

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.

Copyright Statement

© 2011 City of Vancouver. Any or all of *Early Vancouver* may be used without restriction as to the nature or purpose of the use, even if that use is for commercial purposes. You may copy, distribute, adapt and transmit the work. It is required that a link or attribution be made to the City of Vancouver.

Reproductions

High resolution versions of any graphic items in *Early Vancouver* are available. A fee may apply.

Citing Information

When referencing the 2011 edition of *Early Vancouver*, please cite the page number that appears at the bottom of the page in the PDF version only, not the page number indicated by your PDF reader. Here are samples of how to cite this source:

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



greasy pole was over the sawdust; then we had another greasy pole off the end of the wharf—the Kanakas usually won; they used to go out on that in their stocking feet; they were such excellent swimmers; they got a purse of money for the greasy pole over the water. Then there were games, and canoe races, for the Indians and their klotches. Tins of hard tack, gallons of molasses, and such things were all laid out down the wharf for prizes; the klotches would cry if they did not win, but they all got something—and about the same—to take home with them. I recall one time we had races for the children, and the prizes were big buns off the ships for the big children, and little buns for the smaller children.”

FIRST BRASS BAND ON BURRARD INLET.

“The Indians at the ‘Mission’ on the north shore had the first brass band on the inlet; that must have been about 1884, because there was no band when Lord Dufferin came in 1876, nor when the Marquis of Lorne came in 1882; the first time they played—that I can recall—was when the bishop came. He went over there by boat, and landed on the shore in front of the Catholic church on the Reserve, and” (laughing) “they met him on the beach with their band, and what do you suppose they played, ‘Johnny Comes Marching Home.’”

(Note: a maker’s name plate cut from one of the original brass instruments of the first band on Burrard Inlet is in the City Archives.)

DR. WALKEM.

“Dr. Walkem lived in the little cottage next the office.” (See photo C.V. P. Mi. 16.)

RED ROVER BARQUE.

Excerpt from letter, 1 June 1938, Stephen Burns, son of Isabella Ann Macaulay, daughter of Capt. Macaulay, master of the *Red Rover*, 1873, and in 1938 one of the four surviving pupils of the first class of Hastings School, 1873, to Mrs. A. Crakanthorp.

My mother made me laugh in her letter about Sambo, the black cook of the “Red Rover,” who got into disgrace there by stealing a lot of clothes from the clothes lines of different people of the settlement—your mother—the Raymonds, another, school mistress Richards—apparently he was a good old soul; a great cook, but a born thief. How he was found out I don’t know, but I shall quote from my mother’s letter to show you how she remembers.

“It would take pages to tell you, but it was funny how he was found out, and how the Police Flag went up on the mast of the “Red Rover” to get them on board. Sambo was cooking the tea in the galley, and saw the Bobbies pass the window. He made a dash just as he was, great bare black feet, down the forehold on to the planks of wood at her bows, and up on to the long trail. He could be seen ‘for miles’ it seemed racing for his life through the bush! All the lovely clothes were packed in his camphorwood box, and were handed back to the ladies. Grandma” (that was my mother’s mother; Mrs. Macaulay) “was presented with the box from the police. I had that box for years, and even in Australia.”

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. ALICE CRAKANTHROP, PIONEER OF 1873, NOW OF 586 EAST 59TH AVENUE, AT HER HOME DURING AFTERNOON TEA WITH HER, AND HER DAUGHTER MISS MURIEL, 29 JULY 1938.

FIRST ELECTRIC LIGHT. MOODYVILLE.

Mrs. Crakanthorp said: “Moodyville Sawmill had the first electric lights on Burrard Inlet. I do not know when it was, but it was after I was nineteen; not before, and before I was twenty, and I was born in 1864. I think those lights were the first electric lights I ever saw; we all went down to see them; they looked lovely. I don’t know how many lights there were” (1885 directory says twelve) “but there was one over where the logs came up, and one over the chute where the lumber went down.”

S.J. RANDALL OF MOODYVILLE.

"I don't know where they got them, but my brother Fred" (Patterson) "who helped to install them, says that S.J. Randall, the head machinist, got the idea; it was Mr. Randall's idea from the beginning, and that he got the machinery down in the States; the Moodyville crowd were all from the States—Mother told me that S.J. stands for Squire Jones; that when he was a boy, Mrs. Randall used to call him 'Squire,' and Mother asked why, and they said they had known someone called Squire Jones, and liked him so well that they called their son 'Squire Jones Randall.'

"Mr. S.J. Randall was the best rifle shot in Oregon in the seventies, and also when he came here.

"Fred does not remember the exact year, but I was about nineteen, and not older than twenty. Fred says the lights were the old style carbon lights, like two big black crayon pencils about as thick as your finger, which touched each other, perpendicularly, and the spark was between the two carbons. All this had a big glass globe around it."

ELECTRIC LIGHT AT HASTINGS SAWMILL. COAL OIL LAMPS.

"You would be quite correct to say that Mr. Randall was the first to bring electric light to Burrard Inlet, and that Moodyville had electric light before Hastings Mill. The Hastings Sawmill had electric light, but that was years afterwards. Moodyville was the first.

"There were no electric lights in Ben Springer's house at Moodyville—he was manager—nor in the school, or hotel, or store, or institute, or in the cottages; all had coal oil lamps with wall brackets and reflectors—do you remember the reflectors?—or hanging lamps on a chain. There was no electric light in the houses; not even in 1902.

"Mr. Randall's wife was the youngest of twelve children; the Randalls were neighbours of ours at Moodyville and previously in Oregon. The family were pioneers in Oregon; they had settled somewhere up the Upper Willamette River, where they had a splendid farm; they got 'so much' land grant for the old folks, and 'so much' for each child. It was there that Mrs. S.J. Randall was born. Mrs. Randall had two daughters, Mrs. Blaney of 1970 McNichol Street, now; and Mrs. Nellie Wight" (see photo P. Port 302 of Mr. and Mrs. S.J. Randall, and Randall file); "there are three sons."

MOODYVILLE SAWMILL. HASTINGS SAWMILL. SAILING SHIPS. TELEGRAPH AT GASTOWN. TELEGRAPH AT MOODYVILLE.

"There used to be a lot of ships come in. The most I ever saw was when I was sixteen; there were ten big ships all at one time" (See "Street Ends case, 1905," where fourteen is sworn to), "all loading at one time. I cannot recall their names, but I remember the *Pride of England*, and *Locksley Hall*. There was great rivalry between the two mills; that was why the Hastings Sawmill kept a man down at Victoria to meet the ships—and for years after—Moodyville had a telegraph wire—they pulled it down afterwards, and I got some of it for a clothes line—but there was no telegraph at Hastings Mill, and Moodyville got all the messages first." (Which explains why the telegraph was put in to Gastown, circa 1877.)

JOHN DEIGHTON. THE "EARL OF GRANVILLE."

"John Deighton had, in 1873 when we first came, an Indian woman for a wife, and then there was a white woman there, and I asked Mother who she was, and Mother said, 'Mrs. Deighton'—I never could understand that—and then Gassy Jack went away, and so did the white woman, and Tom Deighton and his wife came.

"The 'Earl of Granville' was Gassy Jack's little boy; the Indian woman was his mother; such a 'dear little fellow.'"