

Early Vancouver

Volume Four

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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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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH HARRY T. DEVINE, EARLY PHOTOGRAPHER AND PIONEER OF "BEFORE THE FIRE," DIRECTOR, VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL, ETC., 11 MARCH 1936.

KEEFER'S HALL. ST. JAMES CHURCH. HOLY ROSARY CHURCH.

City Archivist: Where was Keefer's Hall, Mr. Devine?

Mr. Devine: "Keefer's Hall was on Alexander Street, facing the inlet about exactly opposite—within one hundred feet—of the point where the English Bay branch line of the C.P.R. turned off from the main line." (See plan or map of Vancouver, 1889, Dakin Publishing Co., page 11—photographic copy—Block 3, Lot No. 34, and marked "Water Works Offices, Lodge Room.")

WATER WORKS. ORANGE LODGE. ST. JAMES CHURCH, 1886.

"The Water Works office—Keefer was mixed up in the Water Works—was where Joseph W. McFarland, first secretary of the water works, who worked for Keefer, had his office. Keefer had had the contract for construction of C.P.R. from Port Moody. After the fire, June 1886, St. James held their services in Keefer's Hall; I know, my sister and I used to teach Sunday School in the hall upstairs, and St. James used it for services until they built their church on Gore Avenue; that was in the fall of 1886."

ROMAN CATHOLICS. HOLY ROSARY CHURCH. FIRST MASS.

"I don't know if the Roman Catholics held their services there or not. You say they did; well, I don't know. You see most of those now living who belonged to St. James Church at that time are now members of Christ Church, which broke away from St. James—I was one of them—and they do not know what happened down at St. James afterwards as they were looking after their own affairs at Christ Church."

FATHER FAY, THE MERRY PRIEST.

"During 1887, I am certain, and until St. James built their Gore Avenue church, Keefer's Hall was occupied by St. James Church, but, you see, there was a very good feeling between St. James and Father Fay of the Roman Catholics; they used to help him out with his bazaars and other things: used to help his funds, and it is quite likely that he used the Hall.

"But, except for organisation meetings of the Roman Catholics, I do not think they could have used it long; perhaps a month or so. You see, early in 1887, perhaps the fall of 1886, they bought the present Holy Rosary property on Richards Street."

GRANITE QUARRIES. SPRATT'S ARK. FIRST STONE POST OFFICE.

"At that time Keefer was operating the granite quarries" (see Bailey photos) "and they bought the great big old scow 'Spratt's Ark,' the famous old fishing cannery" (see W.R. Lord) "and were using it to transport stone from the granite quarries to build the new Post Office at the corner of Pender and Granville" (southwest.)

KEEFER'S HALL.

Note: in addition to Dakin's map ground plan, there are at least three panorama photos (waterfront) which show Keefer's Hall.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. B.F. DICKENS, 3582 WEST 14TH AVENUE, WHO VERY KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES FOR A CHAT, 24 JUNE 1937.

INDIAN RIVER PARK. WIGWAM INN.

Mr. Dickens said: "I was the original owner and promoter of Indian River Park and Wigwam Inn. We had four properties up there at Indian River, at first D.L. 819 and 820; afterwards we acquired two more district lots, I think D.L. 1461 and 1436; D.L. 819 and 820 were the original ones. A registered townsite plan deposited with the Land Registry, but the plan was afterwards cancelled by the present owner, Edward J. Young, No. 1 Main Street, Madison, Wisconsin, a millionaire lumberman who has interests from here to Alaska. The property now extends from about Croker Island to a quarter of a mile up the Indian River."