

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



MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH EX-REEVE EDWARD GOLD OF THE FORMER MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH VANCOUVER, SON OF LOUIS GOLD OF THE "GOLD HOUSE," WATER STREET, GRANVILLE, BURRARD INLET, 28 APRIL 1936. (JEWISH FAITH.)

REEVE EDWARD GOLD.

Mr. Gold said: "I was born in Kentucky, U.S.A. in 1868, and came to Granville with my mother, 1873, by Lewis' stage on the Hastings Road, the End of the Road, and then by a little old ferry boat to Moodyville, and then on to Gastown, and landed at a floating pontoon owned by Joe Mannion of the Granville Hotel. I was five years old."

LOUIS GOLD, OF THE "GOLD HOUSE," GRANVILLE, BURRARD INLET. MRS. EMMA GOLD.

"Father, Louis Gold, had come to Gastown in 1872; I don't know why, but he had come to run a store; anyway he had a store when we arrived, and was catering to Indians, loggers, longshoremen, and sailors; there were only sailing ships here then; I think he had come to Victoria from San Francisco, and thence by tug to Burrard Inlet.

"His first store he rented from 'Gassy Jack'; some sort of a little building on the shore side of what is now Water Street, and there was a two-plank sidewalk to it. Then he bought three lots, sixty-six feet lots on Water Street, from the Clarkson estate, and paid \$550 for the three. These lots are now Swartz Bros., Chess Bros., and the B.C. Fruit Co. warehouse sites. Father died at Kamloops, 7th February, 1907, and is buried Mountain View Cemetery; Mother died April 20th, 1939."

M.A. MACLEAN. THE FIRST CIVIC ELECTION. 3 MAY 1886. GOLD'S BUGGY.

"MacLean was practically unknown; against him was Alexander of the Hastings Sawmill; Alexander was the 'big stick' of the mill. My father worked hard for MacLean, and that commenced a lifelong dislike of Alexander for my father. When MacLean was elected the people were so elated that they took my father's buggy, put MacLean in the seat, got in the shafts themselves and hauled him all over what there was of the little town, 'round and 'round Cordova Street and Water Street. MacLean was sitting in the buggy all by himself, looking wise and smiling. It was not dark, as far as I can recall; it was summer time."

THE FIRST VOTERS LIST.

"We had a lot of tenants living in the house boats in front of those Water Street lots I had just told you belonged to us; they all voted; they were entitled to vote. I see in recent daily papers that there were ten wards; that is not correct; there were no wards. Just ten aldermen elected at large."

ROBSON STREET AT HOWE.

"I bought the southeast corner of Howe and Robson in 1891 before Robson Street was a street; where we had a little one-storey bungalow with the wide verandah around it and the big green lawn fenced in, in front. I paid \$10,000 cash for it, 120 feet deep to the lane and 100 feet on Howe Street."

REEVE OF SOUTH VANCOUVER.

"Yes, I was chairman of finance, South Vancouver, in 1914, and Reeve in 1915."

COPY, LETTER, 10 JANUARY 1937, MRS. DAMES, DAUGHTER JOSEPH GONSALVES (ONE OF THE THREE "PORTUGUESE JOES" OF "GASTOWN"), PENDER HARBOUR, TO CITY ARCHIVIST, J.S. MATTHEWS.

Pender Harbor,
January 10th, 1937.

Dear Sir:

I received your letter inquiring about the people buried at Brockton Point.

Can't really tell you how many, but can give you a few who I know. Mr. Peter Smith's daughter; Mr. Tom Drumfield that used to carry the loggers to the camp at Howe Sound. Mrs. McFee had two daughters, but could not give you just the date; it was around the year of 1874.