

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.

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Footnote or Endnote Reference:

Major James Skitt Matthews, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 4 (Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011), 33.

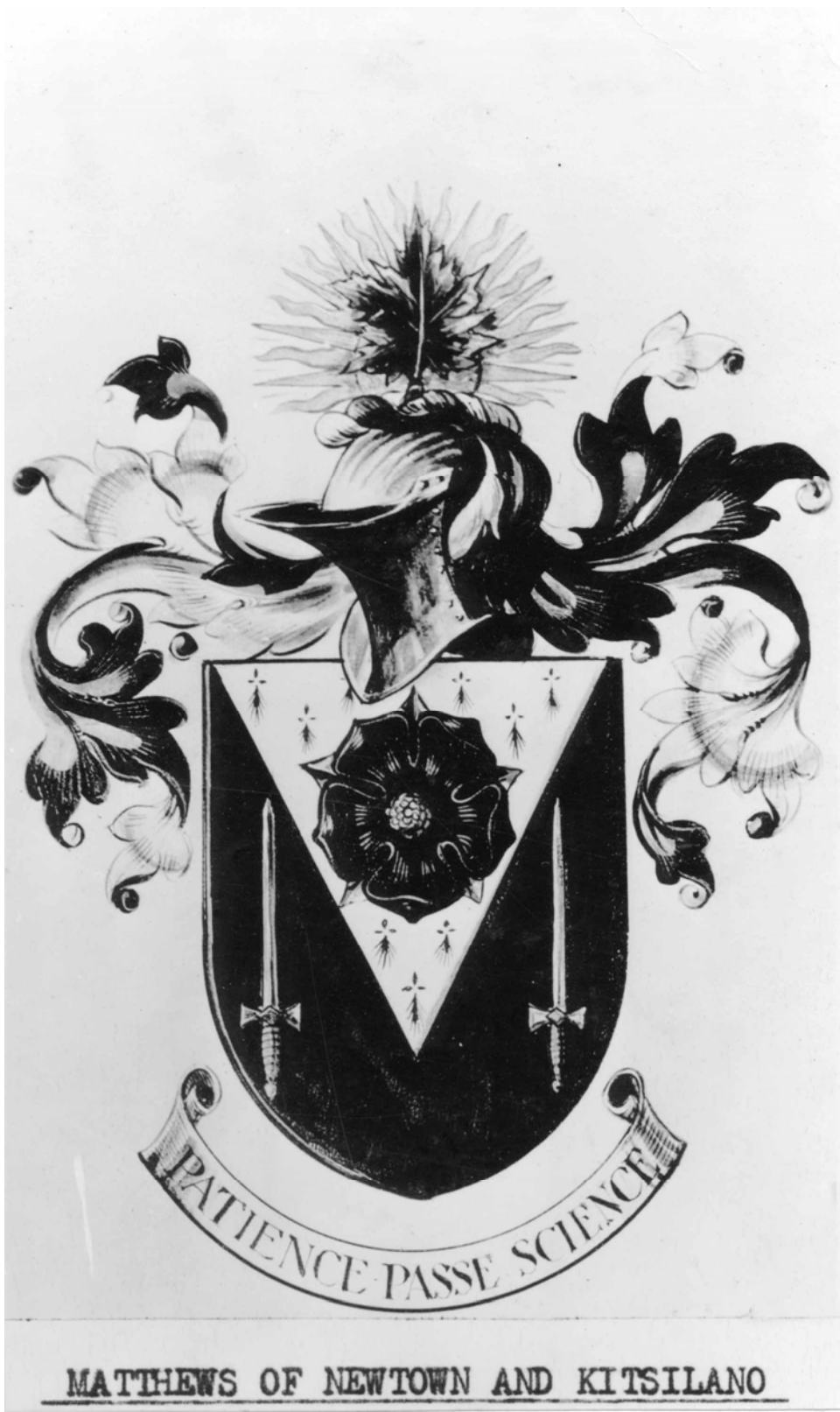
Bibliographic Entry:

Matthews, Major James Skitt. *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 4. Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011.

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Item # EarlyVan_v4_001

EARLY VANCOUVER

Volume 4

1944

(During 1935-9)

Narratives of Pioneers

of

Vancouver, B.C.

