

## 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 125<sup>th</sup> 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



**SHIP'S BELL. HUDSON'S BAY BEAVER.**

Note: the bell of the *Beaver* was taken from her by one of the Nickson boys, given to his mother Mrs. T.R. Nickson, whose husband was an official of the Capilano Water Works. She kept it many years, and then presented it to the Vancouver Merchants Exchange where it now is. (See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3, Nickson narrative, and also negative.)

Note: this bell was not her ship's bell, but the dining saloon bell. (See conversation, Mrs. Walter Winsby, 1 April 1937.)

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH A.P. HORNE, PIONEER OF VANCOUVER, 8 MAY 1936.**

**GRANVILLE ISLAND, FALSE CREEK. A.P. HORNE. G.G. MACKAY.**

Mr. Horne said: "You know that photo" (Bailey photo No. P. Van. Sc. 40a) "called 'West End, 1890,' probably 1889, taken from Fairview" (from site of house now number 1304 West Seventh Avenue, shown in foreground of photo) "showing the two bridges, Granville Street and C.P.R. trestle, and the forest on the West End about Nicola Street. Well, it also shows a circle of piles driven east and west of the bridge around what is now Granville Island; the old sand bar.

"Well, J.M. Chaldecott tells me Paul Marmette" (see *Early Vancouver*) "is confused somewhere when he says Vashon tried to preempt that old sand bar. Chaldecott says that the best of his knowledge is that the circle of piles was driven to the order of G.G. Mackay and his associates, their intention being to make application to the Dominion government for the sand bar for reclamation purposes. Vashon may have had something to do with it, but I doubt it.

"G.G. Mackay was a far-sighted, shrewd, reliable man."

*NOTE ADDED LATER:*

Supreme Court Proceedings, 5, 7 and 11 March 1889 to compel Hugh Keefer, C. Vachon, G.G. Mackay to remove piles (see Granville Island file).

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH A.P. HORNE, 9 MAY 1936.**

**FAIRVIEW. EARLY STREET CARS. C.P.R. LAND SALE.**

"I joined the C.P.R. Land Department under Mr. Browning about April 1890; our office was in the New York Block, Granville Street.

"One of the first things I did was help with the auction of the lots in Fairview; A.M. Beattie was the auctioneer. The C.P.R. sold about four or five lots in each block, just to get things started, and they gave the, what is now B.C. Electric Railway, a number of lots on Ninth Avenue, now Broadway, to induce them to run the street car tracks on Ninth Avenue."

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH R.V. WINCH (OF WINCH AND BOWER).**

Early Cordova Street wholesale and retail fruit merchants, whose place of business in 1887 was 125 feet west of the southwest corner of Carrall and Cordova Street, then the principal business street, and the busiest part, of the City of Vancouver. This small wooden building was pulled down when the Dunn-Miller block was erected. Mr. Winch erected, 1909, the Winch Building, now the Customs House, at the northeast corner of Howe and Hastings. Two or more of his sons served with distinction in the Great War.

**WINCH AND BOWER. DR. W.J. MCGUIGAN.**

Mr. Winch said: "Our fruit and vegetable business on Cordova Street was, in 1887, where the entrance to Thos. Dunn Hardware Co.'s store was afterwards; the little shed of a building was pulled down to permit the erection of the Dunn-Miller block. We supplied the Canadian Pacific Railway steamships and railway from Hong Kong to Banff with fresh provisions from that little store.

“Dr. W.J. McGuigan’s office was over Jack Levy’s tobacco store, diagonally across Cordova Street on the opposite” (north) “side, and a little to the west.” (See photo No. P. Str. 41.) “Afterwards we moved to a situation a little further to the west in the same block, same” (south) “side of street.”

#### **COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL.**

“James A. Tift was general manger of the wooden Cosmopolitan Hotel when it was first built at the northwest corner of Abbott and Cordova Street. The first day it opened they took in sixty-five cents, and no more; it was *too far uptown*.”

Note: this famous hostelry is shown in the well-known photo of the first Dominion Day Parade in Vancouver, 1 July 1887.

#### **MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH A.P. HORNE, 4025 GRANVILLE STREET, 4 MAY 1939.**

##### **BOWEN ISLAND. SNUG COVE. DEEP COVE. JOSEPH MANNION.**

Mr. Horne said: “You remember Gordon Legg, manager of the Union Steamship Company. Well, he said to me one day, ‘Let’s go and find Bowen Island.’ So Legg and myself, and two others, the four of us, got into two skiffs, sailed out of the Narrows, tacked over to Jericho, then over to Point Atkinson, and finally reached Bowen Island, and went up to see Joseph Mannion at his place. He asked us where we had come from, and his wife prepared a nice meal for us. So then he asked us where we were going to sleep, and we said we had a tent, and were going to sleep on the beach. But he said that would not do; we were to take the barn, and sleep in that. So we slept in the barn, and about daylight a horse poked his nose in the door, gave a mighty snort, which woke up all, and we turned over and went to sleep again, and presently, Joe appeared in the door and said we were to come in for breakfast. We said, ‘Oh, no,’ but he insisted, and we went in and had a good breakfast.

“He said he was so glad to see ‘a face’ that he could talk to; it was rather lonely, and he was glad to have a visitor.

“Fine, old, kindly gentleman, Joseph Mannion.”

#### **JOHN HOSIE, PROVINCIAL ARCHIVIST.**

##### **OBITUARY, AUGUST 1934.**

A great friend to Vancouver. When most were indifferent, many found difficulty, and some jeered, he urged, “Keep on; keep on.”

What those stout words, uttered when all was dark, has meant to those of Vancouver, none may learn, yet millions know. His encouragement sustained a faltering step; his aid supported a genesis as it staggered to stand.

Matthews.

See his printed report on City Archives to City Council, February 1934.

#### **[LETTER FROM T. FRED CLULOW.]**

Shushartie,  
March 31/36, V.I.

PLAN OF FIRST HOSPITAL  
(attached)

J.S. Matthews Esq.  
Vancouver.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 23<sup>rd</sup> to hand, am much obliged for your kindness enclosing poem.