

## **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**

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### **FIRST STREET CAR.**

“James Edward Smith, now living next door at 1630 Charles Street, was the first baby to ride on a street car in Vancouver. The car left the barn which was at the foot of Barnard Street, and ran along Westminster Avenue and down as far as Hastings Street; it was just a short trial run. As it was going up Westminister Avenue, a neighbour of the Smiths, Mr. Snyder, picked the baby up and said he would give the baby the chance in later years to say he was the first baby to ride on a street car in Vancouver; the Smiths lived almost beside the car barn. His mother protested that ‘his face was not washed,’ but Mr. Snyder ran off with the baby, calling back as he went that ‘it did not matter, the car was coming; couldn’t stop; he would do.’ So the baby had a ride, and the car went on, picking up passengers as it went.”

Read and approved by Mrs. Crakanthorp, 3 April 1935. J.S.M.

### **MEMORANDUM OF FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH MRS. ALICE CRAKANTHROP OF 1622 CHARLES STREET, VANCOUVER, 3 APRIL 1935.**

#### **MASONIC BALL, MOODYVILLE LIBRARY, MOODYVILLE. ST. JAMES’ CHURCH.**

“I must tell you about the Masonic Ball at Moodyville. I was nineteen. It was held over the library at Moodyville.” (Note: picture of Moodyville Masonic Hall in Masonic Temple, Vancouver.) “It was in the winter of 1883; very grand affair; supper very grand; very wonderful. I used to think that if I could only get to the Masonic Ball I should attain something; the style and ceremony of it” (arching her eyebrows).

Interjection by J.S.M.: Especially if the warship was in.

Mrs. Crakanthorp: “Even without the warship; a little too much ceremony; we danced the lances just before we went off to supper; the masons were so particular that we did not drop coffee on their aprons; Mr. Flett, he was engineer or something as the Hastings Mill, had an especially fine one. After the Masonic lodge moved to Vancouver, we rented the old lodge building as a church for Moodyville, and it was an adjunct to St. James. They held baptisms, etc., there, I know the old records of it are in the St. James Church here.”

#### **ARCHIE MCCRIMMON, GRANVILLE.**

“Archie McCrimmon was a great big man; didn’t he build the Sunnyside, the first one? I think you’ll find he did.”

#### **VISIT OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL. MARQUIS OF DUFFERIN AND AVA. HASTINGS MILL. ORGAN.**

“The visit of the Governor-General; I must tell you. Well, the road going down from Hastings Mill to Gastown, and from the mill to Maxie’s” (Hastings) “was not quite finished; it was just a track of mud and roots through the trees; it was not properly cut through. Well, the Governor-General and his wife came in on the H.M.S. *Amethyst*, and I think there was a small boat with the warship, *The Rocket*; just a small gunboat; the vice royal party landed in the small boats just in front of the Mill Store. From the Store to the Wharf Freight Shed was covered with straw matting, and the little organ (I think it is now in the City Museum, but am not sure) was taken out of the schoolhouse; you could pick it up in your hand; it was just a little thing; and they prepared to sing ‘God Save the Queen.’”

Query: Did they do it? (Note: the visit was about 14-16 September 1876.) (NOTE ADDED LATER: 5 September 1876.)

Mrs. Crakanthorp: “Oh, yes. It was right down on the wharf, and when the Governor-General landed they sang ‘God Save the Queen’ and made music for it with the organ.

“The Lady Dufferin wanted to be taken right up to see the Indians; she was very fond of Indians; so she went to the rancherie by the mill—just east of the Hastings Mill—and she shook hands with an old squaw; they called her” (the squaw) “the ‘Virgin Mary’; much to the displeasure of the rest of them” (whites); “they thought there was going to be a lot of entertaining, but she did not stay very long. I think she went back to the boat. She wore knitted gloves, regular knitted gloves.

