

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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[LETTER FROM H.L. EDMONDS.]

WHITESIDE, EDMONDS & SELKIRK
Barristers & Solicitors

Suite 217 Westminster Trust Bldg.,
New Westminster, B.C.
November 22, 1934.

J.S. Matthews, Esq.,
City Archivist,
Room 1016,
Temporary City Hall,
16 Hastings Street East,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir:

Replying to yours of November 22nd with reference Fairview and Mount Pleasant, I beg to advise that I have no knowledge of how those names were arrived at. Many years ago my father, the late Henry V. Edmonds, owned an undivided one-half interest in Lot 200A. This was subdivided into lots and each side selected certain lots. I believe the late Dr. J.W. Powell of Victoria was one of those interested in the other undivided one-half interest of that lot. In addition to that my father owned the whole of Lot 301 and he subdivided that and named the streets. I cannot recall the names of any of them, except the one you mention "Sophia" which was named after a cousin of mine, still living in London, England. If I had a map and could see the names I could probably tell you more, but all my records, including maps of Lot 301, were destroyed in the fire here in 1898.

Sometime when I am in the Land Registry Office in Vancouver I will try to remember to look up the old subdivision map and after so doing, if there is any further information I can give you I will be very glad indeed to do so.

In addition to the site my father gave for the Mount Pleasant School he gave a site for the Anglican Church, which Church was named St. Michaels by my mother, who had been requested by the committee to select the name.

Yours very truly,

[signed] H.L. Edmonds.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. WILLIAM EDWARDS, OF 2576 OXFORD STREET, WHO, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS DAUGHTER, MRS. FRANCES BLAIR, CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES FOR A CHAT, 2 FEBRUARY 1939.

CHAIN GANG. LEG IRONS. TOM CYRS.

Major Matthews: Mr. Edwards. You wrote on the "Historical" page of your genealogy sheet that the first man arrested in Vancouver was tied to a tree. Who was he; how was it done?

Mr. Edwards: "Tom Cyrs, of the Granville Hotel. And the tree was what remained of the old Maple Tree after the fire; I arrived two days after the fire. They tied him to a chair at first, but he kicked over the chair; then they chained him to the tree; it was on the opposite side of Carrall Street to the tent they used for a City Hall. The old tree had been badly damaged in the fire. Which reminds me of a thing which would look very queer now. I have seen Tom Cyrs walking up the middle of Water Street with a buggy whip over his shoulder, and a horse, just a loose horse—no head rope or anything—following him. I have seen Mrs. Keefer do the same thing on Cordova Street; whip in her hand, and a horse following like a dog; they said she was a cousin to Jesse James."