

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



MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MISS MURIEL CRAKANTHROP, 856 EAST 59TH AVENUE, OVER THE PHONE, 3 SEPTEMBER 1938, WHO KINDLY TELEPHONED IN RESPONSE TO A NOTE ASKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE BUGLE HORNS USED BY THE WESTMINSTER-BURRARD INLET STAGES.

STAGES. LEWIS STAGE. MRS. LYNN OF LYNN CREEK. STAGE HORNS.

Miss Crakanthorp said: "Mother says she does not remember anything about the horn the stage driver blew on the Westminster-Gastown stage, but she remembers the stages coming in to Gastown. They used to come in with a flourish, and grand finale, four horses at a gallop, pull up with a great how-do-you-do between the Sunnyside Hotel and the Deighton Hotel, and the passengers would all get out, and be 'sized up' by the assembled onlookers; everybody wanted to know who'd come in by the stage; an event of the day when the stage arrived; nine passengers; one sat with the driver, and eight in the back. The fare was one dollar, or two dollars return. And of course the mail was thrown down, and hurried into the post office; it was at Hastings at one time, then Hastings Mill, then Carrall Street, depending on the year, until the C.P.R. came in 1887. Then after the excitement was over, the stage and horses would trot 'round to the stables on Trounce Alley, back of Jonathan Miller's house.

"Mother says the trip from New Westminster to Gastown took about two hours, and the road was rough; you know how rough the old Douglas Road was" (see Rev. C.M. Tate narrative in *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2), "well, in the earlier days it was rougher than that. You remember the big hill on the Douglas Road; Mother says below that was the roughest. Mother says the trip over was always an ordeal for her; she got 'seasick'; lots of people did. Mother says Mrs. Lynn, of Lynn Creek, if she could not have the front seat with the driver, would walk—walk to New Westminster and back—rather than ride on the stage; she got so desperately seasick on the stage.

"Lewis had that stage, and of course he had several drivers, and one was Mr. Green, with a long beard down to his middle, and he chewed tobacco, and he would talk, talk, talk, and the juice got on his beard; and the ladies were feeling squeamish, and that's that story.

"She doesn't recall anything about the stage horns."

Note: Mrs. R.D. Smith, born Burrard Inlet, 1 October 1877, says, 2 April 1937 conversation, "The stage, at the foot of about Abbott or Carrall streets, the stage just came so far, as far as it could get ... Harry Frieze" (sic) "the stage driver, up there on the stage with his bugle; he used to put the bugle up to his mouth and blow it—on the stage—and Maggie took my little hat, and I watched her drive off with the stage."

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. ALICE CRAKANTHROP, WHO, TOGETHER WITH HER DAUGHTER, MISS MURIEL, CALLED THIS AFTERNOON AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, TUESDAY, 25 APRIL 1939.

FIRST WEDDING AT HASTINGS SAWMILL. MISS ABBIE PATTERSON. CAPT. F.W. JORDAN.

Mrs. Crakanthorp said: "Here is the wedding certificate for the first wedding at Hastings Sawmill, 2nd December 1874, and I think the second on Burrard Inlet. My sister found it, after all, in a bible at her home at San Francisco; sent it to me, and wrote that it was sent expressly to you, as City Archivist."

At this point, Miss Crakanthorp handed me the certificate, a half sheet of plain white paper, on which is written:

This is to certify that Frederick William Jordan, Captain of the ship "Marmion," and Abbie Lowell, eldest daughter of Capt. Patterson, Burrard Inlet, were today united by me in the bonds of holy matrimony in the presence of a large company of friends, and the following witnesses: William Soule, Ada Miller.

Burrard Inlet, James Turner,
British Columbia, Wesleyan Minister.
2nd December, 1874.

MARMION, BARQUE.

