

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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has been filling this town up with small windows." Sorby afterwards lived in Victoria, and made a statement once that he had his lead pencils shipped over the Northern Pacific to get even on Van Horne.

Mr. Galt was in error in stating the Abyssinia or Parthia went up to Port Moody, the Vancouver Dock being built before they started running from the Orient. The only vessels I remember going up to Port Moody were sailing vessels loaded with railroad iron and a few small steamships with Chinese coolies. These, however, went up before the building of the dock at Vancouver. Another proof that the Abyssinia and Parthia did not go up is the fact that the Oriental service was not started until the road was extended from Port Moody to Vancouver.

Yes, I received the invitation, for which thanks. Will try and be a little more prompt with replies when you next write for information.

Very sincerely,

[signed] F.W. Alexander

A PIONEER SCHOOL GIRL'S ESSAY ON VANCOUVER IN 1886.

Original in City Archives, City Hall.

VANCOUVER

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 1886.

Vancouver is a small city situated on Burrard Inlet. About a year and half ago there was scarcely any people here and only a few houses, now it has a population of nearly four thousand. About six months ago the entire city was destroyed by fire started by burning brush. But in those six months it has again regained its former position as a flourishing town. It has a good harbor and a number of ships come here to load lumber for foreign lands. It is expected that Vancouver will be the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

Lida Bell

The original of this essay was written, 22 November 1886, by Miss Elida Bell, now Mrs. Charles Lister [Lester?] Austin, 980 West 20th Avenue, Vancouver, as part of the class work, in the old Hastings School, Vancouver's first, and, at that time, only school. It stood at the foot of Dunlevy Avenue, within the sawmill property, but at a point now crossed by the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Mrs. Austin was one of the group of fifty-one pupils—the entire school population—shown in the well-known photo of the little white school house; J.W. Palmer, the only teacher. She is the daughter of Edward C. Bell, of Mariposa, California, stepdaughter of D.W. Card of Moodyville Sawmill, and sister-in-law of the late E.E. Austin.

The names of the pupils (forty-eight only) shown in the photograph are as follows:

Hastings Sawmill School

List of pupils, 11 June 1886 (two days before the fire).

As shown in celebrated photograph, taken 11 June 1886, showing teacher and fifty-one pupils on steps in front of little white schoolhouse.

Ada Blair
Edith Cordiner
Annie Stewart
Louise Peck
Lillie Card
Grace Fraser
Lida Bell
Hector Stewart

Harry Alexander
Harold Ridley
Michael Costello
Annie Moore
Lizzie Ward
Laura Heywood
Jennie Pedgriff
Mary Plant

Gussie Belanger
Florence Ballanger
Laura Ballanger
Louie Card
Louis Silvain
Alex Mathison
Dan McPherson
John Kenworthy

Willie Kenworthy
Boska Balanger
Charlie Balanger
Bertie Gregory
James Grant
Laura Campbell
Minnie McCord
Sophia Grimshaw

Total 48 J

Florence Pedgrift
Florence Gregory
Jessie Stewart
Jemima Reed
Bertha Burnett
Milly Mathison
Cora Card
Tom Costello

.W. Palmer,
Teacher,
First School Vancouver, B.C.

Harvey Hall
George Favor
Dot Bellanger
Maurice Ballanger
Janie Kenworthy
Mabel Blair
Maggie Kenworthy
John Costello

Presented by Mrs. Charles Lester Austin, née Elida Bell, 980 West 20th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.

VANCOUVER'S FIRST SCHOOL, 1887.

Copy of scholar's essay.

Our school house is situated on Oppenheimer Street. It is quite a large building, containing four rooms, two on the upper floor, and two on the lower. Our room has forty seats in it. There are blackboards all around the room.

Lida Bell

Vancouver, Jan. 26, 1887
Wednesday, 1st day of school

Excerpts, copy book, "Penmanship," pages 1 and 2.

Vancouver, Friday, August 20th, 1886.

Make haste slowly is Palmer's motto.

Note: J.W. Palmer, the only teacher, Hastings school.

Excerpt, page 20: "Dec. 3rd 86, Friday."

Excerpt, page 23: "Written the last day of school. Friday June 11th, 1886."

Note: June 11th, the day the famous photograph was taken of Hastings School, with 51 children on the steps, two days before "The Fire."

Excerpts, copy book, "Penmanship," pages 7 and 8 (no date).

Scholars of Vancouver Public School

Burletta Balonger
Augusta Balonger
Charlie Balonger
Boska Balonger
Mabel Blair
Ada Blair
Sophia Grimshaw
Mary Plant
Laura Campbell
Nannie Johns
Archie Johns
Freddie Johns
Minnie McCord
Stella Soule
Edith Cordiner

Isabella Hodgson
Charlie Hodgson
Lillie Card
Cora Card
Louie Card
Lida Bell
George Clair (Clare)
Annie Stewart
Hector Stewart
Jessie Stewart
Jemima Reed
Michael Costello
John Costello

Thomas Costello
Alice Sessions
Nellie Nash
Herbert Martin
Acie Martin
Carrie Martin
Albert McLain
Willie Hall
Harvey Hall
Leon Ridley
Harold Ridley
Louis Silvain
Timothy Collins
John Kenworthy
Willie Kenworthy