"I don't know if the Marquis of Lorne came to Vancouver; I was away, but I know that when he went to Nanaimo, after meeting the Mayor, he said he wanted to see an old gentleman who had fought at Waterloo, old Mr. Westwood, so they took him off to see the old man."

#### **ISAAC JOHNS. CUSTOMS OFFICE.**

"Old Mr. Ike Johns, the collector of customs, used to live in this little cottage." (See photo No. ?) "It was afterwards not a very nice place. Some girls used to live there." (Birdie Stewart.)

#### **AINSLEY (?) MOUAT. BEN WILSON. DEATH OF CAPTAIN RAYMUR. R.H. ALEXANDER.**

"The storey-and-a-half cottage just across the street a few yards to the east was built by Ainsley Mouat." (Note: Mouat was one of the early lot owners in Granville.) "He built it on spec, rented it to Ben Wilson for a residence, until Ben Wilson built his own house on the north side.

"When we came here in 1873, Ainsley Mouat was a boy in the Hastings Mill Store; then afterwards he went into the mill office, then he went to Victoria. Then when Captain Raymur died, and Mr. Alexander became manager of the mill, the heads of the mill sent for Ainsley to come back. Ainsley was the heart of the Bachelors' Club. He died about 1893 or 1894 of typhoid fever."

#### **TYPHOID. WATER FROM WELLS.**

"After the fire, typhoid was terrific; a sort of epidemic; not a hospital; they kept the patients in bed and home; I know Mrs. Miller kept her daughter at home when she had it. There were a lot of people in tents; there was little sanitation; water from wells, and no sewers."

#### **THE GREAT FIRE.**

"We were at Moodyville, and I just went out to get the pudding for diner, and looking out of the door I saw the terrific smoke coming from Gastown; such a terrific smoke. And then I saw the steamers coming out—the *Robert Dunsmuir* and a little boat called the *New Westminster*. They were half way across" (to Moodyville) "with the refugees. It must have been about three o'clock when they landed at Moodyville. We went down to see them land; it was tragic to see the people come ashore; their shoes were charred."

#### **JONATHAN MILLER. POST OFFICE.**

"Jonathan Miller was carrying a big cash box in both hands in front of him; I think it must have been the post office papers because he had just been appointed postmaster at Vancouver, and his spectacles were lying on top of the cash box as he carried it in front of him. He walked up solemn like; he always looked solemn. He turned to Mrs. Miller and said, 'Mother, I've saved my glasses.' Carrie Miller, now Mrs. Todd Lees, had on a thick winter dress, and it was a frightful hot day, very hot. She said that when she came from church in her summer clothes, she had put them away, and when the fire came she just reached up and put on the first dress which came to her hand, and it was the thick winter dress. Mrs. Miller had a prayer book in her hand and said to me, 'Alice, I saved my prayer book.'"

#### **CAPTAIN POWER OF MOODYVILLE. MASONIC HALL.**

"We did what we could to help. The people were taken to the hotel at Moodyville and served with supper; my sister and I served at table, and Captain Power of Moodyville was there, and when bedtime came they were taken to the Masonic Hall, and given blankets from the store; they just slept around anywhere they could. Mr. Springer asked my sister and I to get things from the store.

"It was very pitiful to see them sleeping. The people were all very tired, and very quiet. Some had just the clothing they wore, nothing else, and many did not know where their children were; it was very, very pitiful. Mr. Springer asked them not to soil the Masonic chairs; they were all lying around on the floor and on the platform.

"We took the Miller girls to our home that night, and after we had got into bed we were talking things over, and I asked Carrie just what she thought about it all. Carrie said, 'My only thought was to get Ma out of the fire.' Mrs. Miller was in a panic; you see, they had to walk through the burning coals, the fire, and she, well, they had to push her. Then I asked the younger one, Alice Miller, what she thought about it and she answered, 'Thank goodness, that old coat I hate got burned up.' Miller was mean with the girls."