

Early Vancouver

Volume Four

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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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DEDICATION OF ST. JAMES CHURCH, 1881. BISHOP SILLITOE.

"Hugh Nelson, afterwards Senator and Lieutenant-Governor, left Burrard Inlet before St. James was built, but he was a very regular attendant of the Anglican service at Moodyville, where church was held in the Masonic Hall, over the reading room.

"Capt. Soule, of course, as everyone knows, was a very staunch adherent to the Anglican denomination; was all his life. Together with Mr. Miller, he escorted the bishop at the dedication.

"David Milligan was a Methodist, and did not attend St. James. That completes the list of trustees as shown by Land Registry records, excepting only the Rev. Thos. Derrick, minister of the Indian church, and Methodist, of course, and Capt. Raymur, mill manager, who was a staunch Anglican." (The church name, St. James, was suggested by his name, James.)

"Leon Ridley, of Hastings Mill, was the first to toll the bell, and continued to do so for many years. Mrs. Allan McCartney was the first organist, continued until the fire which destroyed the church in June 1886, and for a few years afterwards in the new church on Gore Avenue."

METHODIST CHURCH.

I have heard my mother" (Mrs. Crakanthorp) "say that Grandmother" (Mrs. Patterson) "used to say that the Methodists were the real pioneers on Burrard Inlet."

ANGLICAN CHURCH, MOODYVILLE.

"The Anglican church at Moodyville was very strong, supported not only by the mill people, but by the men from the logging camps. Church was held in the Masonic Hall over the Reading Room, and the congregation sometimes overflowed the accommodation. The Rev. Mr. Edwards, Anglican parson, was a splendid man, used to go out to the logging camps, and organise football matches, etc., and then the loggers would come to Moodyville, and have a game of football on the sawdust pile, 'The Spit,' and Mother tells how she used to laugh at Rev. Edwards playing with them with his cassock all tied up around his waist to keep it out of the way of his feet, so that he would not step on it; and how, when, on Sunday, when the first bell for church went at 10:30, he would say to the loggers, 'Now, I've played your game, you come play mine.'"

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. ALICE CRAKANTHROP, 22 APRIL 1937.

In her sick bed, Vancouver General Hospital, after falling downstairs and breaking a leg and dislocating a shoulder, at her home 1622 Charles Street, from which they are moving after many, many years residence, on 1st May next to 59th Avenue East, South Vancouver.

HASTINGS SAWMILL SCHOOL.

Mrs. Crakanthorp said: "No, I am not the *only* pupil now living of the first class of 1873 at the Hastings Sawmill School; Carrie Miller" (Mrs. Todd Lees) "is the other one."

ST. JAMES CHURCH. THE FIRST ORGAN. ACCORDION.

"St. James Church was not built, so we used the school for divine services, and" (laughingly) "an accordion for an organ." (Moving her hands in and out as though playing an accordion or concertina.)

City Archivist: Well. What about the organ in the City Museum; they say that came out of the old school.

Mrs. Crakanthorp: "Oh, yes. We had an organ, but" (the Rev.) "Mr. Newton" (from New Westminster) "could not play it, and he could play an accordion."

DEADMAN'S ISLAND. THEO. LUDGATE. ALBERNI CANAL.

"I wonder if Ludgate of Deadman's Island is the child who was born at Stamp's Mill, Alberni Canal; there was a sort of race who was to be born first, myself or that child. I was born on the 26th" (February 1864) "and the Ludgate boy two or three days later, but" (smiling) "I was first."