

Early Vancouver

Volume Five

By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.

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.

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. 5 (Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011), 33.

Bibliographic Entry:

Matthews, Major James Skitt. *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 5. 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



MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. AND MRS. H.P. McCRANEY, 3350 CYPRESS STREET, WHITHER I HAD GONE TO VISIT MR. McCRANEY, WHO IS AN INVALID, ABLE TO BE OUT OF BED, SEATED IN A CHAIR PACKED WITH CUSHIONS, AS HE HAS BEEN FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, 15 MAY 1937.

He is now the only survivor of the first Board of Park Commissioners.

STANLEY PARK OPENING. LORD STANLEY.

Mr. McCraney said: "I don't recall Lord Stanley laying a cairn of stone or anything of that sort, and I was on the platform."

(The newspaper account says a cairn was laid, but I have never been able to find anyone who ever saw it. Mr. McCraney took the photos in feeble hands, turned them over and over; they interested him, but he was too feeble to talk more than a few words.)

LIQUORICE ROOT. FERNS.

Mrs. McCraney: "It makes my heart bleed to look at Stanley Park now; they are cutting it to pieces, and" (gesticulating with one arm) "this road they have cut to the First Narrows bridge, we don't need." (She shook her head—as many others have done, too.)

Mrs. McCraney was looking at photos of Stanley Park by Bailey Bros., about 1889. "Yes, they took those photos to show the moss on the trees; the moss was wonderful; it was everywhere, but—sadly—it's all gone now. The moss used to hang down in great festoons from the branches, and all along the ridge of the branches grew little ferns, scores and scores of them, in the damp moss of the branches. What did we call them? Liquorice, I think; yes, that's what we used to call them. Liquorice."

(Note: see George Cary, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3, and also Bailey Bros. photos.)

J.S. Matthews.

(See photos: C.V. P. St. 35, N. St. 32, G.N. 474 and C.V. P. St. 63, N. St. 8.)

[LETTER FROM JOHN McDUGALL TO GEORGE H. KEEFER.]

June 21, 1932.

Quesnel, B.C.

Mr. Gorge Keefer

Dear Sir

I am pleased to here from you. It is like geting one from home. My noneforgetful memory of the Keefers will always be a pleasure for me. I have had some wonderful experance with H.F. in 1883 we locked horns once after he give me the contract for the largest cut on the C.P.R. (110000 yards) he give me 5 and board and the others got 3 and 4 and pay 5.50 board, when I asked for the contract he sade yes Jack and I will give you better than I am geting for it he was too furnish 50 cars and all the strap iron free. 105000 was to go into a fill. The stell bridge was comming around cape horn and had to come over the fill to its foundation over the fraser river 3 miles east. Underdonk had then secured 100 miles east from Ashcroft. he and H.F. fighered that it take six months according to there old way to get the train through my cut so as to get the freight for the new 100 miles by train instade of wagons to Ashcroft. he told H.F. to rush my cut as swift as posable and have my gang of 31 men incresed to 100 to do the work in six months. the old way was to bench out on the sides with bracks on the cars and get a front wide enough to make room for 100 men to shovel into cars. I told H.F. that I would need only 3 cars instade of 50 and one tenth of the iron he loocked like if he was going to ask me if I was going bugs but instade asked what I ment I told him that I did not intend to shovel that 110000 yards (another case of bugs) I told that I was going to disgarge ½ my gang of men and get a strat face on the cut and run a timbered tunel under the cut and let the dirt fall in cars. That was 60 feet deep in the center and

195 feet on the high slope he asked me if I had ever seen any thing like it I told him no. he got hot and told me that I was the youngest forman on the road and that there was more than 7000 men on the job that railroaded in all parts of the world and it would loock funny if a kid like me was going to give pointers to all them old timers and he told me that if Underdonk knew that I was going to cut down my gang of men to experment he would take the job of my hand in five munits. but there was a magnet telling me to say to hell with the job I owened a 1/20 intres in the Central mine on Jack of Clubs Creek in Cariboo where I worked 100 feet under ground (in 1881) where I got as high as \$54.00 to the pan corse gold, but I told him that I would know in three days if my plan would work and that I would work 18 hours a day to get it going so we unlocked horns. he told me that Mr. Helmer subertend on the upper division told him that a plan that I worked there was used all over the line and that Colter the superintend before him lost his job by bucking me. So H.F. told me I dont want to buck you Jack and if you can get your plan to work in 3 days go to it and I will keep Underdonk from knowing what you are doing in three days, H.F. loded the cars in the tunel and he told me that he could lode 1000 cars in one hour. with half my gang on the dump we could not dump the cars as fast as one man could fill them. I maid \$1800.00 the first 23 days and had the cut out in four months with eight m 9/10 of the time. All the improvement on my plan is the name (glory hole) it is used all over the world since 1883 when Underdonk copyyed it topen the big Treadwell gold ledge in Alaska and made a 160000000 mine of the white elephant that all the mining engineers in the world give up as no good.

I hope your mining propision will turn out good, it is as safe as any these hard times. rember me to Jack I hope he is doing well. Mostly all our old acquaintance has dropped off. I am having good health and stepping on the heel of 78.

Dont forget to drop me a line

Yours truly

John McDougall.

EXPLANATORY NOTE.

John McDougall is "Chinese" McDougall of Vancouver, who was associated with the "Chinese riots" of February 1887, and the consequent suspension of the charter of the City of Vancouver.

McDougall, among other things, cleared the forest off most of the "West End" of Vancouver, 1886-1887; in 1884 he made the False Creek Road into the "New Road," now Kingsway; he claimed to have originated the "glory hole." He died, in penury, in a cabin at Quesnel, B.C., about 1 March 1933. Photo in City Archives N. Port. 103. George H. Keefer, now, 1935, of Cowichan and Cobble Hill, cleared the right of way for the C.P.R. from Port Moody to Granville (Vancouver), etc., etc.; was associated with Vancouver's first water system. (Don't confuse with Geo. A. Keefer.)

J.S. Matthews
City Archivist.

[LETTER FROM KEEFER AND MCGILLIVRAY, CONTRACTORS.]

Office of

Keefer & McGillivray

Contractors

Vancouver, B.C.
Sept. 27th 1888

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The bearer Richard Llewellyn has been in our employ for some time past and we have found him perfectly reliable in all he has undertaken for us.