

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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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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MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH NEWTON J. KER, FOR A QUARTER OF A CENTURY LAND AGENT OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY, NOW RETIRED, AND OF KER AND KER, BROKERS, ETC., 9 MARCH 1938.

Note: refer to conversation of 6 March 1938 with Miss Margaret E. McCleery, daughter of Fitzgerald McCleery, as to her part in preventing Shaughnessy Heights being created a separate municipality.

SHAUGHNESSY HEIGHTS. POINT GREY MUNICIPALITY.

Major Matthews, City Archivist: (over the phone) Mr. Ker. At the time the C.P.R. put on the Shaughnessy property, did they not want a separate municipality?

Mr. Ker: "Oh, yes, of course they did. But Frank Bowser was reeve of Point Grey at the time, and his brother was the Hon. W.J. Bowser, premier, or attorney-general, at the time, and they did not want it. We had a meeting over in Victoria" (note: Miss McCleery refers to this), "and they both said it could not be done.

"You see, Point Grey had been developing rapidly, and they had issued debentures for roads and sidewalks and sewers and general development, and the property the C.P.R. was developing as Shaughnessy was included in the security given for those debentures, and the Bowsers said it was all so mixed up it could not be separated, and that a separate municipality was undesirable. The reeve was against it, and the attorney-general, his brother, was against it, and the people were against it, the people out in Point Grey, of course; you know why?" (Taxes payable by the C.P.R.)

"The proposed municipality included all the 'C.P.R. Grant' land from the city boundary at 16th Avenue down to B.T. Rogers' place, 'Shannon,' about 57th Avenue; long way down Granville Street, and, in all, four or five thousand acres. But it did not happen. I managed the whole area for four or five years, separate and distinct from the municipality, and then it was taken over, and finally came into the city of Vancouver at amalgamation with the rest of Point Grey."

"THE BUNKERS." J.A. FORIN.

"The original bunkers for sand and gravel were where D.E. Brown afterwards built his house, now 3651 Granville, and at the corner of Granville and Matthews Avenue. Brown named it 'The Bunkers.' The bunkers was right on that spot. The C.P.R. office—my office—was close by; it is still standing, and is now a cottage occupied by my brother, 1592 Nanton Avenue.

"Then, afterwards, we moved the bunkers from there to the corner of 27th Avenue and Alexander Street; the B.C. Electric Railway had a track up to it, and brought up the sand and gravel by carload, ran up an incline for fifty or more feet, and the sand and gravel was dumped, and the wagons backed underneath, and took out their loads." (Note: the C.P.R. put in all sewers, sidewalks and roads before the property was put up for sale.)

"I was in charge there; we had twelve hundred men working at one time. Macdonell Gzowski and Co. had the contract for the first part, and M.P. Cotton Ltd. were the contractors for the second part."

Approved by Mr. Ker (phone message), 16 March 1938.

(See photo No. C.V. P. Bu. 164.)