

Early Vancouver

Volume Four

By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.

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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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DEPUTY CONSTABLE.

"At first I worked as Deputy Constable to Constable Jonathan Miller; it was through him that I got on the Police Force."

THE OLD JAIL ON WATER STREET. COURT HOUSE.

"The old jail was just an old shack of a place; two or three cells in it; they used to hold Court in it. The jail yard was just an ordinary yard with a board fence about ten feet high around. Cordova Street and Abbott Street were not properly cleared when I came here in 1885. Hasting Street, or about Hastings Street, was just timber; a trail through it. From Abbott Street west was just trees."

CLEARING AWAY THE FOREST. HASTINGS STREET. THE "EIGHTY-FIVE ACRES." C.P.R. TOWNSITE.

"The '85 acres' was logged off, but not cleared in 1885. In the fall of 1885 they started to clear the townsite from Abbott Street west." (Note: not quite correct; a little later than the fall, probably early 1886.) "I think Hartney had something to do with the clearing, or Chinese McDougall."

CAPTAIN J.A. CATES.

"Cates and I were partners in the Terminal Steamship Company, which is now the Union Steamship Company in part; he and I were together in the Klondike Rush."

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH V.W. HAYWOOD, 4697 NORTH MARINE DRIVE (POINT GREY 204), 24 APRIL 1936.

Mr. Haywood left Alberton, P.E.I. in 1883, worked on the C.P.R. construction about Sudbury, Ontario; came to Victoria in February 1885; worked on the construction of the Esquimalt Dry Dock; then worked on construction of C.P.R. around Ducks, B.C.; and finally came to Granville in August or September 1885. His wife survives.

THE FIRST POLICE FORCE.

Mr. Haywood: "In the famous photo of the police force of four, standing in front of the tent "City Hall," I am standing between Chief Stewart and Sergeant McLaren; Abrey is end man on the other side of Chief Stewart.

"I was sworn in as constable not long after the city was incorporated, at the same time as Chief Stewart and Sergeant McLaren, all three together; and went on duty that night, the first patrolman in the city's police service."

FIRST CIVIC ELECTION.

"The first election was a hot election, the hottest I have known in Vancouver; anyway that is the way it seemed to me; we wanted to put MacLean in, and we did it. I had a vote because I rented a piece of ground on what is now Cordova Street from Arthur Sullivan, built a cabin on it, and voted on that cabin as a tenant. There was a lot of people who voted who did not have a vote. Lots of people coming in here, stopping in hotels; they had no qualification, but, as I said, we wanted to put in MacLean, and we did.

"No, Mrs. Haywood will not attend the banquet to be given by the City Council at the Hotel Vancouver next Monday" (May 4th) "to the surviving electors of Vancouver at its first civic election; she is too poorly."

EXCERPT, UNDATED SCRAP OF PAPER FROM DR. ROBERT MATHISON, KELOWNA, APRIL 1936.

THE FIRST CIVIC ELECTION.

I was too busy getting out dodgers and other printed matter, for candidates to get a lease, to go and vote. I printed the ballot for the first election at the "Herald" office where I was employed as a job printer.

There were thirty-two names on the ballot, and a curious thing was that eight of the ten elected men were on the upper half of the sheet on which their names were printed. R.M.