing engineering work; just a young man then, and L.A. Hamilton was laying out the city of Vancouver; I have just been up to see him in this office in the Vancouver Block; he is getting pretty feeble; his wife died recently. Jack Stewart married one of the Moran girls of Spokane; Pat Welch married another, Tim Foley still another; the three Moran girls. That's how it came about Foley, Welch and Stewart, who built the Pacific Great Eastern, and part of the Grand Trunk Pacific, etc. He is one of the grandest men the Lord ever produced."

City Archivist: How do you judge?

Mr. Jackman: (with emphasis) "By his actions. When General Stewart was building the Grand Trunk Pacific, I was captain of one of the boats on the Skeena."

FURTHER MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. T.J. JACKMAN, 20 FEBRUARY 1936.

GREAT FIRE, 1886. C.P.R. OFFICES AND STAFF. H.H. ABBOTT.

"H.H. Abbott was C.P.R. General Superintendent at the time of the fire; a Mr. Terhune" (sic) "was his private secretary, and Mr. Smith was the clerk; that constituted the whole C.P.R. staff in Vancouver before the Fire. Of course, L.A. Hamilton was here, but he was in charge of land surveying, and Mr. Cambie was civil engineer in charge of the whole C.P.R. engineering work. They were all living at the Sunnyside Hotel."

SUNNYSIDE HOTEL, NEW PART.

"Well, the day of the fire, Mr. Abbott was at New Westminster. Just as I was leaving the hotel in a hurry to seek safety—the hotel was in flames, the roof caught fire first, the wind was so strong it blew a firebrand on the roof of the new part, and the roof took fire—well, just as I was leaving the Sunnyside, Mr. Terhune" (sic) "came running across the street from the C.P.R. offices" (Ferguson Block—wood—southeast corner Powell and Carrall streets) "with three bundles of bills" (money in paper notes) "in his arm, and asked me to put them in the Sunnyside safe as they" (the C.P.R.) "had not got a safe. I had barely time to put the three bundles of money in the safe, and then 'beat it.' The new part" (see *World* newspaper souvenir number, 1896, for illustrations of both old and new parts) "was then in flames."

OFFICE SAFE. SUNNYSIDE HOTEL.

“The safe was located in the centre of the new building, and as the new part was well over the water—there was about ten feet of water under where the safe stood—when the floor broke the safe fell in the water, and that evening we examined the safe and found everything in good order—wet of course, but in good order. That was the only safe in town which stood the test, the rest of the safes in Vancouver were melted into an amalgam.” (Not quite correct. J.S.M.)

(Approved by Capt. Jackman, 23 May 1936. JSM.)

Capt. Jackman died some months later, in Vancouver.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH CAPT. T.J. JACKMAN, RITZ APARTMENTS, 1040 GEORGIA STREET WEST, VANCOUVER, 22 APRIL 1936.

Came to Vancouver, 1883 from St. John's, Newfoundland.

City Archivist: Did you vote at the first election, 1886, for Mayor and Council? Ald. Harvey was in this morning; they are going to give a banquet on May 4th at the Hotel Vancouver to surviving citizens who voted at the first election.

Capt. Jackman: “Yes. Across from the Sunnyside Hotel, in Jonathan Miller's place, the Court House, they had a booth rigged up there. I voted for MacLean. Do you want to know why? Well, Alexander was running against him, and Alexander was manager of the Hastings Mill, but he made some wisecrack about Canadians being only ‘North American Chinamen’ anyway, and that licked him.” (See W.H. Gallagher, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 1.)

“You see those opposed to Alexander had nothing ‘on him,’ so they had to get something to use as election propaganda; there hadn't been any Council, so there hadn't been any ‘misdeeds’; nothing to quarrel about; nothing to hold an investigation on; so they were short on election propaganda; so they worked up the ‘North American Chinaman,’ and the election was fought on that. He said it all right, but when or why, I never have known. It might have been because before the Canadians came we had only ten cent pieces; if a thing was two for a quarter you got ten cents change, and then the Canadians came, and brought five cent pieces with them.

“Alexander was a good man; they had nothing on him; they had nothing to use; so they framed it up to give plenty of publicity to his ‘North American Chinaman’ slip, and won the election. All the voting was done right there on Water Street in the little old Court House.”

City Archivist: How did it come that you voted at all; you were not a property owner.

Capt. Jackman: “Well, I don't suppose that ninety percent of the people who voted did own property at that time; there was no property for sale very much, and as I recall it, anybody who had lived here three months was available to vote.” (Not quite correct.) “It was a quiet kind of election, and it was known a half an hour after the voting was over who had won.

“Speaking for myself, there was not very much money around Vancouver in those days. Vancouver did not really begin to have money around until 1892 or 1893; it was terrible in 1888 and 1889, and even up to 1890 there was very little money; it was scarce. Things were just as tough as it is today with our financial troubles. The C.P.R. trains would come in with no more than dozen passengers in the pullmans, and I know, because I used to go and meet every train.”

DAVID OPPENHEIMER.

“There's something I want to tell you about Dave Oppenheimer. I was connected with the Douglas House hotel at the time of his election, when he was running against Wm. Templeton, a grocer, and Oppenheimer was stopping at the hotel with all his folks at the time, and there was a man by the name of Goodmurphy ran the Alexandra Hotel which was built on the same property as the Sunnyside” (not understood. J.S.M.) “was on after the fire. Goodmurphy came into the bar, and he said he had \$500 to bet that Templeton would beat Oppenheimer next year for election. I was a strong supporter of Oppenheimer, and felt he could not lose, so I went around amongst my friends and got a ‘tarpoleon