

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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Contact Information

City of Vancouver Archives
1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9
604.736.8561
archives@vancouver.ca
vancouver.ca/archives



"The children used to cry to be allowed to go on board, but parents would never allow it. But one day, Miss Redfern, the school teacher, did go on board. She said she wanted to go for history's sake, but Mrs. Alexander scoffed, and said she could not understand what Miss Redfern wanted 'to go on a thing like that for.' Miss Redfern went on the deck only; she had not the courage to go below.

"I do not know the vessel's name; I think the [blank] but I am not sure."

[LETTER FROM F.W. ALEXANDER.]

Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau
Seattle, Wash.

June 23, 1936.

Major J.S. Matthews,
City Hall,
Vancouver, B.C.

My dear Major:

Referring to your conversation with Mrs. Crakanthorp relative to the wreck which lay on the beach near the Hastings Sawmill store.

The vessel was a French bark which loaded lumber at the Hastings Sawmill and was the first and only vessel that endeavored to sail out of Burrard Inlet. She got through the first narrows safely but the wind died, when half way across English Bay, and the tide carried her up into Howe Sound where she went ashore, her forefoot was knocked off and several holes punched in her. She was towed back into the harbor and her cargo discharged. This happened before the Atlantic Cable was laid, and the owners, no doubt receiving little information, abandoned her. Her fittings, etc., were auctioned off, and the hulk lay on the beach until wreckers burned it to recover the copper.

I cannot recall her name but know it was not the "Stella." It might have been the "Jean Pierre" but I have a feeling that was the name of another French vessel which loaded several times at the Hastings Mill.

Very truly yours,

F.W.

Alexander

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. ALICE CRAKANTHORP (SHE CAME TO BURRARD INLET, 1873), 31 JULY 1936.

LARD PAILS.

City Archivist: You know, Mrs. Crakanthorp, when the school children were putting on that performance at the Empress Theatre last spring, they had the sawmill employees at Hastings Mill carrying lunch pails, and thermos bottles in them.

Mrs. Crakanthorp: (with a toss of the head) "Good gracious; there were no lunch pails and thermos bottles in those days; that was before they were invented; lard pails was what we put their lunches in."

CAPT. W.H. SOULE OF BURRARD INLET. HUGH SPRINGER OF MOODYVILLE.

"Hugh Springer was a Richards; and Capt. Soule's name was not spelt that way originally."

Note by J.S.M.: I don't know exactly what Mrs. Crakanthorp meant that "Hugh Springer" (manager, Moodyville Sawmill) "was a Richards," unless it is that he was the son of Mrs. Richards, afterwards Mrs. Springer.)