

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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I think it was after I saw you, I ran across a story of a taxi driver and his passenger and three dollars, (\$3.00). Let me know if I told it to you. You, or Kelly, might make use of it.

Altogether I had a very delightful visit.

I suggested to Mrs. R.B. Bowden that she give you her set of Howay's History of B.C.—this was before I located Vol. 1 with Bill Watts. She picked it up at a sale for \$8.00, and it was up in the attic. Perhaps you will get it. I'm quitting now before I get writer's cramp.

With kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

[signed] R. Mathison

EXCERPT FROM OLD CEMETERY RECORDS.

City Clerk's Office,
City Hall.

MILLER, Edwin G. 44 years old when he died
born at New Westminster, B.C.
died at San Diego, Cal., Feb. 4, 1916
buried Feb. 16, 1916—accidental fracture of skull, cause of death.
religion Presbyterian
single.

MILLER, Jonathan. 82 years
born Ontario
died Vancouver, Dec. 6th 1914
buried Dec. 8th 1914—Broncho Pneumonia, cause of death.
religion Church of England.
widower.

MILLER, Margaret. 69 years
born Delawara, Ontario
died Vancouver, Sept. 17, 1906.
buried Sept. 19, 1906—Senile decay, cause of death.
religion Church of England.
married.

Note: in connection with the possibility that Edwin G. Miller was the first white child born on Burrard Inlet, it will be noted that his birthplace—as given on his death particulars in the City Hall—shows that he was born in New Westminster, and *not* at Granville.

A newspaper clipping—see Jonathan Miller file—reporting his death in San Diego, Cal., presumably from a Vancouver newspaper dated about 5 February 1916, states that he *was* the first white child born on the site of the City of Vancouver, and that he was born in the old Provincial Government building on Water Street.

It is not altogether extraordinary that the claim of H.O. Alexander, born at Hastings Mill, 13 December 1873, and widely published for many years, as being the first white child born here, has not been disputed, for the reason that the Miller family were notoriously careless in genealogical matters. Mrs. Crakanthorp—see *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3—prefers to state that he was the first at *Hastings Mill*. On the other hand, it is extraordinary that such Miller records as we have, state Edwin Miller was born at Granville, yet his death certificate—particulars of which must have been furnished by his family—state at New Westminster.

JSM.