

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



2. Ellen, widow, Mrs. Ellen Armstrong.
3. William, born in Vancouver, 6 October 1888.
4. Alfred, born in Vancouver.
5. George, now in Nanaimo.
6. Grace, Mrs. John Taylor.
7. Ernest, now on Bowen Island.
8. Percy Charles, now in Vancouver, [born] about 1909.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. C.R. DRANEY (DAUGHTER [OF] ANGUS C. FRASER OF JERICHO AND GASTOWN), 2570 HEMLOCK STREET, 22 APRIL 1936.

JERICHO. DR. J.M. LEFEVRE. ANGUS C. FRASER.

City Archivist: Mrs. Dr. Lefevre has asked me to tea at four o'clock today.

Mrs. Draney: "Oh, how I remember her when I was a little girl. We were living at Jericho then and I broke my arm, and Father" (Angus C. Fraser) "went up to Vancouver and brought Dr. Lefevre back to Jericho in a canoe. Then afterwards, when Dr. and Mrs. Lefevre lived in their little cottage on Hastings Street" (north side, between Granville and Seymour, see photo No. Str. 100, and 128) "before they built their house where the General Post Office is now, Mrs. Lefevre—when the doctor was away—used to massage my arm for me. I wonder if she remembers it?"

According to Mrs. W.E. Draney, 3263 West 2nd Avenue, daughter of Mrs. Duncan R. Reid, first lady school trustee of Vancouver, her eldest brother, eldest child of Mrs. Reid, was born in Vancouver on 31 July 1886, just six weeks after the great fire in which she (Mrs. Draney) was scorched about the head (see Mrs. Reid account in *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2) and he was born in their little house on Pender Street (West), now about the site of the C.P.R. Freight office.

Mrs. Reid claimed, before her death, that he was the first child born in Vancouver, but this has subsequently proved not to be correct, for the first child was one of the Macey family, a son, still living (1937) in Vancouver.

The name of the son born July 31st is Campbell Draney.

Mrs. Draney's younger brother was born Christmas day, 1892.

J.S. Matthews.

FIRST CHILD BORN IN VANCOUVER.

Memo of conversation with Mrs. William E. Draney, 3263 West 2nd Avenue, Kitsilano, Vancouver, over the phone, 4 May 1937.

City Archivist (Major Matthews): Mrs. Draney, I have just been down to the City Solicitor's office, and have made a sworn affidavit that your Mother told me that your brother, Alexander Campbell Reid, was the first child born in Vancouver; she could not have known at that time about the Macey boy; nor did I know.

Mrs. Draney: "Well, they did not register births in those days. Mother always said that the McNeill girl was the first child born in Vancouver. I have heard Mother and Mrs. Cordiner talking about it, and Mother was saying it was a pity the City Council honoured the wrong person when they gave Miss Jackson the address and silver service. But I don't think Miss Jackson knew she was not the first; they did not register births in those days."

ALEX MCNEILL DAUGHTER, BORN VANCOUVER, 28 APRIL 1886, REPUTED FIRST BIRTH IN VANCOUVER.

Note by City Archivist: A clipping, taken from some Vancouver newspaper a good many years ago, presumably the *Province* magazine section, states that the *Vancouver Weekly Herald* of 30 April 1886 records that the first birth in Vancouver was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex McNeill, which child was born in 28 April 1886, "two days after Vancouver's first mayor and Council were nominated." The item