

Early Vancouver

Volume Four

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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.

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FIRST CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY ENGINE TO REACH VANCOUVER, 23 FEBRUARY 1887.

Memo of conversation, 27 November 1937, with Mr. Fred J. Rolston, of Mutual Life of Canada Insurance Co., Vancouver.

"Mrs. Rolston, my wife, was born the day the first C.P.R. construction engine reached Vancouver; she was Miss Tilly Jean Cameron, and was born on the site of the present Letson-Burpee machinery firm, on Alexander Street, just west of Main Street, south side Alexander Street.

"There was so much excitement that day a new baby, and the arrival of the locomotive on construction of the railway, that the two incidents, and the fact that they coincided, have been talked about in the family ever since."

WATERCOLOUR OF BURRARD INLET PRESENTED BY MRS. J.H. SENKLER.

Memo of conversation with Mrs. J.H. Senkler in 1933.

HASTINGS SAWMILL.

"Mother" (Mrs. A.H. Richards, wife of Lieutenant-Governor Richards) "painted it while staying with Capt. J.A. Raymur at his house at Hastings Sawmill; it was while she was the Lieutenant-Governor's wife.

"She came up on a tug. Father did not come with her. Mother told me she walked through forest to Granville. It was the occasion of the first Dominion Day Celebration on Burrard Inlet, I think 1880—anyway before 1881."

LACROSSE.

Memo of conversation with Geo. Matheson, 6 June 1936, Land Registry Office, Court House, Vancouver, and a former "star" member of the Vancouver Lacrosse Club in and about 1900.

WESTMINSTER LACROSSE CLUB. "SALMONBELLIES."

"At first they wore red sweaters and navy blue short trousers, not maroon sweaters, but a sort of dark red; barn red. Then, after a year or two, they had a salmon across the chest, but it was only for one year; then they took it off."

THE DAILY NEWS-ADVERTISER, NEW SERIES – VOL. 1, NO. 46, VANCOUVER, B.C., TUESDAY MAY 24, 1887. WHOLE NUMBER 281.

OCEAN TO OCEAN PASSENGER COACHES FROM ATLANTIC SEABOARD TO TERMINAL CITY—VANCOUVER ARRIVAL OF OFFICIALS—REGULAR TRAIN SERVICE ADOPTED ADVENT OF PROSPERITY

From early morning yesterday it was easy to see that some unusual occurrence was about to take place. The streets were covered with people, many in holiday costumes, walking around watching the work of decorating that was being proceeded with on all sides. The buildings in many cases along the principal streets were decorated with evergreens, flags, bunting, etc., while from every flagmast [*sic*] in the city a flag of some nationality was flying out before the breeze. Horses and vehicles were decorated with small flags, bright coloured ribbons, and evergreens. From Alexander Street right across the railway track, a string of ship colours was stretched over, the bright colours and variety of shape and kind presenting a very pleasing effect. All the ships in the harbour were decked out in all colours especially the "Duke of Abercorn" which presented a gorgeous appearance. Business was partially suspended for the time being, although few establishments were closed up. The first train from New Westminster arrived at 9:08 a.m., bringing over about forty citizens of the Royal City to witness the arrival of the first train. A number of our citizens were present on its arrival and gave the visitors a hearty welcome.