

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.

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[LETTER FROM OTWAY WILKIE.]

629-8th Street,
New Westminster, B.C.
May 11/36.

Major Matthews,
City Archivist,
Vancouver, B.C.

R.1. Sir W. Van Horne,
2. S.S. Abyssinia.

Sir:

In reply to yours of 6 May re above noted.

Van Horne, arrived at Port Moody on the first through train from Montreal at noon of day November 8, 1885.

The last spike was driven at Craigellachie on Nov. 7th and the party from Montreal, Sir Van Horne, Donald Smith [*now Lord Strathcona*], H.H. Abbott, and others were joined at this point by Messrs. Marcus Smith, Major Rogers, H.J. Cambie, L.B. Hamlin, W.H. Ellis, and the train left there for Port Moody where it arrived next day, and left Port Moody on return journey to Montreal on November 11th, 1885.

This was not the first passenger train; that arrived July 4/85. [*Wrong, unless he refers to a local train.*]

I don't know what Van Horne said at Port Moody, but driving of last spike which was iron, not gold, as sometimes stated.

He said: "All I have got to say is that the work was well done in every way." It was a simple matter-of-fact completion of a business undertaking.

Jim Grodden was conductor of the train, locomotive 148, and cars 77, Tepedia [*sic*] and Saskatchewan.

The line from Port Moody to Vancouver survey was completed about March 20, and Major Roger's party returned from survey to Sicamous [*or some point above Kamloops*] on my wedding day, March 20, 1885.

I had been on this party from Port Moody and met them in New Westminster that day.

In reply to No. 2. I don't remember. Port Moody, at that time, had a fine wharf at the terminus, or station, fit to accommodate any ship afloat.

OTWAY WILKIE