Collected during 1935-1939

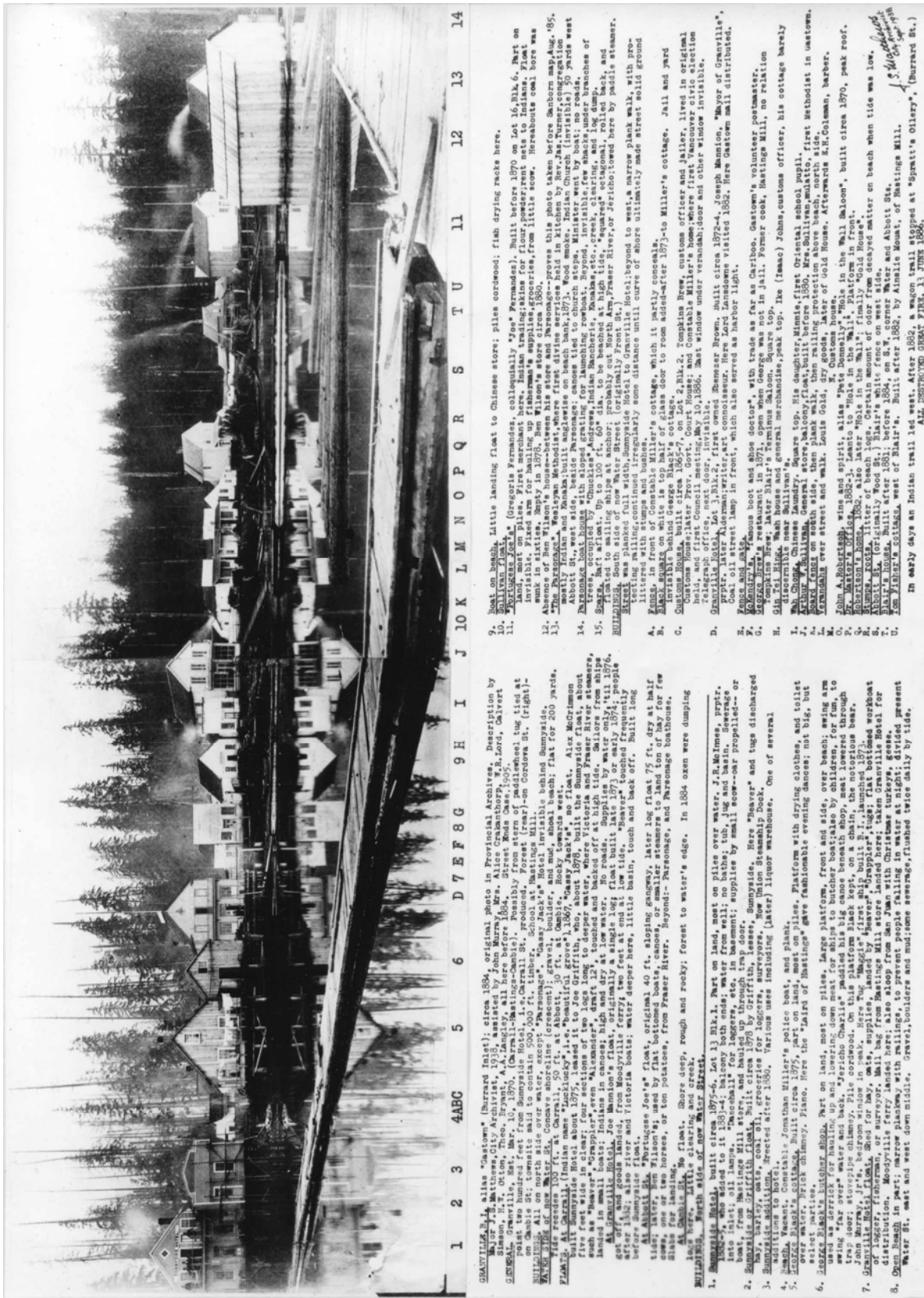
Supplemental to volumes one, two and three, collected in 1931, 1932 and 1934

Compiled by

Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.

Vancouver, Canada.

1944



Item # EarlyVan_v4_002

[photo annotation:]

Granville, B.I. alias "Gastown" (Burrard Inlet); circa 1884, original photo in Provincial Archives. Description by Major J.S. Matthews, City Archivist, 1938, assisted by John Murray, Mrs. Alice Crakanthorp, W.R. Lord, Calvert Simson, H.W. Otton, Theo. Bryant, A.A. Langley, all here before 1884. Street Ends Case, 1905.

GENERAL. Granville, Est. Mar. 10, 1870. (Carrall-Hastings-Cambie.) Possibly from stern of paddlewheel tug tied at point two hundred feet from Sunnyside Hotel, i.e. Carrall St. produced. Forest (rear)—on Cordova St. (right)—on Cambie St.; townsite said to contain 500,000 ft. timber. School at Hastings Mill.