Mrs. Crakanthorp continued: "My eldest sister Abbie, just plain Abbie, was born 14th October 1859 in New York City, and was married 2nd December 1874 to Captain Frederick William Jordan, master of the barque *Marmion*, loading lumber for China at Hastings Sawmill; the *Marmion* was afterwards lost at sea, loaded with coal, off Cape Flattery. Mrs. Jordan now lives at 1462 Nineteenth Avenue, San Francisco, and is almost 80 years old."

FIRST WEDDING. MRS. R.H. ALEXANDER.

"Well, the wedding was in our house; the one built for us in the spring of 1873; the one Riddleys afterwards lived in." (See photo No. N. Mi-12, item 21, and *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3.) "My sister made her own wedding dress, a beige colour, and Mrs. Alexander came with orange blossoms, the same ones she had used at her own wedding; Mrs. Alexander lived next door. Ada Miller, daughter of Constable Jonathan Miller, had a dark blue dress, made from material bought at the Hastings Mill store; they ordered it from Victoria. Mrs. Alexander wore a sort of cornflower blue silk dress—it was the dress she had worn at her own wedding. She was a very pretty woman, with large blue eyes and a lovely disposition, and so fond of my mother" (Mrs. Patterson.) "Captain W.H. Soule of the mill was best man, and the Rev. James Turner, Wesleyan Methodist clergyman; clergyman at the Indian church on the beach, at the foot of what is now Abbott Street, at Gastown. He was the first resident minister on Burrard Inlet. The ceremony was at seven thirty in the evening.

"There was much preparation, and baking of cakes; Mother did her own baking, of course.

"Well, the wedding was held in the sitting room; no carpets, not in those days, and the refreshments were served in the kitchen—quite a large room as compared with modern kitchens. I have got part of the original table up at my home; it was shortened, but originally, the old kitchen table was a very long table; we were a big family; you could seat eighteen or twenty at it; and it was quite broad; made from a single piece of board or plank. They had lots of refreshments, and 'Gassy Jack' sent a case of wine and whisky."

HASTINGS INSTITUTE. READING ROOM. FIRST PUBLIC LIBRARY. GEORGE BONE. CONCERTINA. SHIP NIAGARA.

"After the wedding, all went down to the Reading Room, or, I suppose you would call it library, and danced. There was a man, George Bone; he played the concertina, and there was a violin, and Mrs. Alexander—she had a beautiful voice—she sang, and so did Mrs. Haynes of Moodyville, and Capt. Pickard, who was here; his ship was the *Niagara*; he gave the bride and groom an address—something written on a piece of paper, and they gave another one to Capt. and Mrs. Pickard. Mr. McArthur, the mill machinist, read the address to the happy couple. I remember wishing they would hurry up reading it so that we could go and dance. And then everyone came in and had a drink of wine or something.

"I don't remember much about the wedding presents; Abbie got quite a lot, but all I can remember was a set of jewels, brooch and ear rings, from the *Niagara*, but Abbie says 'Gassy Jack' sent a case of wine and whisky. There was no honeymoon; Capt. and Mrs. Jordan just went on board his ship, the *Marmion*, loading at the mill, and in a few days she sailed for China."

CANNON. MOODYVILLE SCHOOL. MRS. MURRAY THAIN.

"The owner of the Moodyville, Sue Moody, was an American, and my brother-in-law, Capt. Jordan, was also an American, so, of course, there was great excitement at Moodyville, and all the head people at Moodyville came over, were invited.

"They had a gun over there, a small cannon, about three feet long, and they fired it continuously from about twelve noon until six o'clock at night. I don't think it was heard as far as the Hastings Mill, but the old gun came from somewhere, and it would kick backwards when they fired it, and a terrific great cloud of white smoke came out of it. The gun raised such a commotion in Moodyville that Mrs. Murray Thain, the school teacher, had to close the school. I'll never forget that; I thought it was such a nice thing for them to set the gun off.

