

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



**VAN HORNE RETURNS TO EASTERN CANADA OVER C.P.R. LINES UNDER CONSTRUCTION,
AUGUST 1884.**

Copy of letter, ex-Alderman L.A. Hamilton, C.P.R. Land Commissioner, Vancouver, and now, 1936, the sole survivor of the first City Council of Vancouver.

Lorne Park, Ont.,
14th June, 1936.

Dear Major Matthews:

Yesterday the anniversary of the Great Fire at Vancouver brought the harrowing scene very much to my mind. The Toronto paper, "The Mail," "The Telegram," "The Star" all asked for personal interviews, the "Mail and Empire" going so far as to send a special reporter and photographer to interview and photograph. IN these hurried interviews there are always some minor mistakes; that goes as a matter of course. I am sending some of these which I clipped yesterday from the press.

In a former letter you asked me for the date of Van Horne's arrival in Victoria; the date is 4th August 1885; you know of course that he came over to Vancouver, and went overland on the line of the C.P.R., then under construction. Mr. Beatty and myself arriving late in January 1886. *[Note by JSM: Obviously an oversight in date, for he has dated his seven paintings of Burrard Inlet scenes from 1883 to 1885.]*

I cannot say definitely whether any of the steamers went up to Port Moody after it was definitely settled that Vancouver was the terminus.

Mrs. Hamilton asks me to thank you for your interesting letter of the 17th May.

My sister, Mrs. Leask, was with me on the 13th so we had long talks over the big fire, and the second threat when she and my daughter with many others were transported by boat to Moodyville. My house at the corner of Granville and Hastings was in process of construction; we saved it with great difficulty.

I am sorry to say my doctor has laid a heavy embargo on me. I must refrain from work; and rest, avoiding undue excitement, etc. etc. With this before me the chances of my getting to Vancouver look very slim.

Sincerely yours,

[signed] L.A. Hamilton.

(See Photo P. Str. 17, N. Str. 5.)

[LETTERS FROM L.A. HAMILTON.]

Lorne Park, Ont.,
14th July 1936.

Dear Major Matthews:

We have been labouring under the hottest spell of weather for a week, the hottest I have ever experienced, the thermometer rising to 106 degrees. I have in my time spent many weeks in deserts of Egypt; but they were cool in comparison with the ones we have lately (enjoyed?) This must be my reason for not replying to your letter of the 24th ult.

I have not seen the new City Seal so cannot say whether I think it superior to the one I designed many years ago. I have a very distinct recollection about framing the first one. The matter came up at one of our council meetings, whether that was before or after the "Fire" I cannot say, and as I was the only draughtsman or artist in this council, the lot fell to me to do this work. This was the time when the C.P.R. had reached the coast, and when the first ships had