

## **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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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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Identification numbers to building (Ridley).

16. THE OLD OLD MILL STORE, the original, afterwards used for Lodge room upstairs (in ceiling); warehouse. It was the highest or tallest building. See photo No. Mill 19, Neg. Mill 2.
20. THE NEW OLD MILL STORE, now at Alma Road. Afterwards the modern Hastings Mill store was built beside this to the south, and a "store front" built in front of both buildings. See photo No. P. Mill 14, N. Mill 15.

#### **HASTINGS MILL AND THE FIRST STORE BUILDING.**

3520 Main Street,  
Vancouver, B.C.  
Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. 1938.

Mrs. McKelvie

Dear Madam:

In reply to your inquiry of the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. The first original store was built for the purpose of a store house. There were a few groceries sold, but they had to be hunted for amongst the boxes, etc.

A small counter was kept in one corner but had many uses.

The store was in use approximately four years before "Gastown"; Mr. Scales can not remember the exact dates, at which time there was no community to serve.

There being no roads at this time, it was necessary to come by boat or wait for low tide.

Please do not hesitate to inquire further if you so desire.

Yours respectfully,  
W.A. Scales.

(grandson)

Dictated to his grandson by John Henry Scales, 3520 Main Street, now the earliest Burrard Inlet inhabitant living, born 26 June 1854, came to B.C. with his father, John Scales, R.E. on *Thames City*, 1859, and both came to Burrard Inlet in small boat, 1867 or after. (See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3.)

Mrs. Alex McKelvie, née Estelle B. Soule, daughter of Capt. W.H. Soule of Hastings Mill, pioneer.

Following assertion, based on conversations with H.E. Ridley, F.W. Alexander, and J.H. Scales, as recorded [in] *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3, that the Hastings Mill Store, now, 1939, at Alma Road, and used by Native Daughters as clubhouse and museum, was the second, and not the first, mill store at Hastings Mill.

#### **MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH VICKER WALLACE HAYWOOD, ONE OF THE FIRST FOUR POLICEMEN ON THE VANCOUVER CITY POLICE FORCE, 23 MAY 1935.**

##### **FIRST POLICE.**

"The first police force was appointed before the fire of June 13<sup>th</sup>, 1886; I was one of them. I was burned out; lost everything—clothes, blankets, everything. The first police force was appointed quite a while before the fire.

"I came here in September 1885 from Prince Edward Island, via Portland, Oregon, and then by boat via Tacoma and Victoria. Worked on the dry dock at Esquimalt, then went laying track for C.P.R. at Ducks, near Kamloops, and came back to Vancouver in September 1885, and stayed here ever since."

### **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 4<sup>th</sup>) "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.