"The first little son was born about two years after the wedding; he lived two to three years; William Allan his name, and buried in San Francisco. Her second son was Edward Burrard Jordan, born after about four years, and now in California; he was born the same day as Mrs. McKelvie" (née Estelle Soule.) "And

then there were four more, Lewis Sidney, now dead—killed on a steamer—and Emily Belvedere, born at Moodyville, and Hazel Gertrude, born at San Pedro, and Sarah Fuller, born in San Francisco, and, sixteen years after, Hazel, and at the time of her birth my sister Abbie was forty years old; six in all.”

LOSS OF BARQUE *MARMION*.

“The *Marmion*, loaded with coal, was lost at sea off Cape Flattery, but they were all picked up in the *Marmion*’s boats by the *Tam-O-Shanter*, and taken to San Francisco; my sister and her two children, William and Edwards, were on board; somehow, I don’t know the detail, Ned’s” (Edward) “leg was broken.

“When they told my sister the ship was sinking, she took the top off her sewing machine; just took the top right off, and put it in a camphor wood sea chest with a few clothes for the children, and had the chest put in the boat. I have always thought it was fine presence of mind.

“My brother-in-law, Capt. Jordan, got another schooner right away, and took it to Hawaii, I think. He was on that schooner for a short time, when he was offered the ship *Belvedere*, owned by the Dunsmuir of coal fame on Vancouver Island; then the Dunsmuirs transferred him to the steamer *Wellington*, and at that time the Jordans lived in Departure Bay, where the children went to school; then he went to San Francisco as a pilot, and while a pilot, he died in San Francisco, 20th November 1915.”

FIRST MOODYVILLE WEDDING. WEDDING TRAGEDY. PETER PLANT. PALMER? STAGE DRIVER. MITCHELL’S ISLAND. MISS HARRIET MITCHELL.

“I must tell you about the first white wedding at Moodyville; my mother was there. Judge Howay is all wrong; he says a wedding of a man named Peter Plant was the first wedding at Moodyville; *it was not*. It was a Mr. Palmer, who drove the Hastings-Westminster stage for Lewis; as near as I can estimate I was about fourteen at the time, so that it would be about 1878; and he married a Miss Harriet Mitchell; her brother afterwards owned Mitchell’s Island in the North Arm of the Fraser.” (Note: it is recorded that Plant’s wife was half Indian.)

“She was married one Sunday, and died the following Sunday; she had a bad cold. They had a little three-roomed shack, and about an hour after the wedding, Mother sent me down with something, and I went back, and told Mother of the moans I had heard, and Mother went down—just about an hour after the wedding—but the bride never regained consciousness, and died the next Sunday—a week after her wedding, and Mother laid her out in her wedding dress. Mr. Palmer, the bridegroom, was a very sad man after that; he lived in New Westminster, and I never saw him again, but he told Mother to spare no expense for anything that was needed.”

R.H. ALEXANDER, FIRST STOREKEEPER.

“Mr. R.H. Alexander was the first storekeeper at Hastings Mill, because Mrs. Alexander told us he was.”

HASTINGS MILL.

“This photo, No. P. Mi. 13, Hastings Sawmill. This low building in the foreground here is the blacksmith shop, and behind is the machine shop, and this small addition” (at northwest corner of mill proper) “is the saw filer’s. All in front here where all these men are standing is sawdust; where we had the games. Those small things on top of the mill roof are water barrels.”

