

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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Total 84

HASTINGS MILL STORE.

Excerpt, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3, Matthews. Conversation, Harold Ridley, 18 October 1933.

HASTINGS MILL STORE.

“The Hastings Sawmill store at Alma Road is not the first store the Hastings Sawmill people had; there was one earlier than that, the one they used when they first built the mill, a bit of a place. They had three in all. The first little old one, then the one at Alma Road which did for many years, then the third one to the south of the second one, and they combined the two—they were attached—and put a ‘store front’ in front of both.”

Excerpt, letter, City Archivist to Fred W. Alexander, 16 July 1936.

(Query 2) Was the old store building below the Hastings Institute the first store the mill had, and if so, about when was the old store building built. Why was the flagpole put in front of that old building, afterwards used for storage?

Excerpt, letter in reply, 17 July 1936.

My dear Major:

Yes, the old store (used after as a warehouse) was the first store built by the mill; should think the first store was built the same time as the mill, i.e., in 1865. The flag pole was placed in front of the old storage building because it was on land; the other store buildings were on piles over the water.

Excerpt, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3 (and C.P.R. survey plan signed by H.J. Cambie.)

Identification numbers to building (Ridley).

16. THE OLD OLD MILL STORE, the original, afterwards used for Lodge room upstairs (in ceiling); warehouse. It was the highest or tallest building. See photo No. Mill 19, Neg. Mill 2.
20. THE NEW OLD MILL STORE, now at Alma Road. Afterwards the modern Hastings Mill store was built beside this to the south, and a "store front" built in front of both buildings. See photo No. P. Mill 14, N. Mill 15.

HASTINGS MILL AND THE FIRST STORE BUILDING.

3520 Main Street,
Vancouver, B.C.
Nov. 3rd. 1938.

Mrs. McKelvie

Dear Madam:

In reply to your inquiry of the 1st inst. The first original store was built for the purpose of a store house. There were a few groceries sold, but they had to be hunted for amongst the boxes, etc.

A small counter was kept in one corner but had many uses.

The store was in use approximately four years before "Gastown"; Mr. Scales can not remember the exact dates, at which time there was no community to serve.

There being no roads at this time, it was necessary to come by boat or wait for low tide.

Please do not hesitate to inquire further if you so desire.

Yours respectfully,
W.A. Scales.

(grandson)

Dictated to his grandson by John Henry Scales, 3520 Main Street, now the earliest Burrard Inlet inhabitant living, born 26 June 1854, came to B.C. with his father, John Scales, R.E. on *Thames City*, 1859, and both came to Burrard Inlet in small boat, 1867 or after. (See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3.)

Mrs. Alex McKelvie, née Estelle B. Soule, daughter of Capt. W.H. Soule of Hastings Mill, pioneer.

Following assertion, based on conversations with H.E. Ridley, F.W. Alexander, and J.H. Scales, as recorded [in] *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3, that the Hastings Mill Store, now, 1939, at Alma Road, and used by Native Daughters as clubhouse and museum, was the second, and not the first, mill store at Hastings Mill.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH VICKER WALLACE HAYWOOD, ONE OF THE FIRST FOUR POLICEMEN ON THE VANCOUVER CITY POLICE FORCE, 23 MAY 1935.

FIRST POLICE.

"The first police force was appointed before the fire of June 13th, 1886; I was one of them. I was burned out; lost everything—clothes, blankets, everything. The first police force was appointed quite a while before the fire.

"I came here in September 1885 from Prince Edward Island, via Portland, Oregon, and then by boat via Tacoma and Victoria. Worked on the dry dock at Esquimalt, then went laying track for C.P.R. at Ducks, near Kamloops, and came back to Vancouver in September 1885, and stayed here ever since."