BUILDINGS. All on north side over water, except "Parsonage." "Gassy Jack's" Hotel invisible behind Sunnyside.

WATER SIDE of now Water St. Concave shoreline (crescent); gravel, boulder, and mud, shoal beach; flat for 200 yards. Tide recedes 100 ft. at Carrall, 50 ft. at Abbott, 30 ft. at Cambie. Rocky towards west.

FLOATS. At Carrall. (Indian name "Lucklucky," i.e. "beautiful grove.") 1867, "Gassy Jack's," no float, about five feet wide in clear; four sections of two logs long to deeper water, where Victoria and Fraser River steamers, such as "Beaver," "Grappler," even "Alexander," draft 12', touched and backed off at high tide. Sailors from ships landed in small boats; Indians in canoes; high and dry at low water. No roads. Supplies by water only, 'til 1876.

At Granville Hotel. Joe Mannion's float, originally a single log; float built late 1873 or early 1874; people got off, and goods landed, from Moodyville ferry; two feet at end of low tide. "Beaver" touched frequently after 1882; also river and Victoria boats; water deeper here, little basin, touch and back off. Built long before Sunnyside float.

At Abbott St. "Portuguese Joe's" float, original 40 ft. sloping gangway, later log float 75 ft. dry at half tide; later, Ben Wilson's; used by flat bottomed boats, canoes, or smaller steamers to land ton of hay for few cows, one or two horses, or ton potatoes, from Fraser River. Beyond: Parsonage, and Parsonage boathouse. Slabs for landing.

At Cambie St. No float. Shore deep, rough and rocky; forest to water's edge. In 1884 oxen were dumping logs here. Little clearing and creek.

BUILDINGS, North side of now Water Street.

1. Sunnyside Hotel, built circa 1875-6. Lot 13 Blk. 1. Part on land, most on piles over water. J.R. McInnes, prptr. 1882-5, who added to it 1883-4; balcony both ends; water from well; no baths; tub, jug and basin. Sewerage into inlet; oil lamps. "Dancehall" for loggers, etc. in basement; supplies by small scow—oar propelled—or boat, from Hastings Mill store, and hauled up through trap door.
2. Sunnyside or Griffith float. Built circa 1878 by Griffith, lessee, Sunnyside. Here "Beaver" and tugs discharged hay, barley, oats, coal oil, groceries for loggers, surveyors. Now Union Steamship Dock.
3. Sunnyside addition. Erected after 1880. Various uses including (later) liquor warehouse. One of several additions to hotel.
4. Beach. Vacant. Constable Jonathan Miller's police boat, and plank.
5. George Black's cottage. Built circa 1875, part on land, most on piles. Platform with drying clothes, and toilet over water. Brick chimney. Piano. Here the "Laird of Hastings" gave fashionable evening dances; not big, but select parties.
6. George Black's butcher shop. Part on land, most on piles. Large platform, front and side, over beach; swing arm used as derrick for hauling up and lowering down meat for ships to butcher boat; also by children, for fun, to swing "far over" water and back. "Jericho Charlie" paddled his big canoe beneath shop, meat lowered through trap door; stovepipe chimney. Pile cordwood. On this platform Black kept, on a chain, the notorious bear. John Murray, Jr.'s bedroom window in peak. Here Tug "Maggie," first ship built B.I., launched 1873.

7. Granville Hotel float. Shed for hay, oats, supplies, landed by "Beaver," "Grappler," tugs; flat bottomed workboat of logger, fisherman, or surveyor. Mail bag from Hastings Mill store landed here; taken Granville Hotel for distribution. Moodyville ferry landed here; also sloop from San Juan with Christmas turkeys, geese.
8. Open Beach in part; narrow plankway with railings, to prevent people falling in water at night; divided present Water St. east and west down middle. Gravel, boulders and mud; some sewerage, flushed twice daily by tide.
9. Boat on beach. Little landing float to Chinese store; piles cordwood; fish drying racks here.
10. Sullivan float.
11. "Portuguese Joe's" (Gregoris Fernandez, colloquially "Joe" Fernandez.) Built before 1870 on Lot 16, Blk. 6. Part on land, most on piles. First merchant here. Indian trading; skins for flour, powder; rent nets to Indians. Float invisible. Fixed arm for hauling up fisherman's supplies, groceries, from little scow. Hereabouts coal bore was sunk in sixties. Empty in 1878. Ben Wilson's store circa 1880.
12. Absence of Ben Wilson's house—between his store and Parsonage—proves this photo taken before Sanborn map, Aug. '85.
13. "The Parsonage." Wesleyan Methodist, where first divine services held in kitchen by Rev. Jas. Turner, congregation mostly Indian and Kanaka; built anglewise on beach bank, 1873. Wood smoke. Indian Church (invisible) 50 yards west Abbott St., west side, beside Parsonage; canoes tied to church steps. Minister went by boat; no roads.
14. Parsonage boat house with sloped grating for launching rowboat. Beyond, invisible, few shacks, under branches of trees, occupied by "Chuckles," Andrews, Indian Rancherie, Kanakas, etc., creek, clearing, and log dump.
15. Spars. Raft afloat. Up to 100 ft. 60" dia. to be beached at high tide, "squared" octagonal, rolled back, and floated to sailing ships at anchor; probably cut North Arm, Fraser River, or Jericho; towed here by paddle steamer.