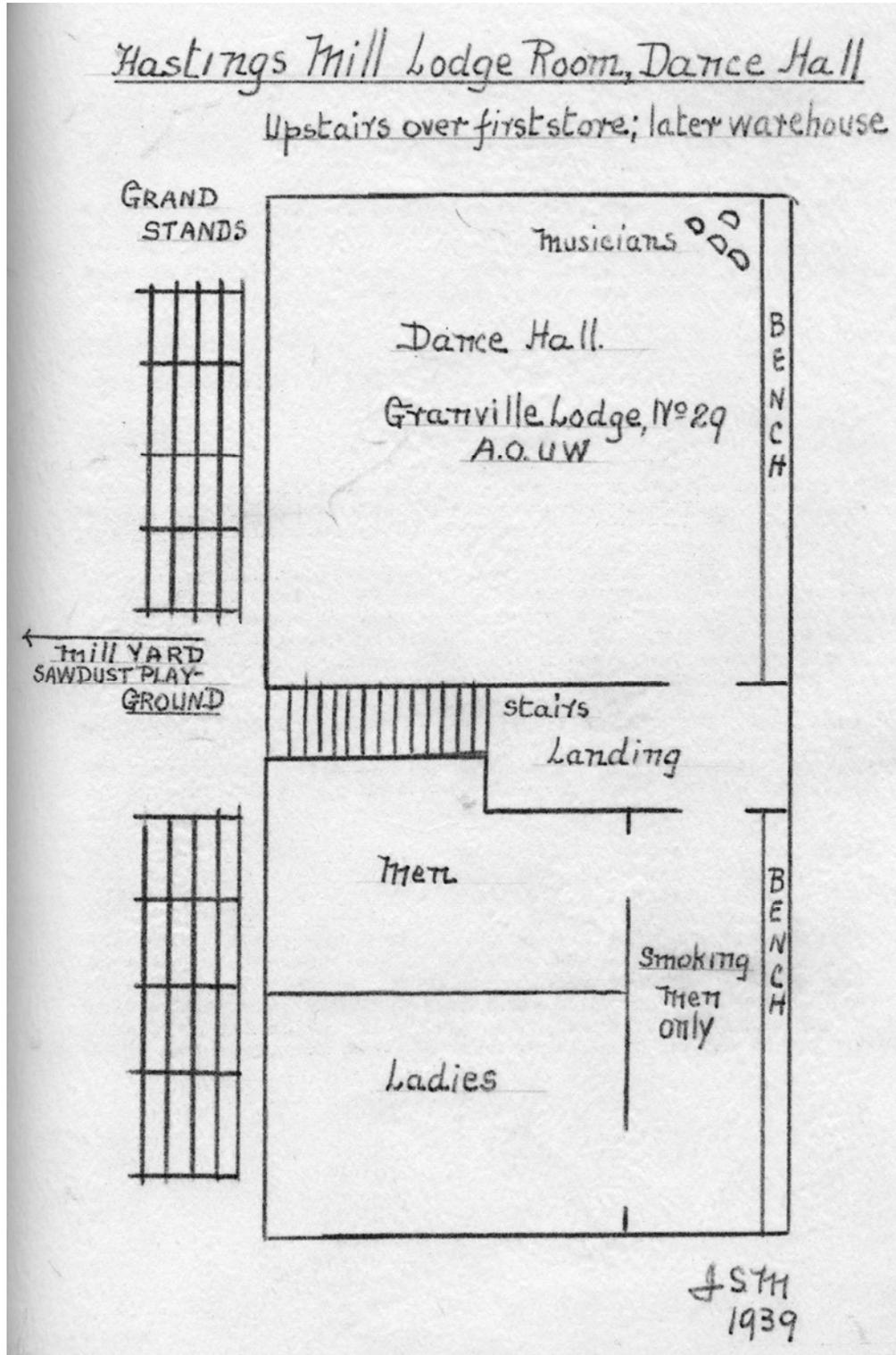
LODGE ROOM. OLD, OLD HASTINGS STORE. GOOD TEMPLARS.

“The old two-storey building, which they say was the first store, but which I cannot say whether it was or not, had a dance room upstairs; I think they used it for a lodge room too.

“The doorway entered from the outside, about the middle of the building, from the ‘grandstand,’ where we used to sit and watch the sports on the sawdust, and the stairway divided the upper part into two. On your left hand, at the top of the stairs, there was a bit of a hall, and the door opened into the dance room; there were benches and chairs, and the musicians sat on the south wall. On your right hand, the place was divided into three; a door led into a sort of long hallway, with a bench in it where the men used to sit and smoke, and then, what remained was divided into two dressing rooms; I suppose one for the men and one for the ladies.”

