

Early Vancouver

Volume Four

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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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Archives

"I forget what it was; something at the park; some ceremony, crowds going out there, hanging onto the car steps, and I had to be in the park, but the" (horse-drawn) "cab was late; couldn't wait; had to do something, so I jumped on one of those cars; full dress uniform and all."

(Note: the full dress uniform of the 6th Regiment, "The Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles," of which he was either senior or junior major.)

"Well, I offered the conductor five cents but he waved it away, saying, 'Oh, we never charge *the band*.'

And the beloved man chuckled, and shook all over.

JSM

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. FRANK HUMPHREY, 2984 TURNER STREET, VANCOUVER, 17 FEBRUARY 1937.

Who kindly called at the City Archives to explain the details of an old photo taken about 1892 by G.J. Cave, photographer (shown as rooming at 520 Seymour Street, directory, 1892) of four nurses and an hospital orderly (one nurse in dark dress and white cap, three nurses in white aprons, orderly in apron.)

VANCOUVER CITY HOSPITAL. BEATTY STREET, WOOD BUILDING.

Mr. Humphrey said: "This photograph was taken of the staff, the entire staff except the cook and night nurse, of the Vancouver City Hospital by Mr. Cave, who at that time was a patient of the hospital. I judge it was the summer of 1892.

"The photo was taken in front of a passageway between the two buildings of the hospital, and, as you see, shows the covered passageway to be open on the near side, and closed with windows on the other; it leads from the" (old public ward) "nurses' quarters in the old wooden hospital building on Beatty Street to the newer brick hospital on Cambie Street.

"In 1889, I was ill with typhoid, and entered the hospital a couple of days before Miss Crickmay, who was matron, left." (Note by City Archivist: Board of Health records show that she returned, 10 August 1889, but perhaps she left 9 September at the end of one month's notice.) "I think I entered the hospital about September 9th 1889, and remained there until about the end of November; about three months.

"The nurses in the photograph are:

1. Miss Swan, matron, wearing a dark dress and white cap. She went back to Collingwood, Ontario. She resigned.
2. Miss Watmough, the head nurse, who died about five years ago as the wife of Harry Newton. She is shown standing, her head beside passageway post, and wearing a dark dress, with white cap and apron.
3. Miss Bushby, who lived up in Fairview, near Jonathan Miller's home. She is standing, wearing light dress, cap and apron. I don't know what became of her.
4. Miss May, seated between myself and Miss Swan. I don't know anything as to what became of her.
5. Frank Humphrey, or myself.

HUGHES, HOSPITAL ORDERLY.

"As I said, I went into the Beatty Street Hospital in September 1889, and remained until about November 15 as a patient. Then the porter, not Hughes, but some other man, had a disagreement with Miss Swan, and left, and as I was not in a condition to leave the hospital, they said, 'You had better stop and take his job,' and so I did, and remained ten years, until March 1900, by which time we were in the new brick building on Cambie Street."

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION, 1892.

"I had a good job in the old wooden hospital for sometimes, about 1893, etc. we had three to ten patients only; it was an easy position at times. We could accommodate sixteen patients easily, eight beds on each side of the main floor; there was no ward for women; the one ward was a public one, with lavatory and baths and the washroom and kitchen were in the basement and sleeping quarters for the only cook."

"Upstairs there were three rooms on one side of the hallway, and they were the matron's bedroom, a bedroom for a nurse, and the nurses' dining room. On the other side of the hall was a sitting room for the matron and nurses, and two bedrooms sometimes used, if there was especial need, for a woman's room or ward. There were two long rooms where four beds could be erected in each. One was afterwards used as a surgical ward before the Cambie Street addition was erected."

"I was born in Panham, Norfolk, England on the 12th July 1865, and came to Canada in 1873 on an Allan Line steamship, and went with Mother and Father, Elijah and Mary Humphrey, to Coburg, Ontario, and remained there until April 1888, when I set out to see the world in the new west. I had a contract to stay six months, and was working on a steam shovel in the Illecillewaet" (C.P.R.) "when there was some sort of dispute between the bosses, and we skipped out; two of us. The station agent wired that we had gone; we were riding concealed in the scoop of a big steam dipper, and they found us, and called for us to come out. For a time we made no movement, but finally showed ourselves, and he like a decent fellow told us not to ride in the scoop dipper, but get into the engine room of the steam shovel" (on the same car), "where it was warmer; it was pretty cold in the dipper; and in that way we got to the coast as the shovel was being moved to Vancouver."

GENEALOGY.

"My wife, who was Miss Delphine Emily Williamson of Fordwich, Ontario, and I am glad to say, still living, and I were married at Christ Church" (Vancouver) "when it was known as 'The Root House,' by the Rev. Norman Tucker, January 3rd 1894, and we have seven children, all sons, no girls. They are in order of birth:

1. Frances Percival, died in infancy, age 4.
2. Albert Eldon in Squamish, B.C.
3. Frances James, also in Westminster, B.C.
4. Clifford Bertram in Vancouver (or vicinity)
5. Osca r Arnold
6. Erne st John
7. Robert Alexander Floyd

"Six sons in all living; three married."

Approved after corrections made and signed, F. Humphrey, 2984 Turner Street, 18 June 1937.

J.S. Matthews.

ESTABLISHMENT OF EXACT LOCATION OF INDIAN CHURCH AT GRANVILLE, BURRARD INLET, 1875-6 – 13 JUNE 1886.

1. See photostat of Fire Insurance Map, Sanborn Map Co., 1885, in *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3, Matthews, which shows oblong building in southwest corner of Lot 14, Block 6, Old Granville Townsite, and marked with a saltire cross, indicating its use as a stable.
2. See photostat of C.P.R. map, route of C.P.R. line through Granville, in *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3, and also original map in Land Registry office, Vancouver, showing small oblong building in southwest corner, Lot 14, Block 6, O.G.T. in February 1886.
3. See photograph (C.V. P. Str. 8. N. Str. 29) of Water Street, Vancouver, spring of 1886, before Great Fire, taken from between Cambie and Abbott streets looking east (stump in foreground in middle of street), and showing, on left, small cottage with verandah which was Customs Officer Archibald Johns' cottage; next, stable, presumed former Indian Church, and over roof of which can be seen white gable end of the "Parsonage." The sidewalk in front of Johns' cottage should also be noted.