BUILDINGS, north side of now Water Street (originally Front St.)

Street was planked full width, Sunnyside Hotel to Granville Hotel; beyond to west, a narrow plank walk, with protecting railing, continued irregularly some distance until curve of shore ultimately made street solid ground littered with stumps and bushes.

- A. Fence, in front of Constable Miller's cottage, which it partly conceals.
- B. Black square on white is top half of glass door to room added—after 1873—to Miller's cottage. Jail and yard invisible behind George Black's cottage.
- C. Customs House, built circa 1865-7, on Lot 2, Blk. 2. Tompkins Brew, customs officer and jailer, lived in original Customs House; later Prov. Govt. Court House; and Constable Miller's home; where first Vancouver civic election held, and first Council meeting, May 10, 1886. East window under verandah; door and other window invisible. Telegraph office, next door, invisible.
- D. Granville Hotel. Lot 3, Blk. 2, first owned Ebenezer Brown. Built circa 1872-4. Joseph Mannion, "Mayor of Granville," prptr, later Alderman; writer, art connoisseur. Here Lord Lansdowne visited 1882. Here Gastown mail distributed. Coal oil street lamp in front, which also served as harbor light.
- E. Fence and gate.
- F. McKendry's, "famous boot and shoe doctor," with trade as far as Cariboo. Gastown's volunteer postmaster.
- G. George Brew's restaurant in 1871, open when George was not in jail. Former cook, Hastings Mill, no relation Tompkins Brew; later Blair's Terminus Saloon. Square top.

- H. Gin Tei Hing. Wash house and general merchandise, peak top. Ike (Isaac) Johns, customs officer, his cottage barely discernible near Sullivan's.
- I. Wah Chong. Chinese Laundry. Square top. His daughter, Minnie, first Oriental school pupil.
- J. Arthur W. Sullivan. General store, balcony, float, built before 1880. Mrs. Sullivan, mulatto, first Methodist in Gastown.
- K. Board fence on south side, then plank walk, then railing protection above beach, north side.
- L. Verandahs over street and walk. Louis Gold, dry goods, later of Gold House. Afterwards E.H. Coleman, barber.
- M. *[blank]*
- N. Customs house.
- O. John A. Robertson, wine and spirit, alias "Pete Donnelly," "Hole in the Wall Saloon," built circa 1870, peak roof.
- P. Dr. Master's Office, 1882-3. Lean-to to "Hole in the Wall." Platform in front.
- Q. Robertson's home, 1882, also later "Hole in the Wall"; finally "Gold House."
- R. Stumps, roots, litter of beach logs. Certain amount of odor from decayed matter on beach when tide was low.
- S. Abbott St. (originally Wood St.) Blair's white fence on west side.
- T. Blair's house. Built after 1881; before 1884, on S.W. corner Water and Abbott Sts.
- U. Tom Fisher's cottage, west of Blair's. Built after 1882, by Ainslie Mouat, of Hastings Mill.

In early days an Indian trail led west. After 1882, a wagon trail stopped at "Spratt's Oilery," (Burrard St.)

ALL DESTROYED GREAT FIRE, 13 JUNE 1886.

J.S. Matthews
City Archivist
Sept. 1938



My grateful thanks
to
Mrs Brown, formerly
Miss Ethel Glazier
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for her devoted and patient
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J. S. Matthews

Kitsilano Beach
23rd October 1944

Item # EarlyVan_v4_004

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J.S. Matthews
Kitsilano Beach
23rd October 1944