

Early Vancouver

Volume Five

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2011 Edition (Originally Published 1945)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1936-1945.

Supplemental to volumes one, two, three and four collected in 1931, 1932 and 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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remember what he told me about the first whitemen coming, but about the first trains, he told me how the whitemen fooled him on the speed of trains. He said, 'I take my musket, and I shoot, and whiteman tell me train go so fast as slug'" (bullet) "'from musket to crane'" (heron.) "'I wanted to see that, so I take my klotch and we got to Port Moody, and wait several days until train come in. When train come in I buy a ticket to Langley. I had my musket with me, powder flask, and then I get on the train.'" (Note: it was a work train with cabooses and flat cars.) "'When train start to move I get frightened, and throw off my musket and powder flask.' Then the old chief grunted, 'Ugh,' and continued, said, 'He not go so fast, and when I come back I look for my musket and he's gone.'

"That was old Chief Capilano."

Read and approved by Mr. Scott, 30 May 1939, who said also that he and Mrs. Scott enjoyed immensely witnessing the procession of King George and Queen Elizabeth.

J.S. Matthews.

CONVERSATION WITH MR. CALVERT SIMSON, FORMERLY STOREKEEPER AND POSTMASTER, HASTINGS SAWMILL.

HASTINGS SAWMILL OFFICE.

"I came here in 1884. The photograph of the Hastings Sawmill sent you by Miss Lawson of Victoria must have been taken in the 'seventies'; it is strange to me. When I came here, Charlie Coldwell, Capt. Soule and Rev. Ditcham were living 'on the hill.'

"The old office burned down in the winter of 1884-5; date according to old Mr. Davidson. I was at the fire; a new office was built; that will explain the slight difference in the office as shown in Miss Lawson's photo and subsequent photos of the office. Charlie Coldwell told me of how the Indians worked so hard to save the books, and that he" (Coldwell) "had a bottle of rum and wanted to give them a 'snort,' but Mr. Alexander, who was a magistrate and knew it was illegal to give Indians liquor, turned his back."

THE GREAT FIRE, 1886.

"The woman, Miss Mary Raymur Lawson, writes about as being so badly burned, was taken out of a well down in Gastown, and carried down to the Hastings Sawmill. She, and boy, got down in a well, and the hot fumes burned the skin off her. I got a bottle of carbolated oil from the store, and took scissors, and slit her dress open right to her chin, right up the middle of the bosom; she was lying on a mattress; I got lint, soaked it in the carbolated oil, and wrapped it around her. The boy got better, but she died."



Item # EarlyVan_v5_034

[photo annotation:]

Hastings Sawmill. 722 LOOKING ACROSS BURRARD INLET FROM VANCOUVER B.C.
May-June, 1890 Bailey Bros.

- 1 Mill Store, new addition, circa 1888
- 2 Mill Store, old, 2nd, now Alma Rd.
- 3 Sidewalk above beach, a stump
- 4 School house (demolished) site
- 5 Two women with baby carriages
- 6 Mill road to Gastown-Hastings Road
- 7 R.H. Alexander, P. Cordiner
- 8 Can. Pac. Ry. single track main line
- 9 B.I. & N.W. Telephone pole
- 10 Can. Pac. Telegraph pole.
- 11 Pile driver
- 12 Lumber for export
- 13 Barque
- 14 Cookhouse bell in cupola
- 15 Cook & Messhouse
- 16 Lean-to on cookhouse
- 17 Big stump
- 18 Woodshed & school closet
- 19 Dr. Walkem. Mahony, Simson
- 20 Stove Pipe. Stump
- 21 J.P. Patterson, built 1873 also Riddleys and McCartney
- 22 Office (2nd)
- 23 Old First Store, hall upstairs, later warehouse
- 24 Old dressed lumber shed
- 25 *[blank]*
- 26 Road to mill
- 27 Can Pac Ry telegraph pole
- 28 Caulfield's cottage, board & batten
- 29 Stovepipe, through wall
- 30 First office & Capt. Nelson's cottage
- 31 Lumber pile
- 32 Tug at mill dock

33 New shed
34 Adolph Nelson's cottage, planerman
35 Bachelor's shacks and
36 Fire engine
37 Mechanics' Institute & Library
38 Tom Hunter's cottage, mill foreman
39 Can Pac Ry box car, high fence
40 Cottage where Harold Ridley born 1875
40A Stump
41 Cottage
42 Engine room & machine shop
43 Can Pac Ry signal post
44 Burners' Hall, dances, smoking
45 Boilers
46 Fence to stop pilfering, etc.
47 Granville -Hastings Road
48 Creek and duck pond & spillway
49 Can Pac Ry fence, and cattle pen
50 Stump
51 Open water tanks, Trout Lake flume
52 Log haul from log boom
53 Scow
54 "The Mission" & Indian Church
55 Tom Turner's early shack
56 now Lonsdale Ave
57 Wharf shed roof (addition)
58 [blank]
59 [blank]
60 [blank]
City Archives
1934
J.S.M.