

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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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.

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The bell is of bronze, about six inches wide at mouth, about six inches high, and bears the words, "1878," "SAIGNEI-EGIER," "CHIANTEL," "FONDEUR"; has two Maltese crosses, twelve marguerites, and four other ornamentations in raised moulded bronze. It was intended to be hung by a strap for which a "ring" about three inches long by half inch wide is provided.

J.S. Matthews
10 November 1937.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. JENNIE BECK (MRS. N.D. TILLEY BECK), 1568 WEST 12TH AVENUE, OVER THE 'PHONE, 20 APRIL 1937.

Mrs. Beck is employed in the Day Nursery of the Welfare Association.

Mrs. Beck said: "No, I do not recall the arrival of the first train, May 23rd, 1887; I was too young; you see, my brother was eight years older than me. People expect me, as the sole remaining member of our family Vancouver to recall all about the first telephone central in my father's store, but I do not recall anything about it. Mother died in 1931.

"Father, I think, was on the first government survey of a route for the C.P.R. over the Rockies, but I was not more than 18 months old, about, when the first train arrived."

S.T. Tilley's famous stationery store and telephone central was at 10 Cordova Street (west of Carrall Street), and it was there that W.H. Gallagher, now sole spectator living of the first meeting of the first City Council, got the pad of stationery on which the minutes of that meeting were kept. See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 1.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, LORD BESSBOROUGH.

At the Vancouver Pioneers' banquet, Georgian Room, Hudson's Bay store, 26th or 27th March 1934.

During the course of his speech: "The secret of happiness in old age is the contemplation of one's own work, and to see that it is good."

MEMO OF CONVERSATION (OVER THE 'PHONE) WITH MRS. SIMON BLANEY, 1970 McNICHOL AVENUE, KITSILANO BEACH, WHERE SHE HAS RESIDED FOR MANY YEARS, 2 AUGUST 1938.

MR. AND MRS. S.J. RANDALL. MOODYVILLE SAWMILL.

Mrs. Blaney said: "Father" (Squire Jones Randall) "was master mechanic at Moodyville Sawmill; Mother, née Rebecca Whitney, daughter of William Whitney, was the youngest of a family of twelve, pioneers of Oregon. Father came out from England to Oregon; he died in Vancouver on or about 13th June 1915."

FIRST ELECTRIC LIGHT.

"Father came to Moodyville, first in or about 1870; then he was up and down many times from Moodyville to Oregon, and finally in 1881 came permanently. We, that is Mother, did not come until 1882 because there was no place for us to stay; then they built the house for us next door to the Patterson family; we had known them in Oregon.

"Perhaps, as Fred Patterson and his sister, Mrs. Crakanthorp, say, Father did install the first electric light on Burrard Inlet at Moodyville; very likely. Yesterday I asked my brother-in-law, Mr. Wight, 'Who installed the electric light at Moodyville?' and he said, 'Your father did.'"

S.S. MAGGIE. POINT ATKINSON.

"What your directory of 1885 says about the mill working at night is quite true; I know they worked at night. And Father installed the engines in the first steamer built on Burrard Inlet; I don't know what her name was; it may have been the *Maggie*, I don't know, and he installed the first foghorn at Point Atkinson; the present one is the second one. You see, Mr. Erwin, the lightkeeper, and our family, were such friends."

EARLY TELEPHONES IN NORTH VANCOUVER.

“And I recall he put up a little telephone from our house to the machine shop, but that was in recent years—about 1896, I should think.”

ANCIENT ORDER OF UNITED WORKMEN.

“Yes, Father was a member of the A.O.U.W. until his death. The order was a very early one on Burrard Inlet; it is a strong order. Father was a great rifle shot, too, because I remember they would not let him shoot any more—he won too many turkeys.”

JACK FANNIN. ELASTIC SIDE BOOTS.

“Yes, that photo you have is Father sitting down and Mother standing beside him. He is wearing elastic side boots; I imagine Jack Fannin made those boots. I know Father had a pair of Jack Fannin’s famous boots.” (See A.A. Langley narrative of 20 February 1936, re Jack Fannin’s ten dollar boots.)

“My sister Nellie is Mrs. James Wight—he came here in 1889, and is now 80—and my brothers, John William, now Canadian Immigration service, born at Moodyville in 1888; George Edward, superintendent of engineering department, B.C. Marine Railway, born Moodyville, July 27th 1886; and Ernest James, born Vancouver, 1900—he had an accident ten years ago, was ‘laid up’ four years, and is now in the City Fire Department, has been there seven or eight years. All have children except John William.”

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. EDGAR BLOOMFIELD, 2111 GRANVILLE STREET, VANCOUVER, 10 DECEMBER 1935.

[Conversation] whilst conveying ten oil paintings of early Vancouver, painted by himself, to the City Archives, he having donated them to the city.

HASTINGS STREET AT CARRALL.

City Archivist (JSM): Mr. Bloomfield, how deep do you think Hastings Street has been filled in here in front of the (temporary) City Hall?

Mr. Bloomfield: “Quite a bit; I should say about eight feet.”

HASTINGS STREET AT ABBOTT STREET. WOODWARD’S DEPARTMENT STORE. HASTINGS STREET CREEK. SNIPE.

“Why, I recall quite clearly the swamp was at least that much below the present level of Hastings Street at Woodward’s department store; a little creek ran down from up Victory Square way. You could always rely upon getting two or three snipe in the swamp where Woodward’s department store is; good big fat ones, too.”

Note by City Archivist: The northwest corner of Abbott and Hastings was, as late as 1900, very wet and swampy, and prolific in spring in the yellow blooms of skunk cabbage. The creek is probably that mentioned by John Henry Scales as the one beside which, in 1869, he built a grate of stones on which his mother heated water for washing. (See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3.)

Mr. Bloomfield died about 1936-7.

ACCORDING TO MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH SEARCHED FOR ME BY MR. FISH, OF THE STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL, 1936.

Miss Crickmay was appointed matron, vice Mrs. Roberts (the first matron), about 1 November 1888.

The whole staff was discharged in a body on 10 August 1889.

Mr. Fish says the records are not very “intelligent,” and that is why he says he thinks it proper to use the word “about” November 1st; it may have been a day or so earlier or later.

J.S.M.