

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



9. Lieut. Arthur, killed in action, age 21, September 1916, European War.

10. Miss Marjorie, now Mrs. R.A. Fraser, wife of Col. R.A. Fraser, Heavy Artillery, Montréal.

Read and approved by Mrs. Walter F. Evans, 25 July 1938.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH WILLIAM H. EVANS OF 2083 WHYTE AVENUE, VANCOUVER, AS HE, NOW AGED 75, DROVE ME HOME FROM A DINNER AT THE HOTEL VANCOUVER GIVEN BY THE HOME OIL DISTRIBUTORS LTD., TO SHOW TO A DISTINGUISHED COMPANY A MOVING PICTURE FILM DEPICTING EARLY BRITISH COLUMBIA.

FIRST TRAIN, PORT MOODY. QUEEN STREET, PORT MOODY.

Mr. Evans said, "I was engineer in charge of the first passenger train to reach Port Moody, July 4, 1886; I was 24 then, 75 now. I picked up the train at Kamloops, and brought her on down to tidewater. We did not stop at Queen Street, Port Moody, but ran down to the wharf about a mile or so further on. The Victoria people got up an excursion boat to come over to meet the train; the excursion boat was lying just across the wharf from where we stopped."

FIRST TRAIN IN VANCOUVER. NORTH BEND EXCURSIONS. EARLY PICNICS. FIRST ENGINE IN VANCOUVER.

"The first passenger train to arrive in Vancouver got here May 23, 1887, and that night I picked up a train of coaches and took a load of excursionists to North Bend" (where there was a stylish C.P.R. hotel.)

"Vancouver was a small place, nowhere to go, and people—those who had money—were glad to get out of town to somewhere. But the first engine to arrive in Vancouver got in long before May 23, 1887; the first track laying engine reached Vancouver in November, 1886."

WOOD BURNING ENGINE.

"The first engine into Port Moody—my train—burned wood, two-foot lengths; we picked it up at different places along the track."

Actual date said to be 23 February 1887. See Jos. W. Cameron. J.S.M.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. W.H. EVANS, 2030 WHYTE AVENUE, KITSILANO BEACH, AT 2083 WHYTE AVENUE (MAJOR MATTHEWS, CITY ARCHIVIST), SATURDAY NIGHT, 12 SEPTEMBER 1936.

FIRST TRAIN. PORT MOODY. 4 JULY 1886.

The following conversation resulted from an item which appeared in the *Province*, Vancouver, Saturday, 5 September 1936, Magazine section, page 5, column 2, which states: "W.F. Fullerton, whose own souvenir is a lump of coal taken from the tender" (on arrival of first train, Port Moody, 4 July 1886.)

In reply to a letter directed to Alderman Fullerton of Victoria by the City Archivist, Vancouver, he replied:

It is quite correct to state that the piece of coal was taken from the tender (by myself) of the first train when she arrived; there was such a rush for souvenirs; my prize was the piece of coal. How coal was carried on the wood tender I cannot say, but it was there alright.

W.F. Fullerton.

CONVERSATION, W.H. EVANS WITH J.S. MATTHEWS.

Mr. Evans: (on phone) "Are you going to be in?"

City Archivist: Yes, come on over.

Later, Mr. Evans: "Mr. Fullerton says he picked up a piece of coal on the tender."

City Archivist: Writes to confirm it.