HASTINGS INSTITUTE. READING ROOM. LIBRARY.

"Then, when the dances were over—I think I was about fourteen then, I should think, 1878—they would all walk across the sawdust to the Reading Room for supper. This is the plan of the upper part of the building, two-storey, afterwards the warehouse." (See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3.)



Item # EarlyVan_v4_024

GRANVILLE, 1884. AINSLIE MOUAT. A.R. COUGHTRY. STAGES.

(Looking at photo No. N. Dist. 19; P. Dist. 30, Granville, 1884) “This building numbered ‘T’ may have been Blair’s home, but Ainslie Mouat built it; not to occupy himself, but to rent. Mrs. Walter M. Gow, née Coughtry, lived in it with her father and mother when she was a child.

“This dark spot here, the side door to Miller’s cottage, is where Carrie Miller and I used to stand and watch the stages come in, to see who’d come.”

“HOLE IN THE WALL.”

“This tall building at the end here, numbered ‘Q,’ was Pete Donnelly’s; he went to Scotland to get married, and came back John Robertson.”

PICNICS. GRANITE FALLS.

“You see, in the early days, they were supposed to entertain the captains of the ships, and their wives; nearly all the sailing ships, particularly the American ships, carried wives and families of the captains, and after the picnics there would be a dance.

“We used to go up the inlet to what they call Granite Falls now—they were beautiful falls—in the ferry boat *Senator*. All the neighbours would get together and see what they could bake, and they would all go up, and sit on the shore at the falls; the ladies would take their fancy work; they started that when I was about twelve, that would be about 1876, and kept it up until I was nineteen.”

MECHANICS INSTITUTE.

“Then, in Sue Moody’s time—that was when I was ten or eleven—after the picnics we would all be invited to the cookhouse for dinner or supper, and after that they used to dance in the Mechanics Institute.”

HUGH BURR. SEYMOUR CREEK. MILK.

“Hugh Burr lived at Seymour Creek with Mrs. Burr and their six children, all girls, Martha, Elizabeth, Fanny, the twins, Emaline and Adaline, and the last little girl whose name was Harriet Margaret Alexandria Burr. Mr. Burr had a farm, and used to make milk and butter. He used to cross to Maxie’s and sell butter and milk, and then come down to Moodyville in his rowboat with his milk. If it was very rough on the inlet he would not come. We saw him once afterwards in New Westminster.”

MEMO OF CONVERSATION (OVER THE PHONE) WITH MISS MURIEL CRAKANTHORP, 586 EAST 59TH AVENUE, 8 JULY 1939.

CHIEF LAHWA. CHIEF CAPILANO JOE. CHIEF HARRY.

Miss Crakanthorp said: “I have been talking to Uncle Fred, Mother’s brother, about the chiefs over at Capilano.

“Uncle told me that when he was about thirteen—that’s fifty years ago as he is 63 now—he and a boy named Georgie Kamm who was older—about sixteen—went down to Capilano Creek—we always called it Capilano Creek, not river, in those days—to get some mules.”

CAPILANO CREEK. MULES. OXEN.

“They used to have a lot of mules at Moodyville to draw the logs down the skid roads; they were sure-footed. They had oxen at first, then they got the mules; a whole string of mules, ten mules, two abreast. We used to go down to see the mules come in with the logs; great big logs, big fellows; they always brought three, down the skid road; they had come a long way.

“Well, a couple of the mules strayed away, went down to Capilano Creek, and Georgie Kamm was going to get them and wanted my uncle for company; they went along the beach when the tide was out, and they found the two mules down by the water at the mouth of the creek.”

(Note: variously spelt in directories as: 1882, 1885, no mention, 1887 Kamm, T., 1891, Kamm, George; Kamm, Thomas, Millhands, 1892 Kaunn, Thos. millman, 1893 Kamm, Thos., millman, 1894 Kamma, Thos., millman. Miss Crakanthorp says spell Kamm.)