

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



engaged in a rough and tumble with a neighbor, when the latter, getting somewhat the worst of the tussle, grabbed Coleman by the hair. To the amazement of himself and the bystanders, the "hair" came away in his hand, revealing a pate as bald as the proverbial billiard ball.

Reported in the *Vancouver Weekly Herald*, 21 May 1886, page 3, col. 1.

THE ARCHIVIST.

Give me the man who loves the olden days:
Unearths the deeds of those who blazed the ways,
And marked our home.
Who tells their story with a glowing pride.
He is my friend.
Who treasures safe the lore,
Of those stout men who came and went before,
And gave to us this wide fair land:
Who keeps the record of this noble band.
With such a friend, I, am well content
To walk old trails on knowledge bent;
And place on file the deeds of those brave men,
Their names, the trails they built, and when.

CITY ARCHIVES T.C. Young,
 Jasper, Alta. 1934.

The original of this was inspired by and addressed to Major J.S. Matthews, City Archivist, Vancouver.

[LETTERS FROM C.M. TATE.]

Lilfred Lodge,
2390 Cornwall St.,
Vancouver, B.C.
4th April, 1932.

Magazine Editor,
Vancouver Daily Province.

In response to your invitation, re *Pioneers in Vancouver*, I herewith enclose slip, duly signed, and in further extenuation I may say, that: As itinerant Methodist missionary to the native tribes, together with the Rev. James Turner, Itinerant Preacher to the English speaking residents, I made several visits to Granville between 1872, and 1876, when we bought a lot from the Government, on what was afterwards known as Water Street, on which the Methodist Parsonage was built, in 1875, when the Rev. Thomas Derrick succeeded Rev. James Turner, we built an Indian church on the same lot, which was washed by the waters of Burrard Inlet, hence it was very convenient for the Indians who came from all parts of the Inlet in their canoes; and also for the boat of the preachers, as the only means of getting about among their parishioners. It was during the Pastorate of the Rev. Joseph Hall, who succeeded Mr. Derrick, that the great fire swept away both Parsonage and church. This will set at rest any misunderstandings as to the priority of either Parsonage or Church; the first ever built on the Vancouver townsite.

C.M. Tate.

HERE "BEFORE THE FIRE."
(June 13, 1886.)

I arrived on ... 26th June ... 1876

Name:
(in full) ... (Rev.) C.M. Tate ...

Address:
Residence ... 2390 Cornwall St., Van., B.C.

Phone: ... Bay. 7490-L ...

Please mail to "Pioneer,"
c/o Magazine Editor, the Province.

Note by City Archivist: This letter not published, but handed to me for attention.

Lilfred Lodge,
2390 Cornwall Street,
Vancouver, B.C.
16th April, 1932.

Major Matthews,
Kitsilano Beach,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your circular of the 13th inst., I would like to make a slight correction with my own name which is down as having first stood upon the site of the present Vancouver city in the year 1876, instead of 1872. Periodically I walked or staged from New Westminster to Hastings, then went by ferry to Moodyville, where I preached to the Indians who worked at the mill crossing by Indian canoe to Gas Town (Granville) thence traversed the woods to False Creek where I was entertained in the community house of Chief George, whose wife was a Nanaimo woman, where also I gathered in most of the tribe for religious services. From Kitsilano I walked through the Indian trail to Musqueam, from which point, after visiting, and preaching to the Indians in the Chief's house I returned to New Westminster, either by canoe, or Granville, via Main Street, across False Creek Bridge to Hastings Mill, and Stevens' Ferry to the end of the road at Moodyville crossing, where I took Lewis' stage, or walked to New Westminster, which I preferred to staging over corduroy roads in a vehicle with leather straps instead of springs. As a side trip, I frequently took a rowboat, or canoe to First Narrows, to visit a small tribe near where Lumberman's Arch now stands.

Chief Thomas was one of the first converts in the methodist mission, also chief Lah-wa of the Kap-a-lano tribe, with several members of their tribes. We found it necessary to build a church, when the converts became too numerous for the kitchen of the parsonage, which was built by the Rev. James Turner on a lot procured from the Colonial Government in 1873. The church was built on the same lot, and was the first church of any Denomination, and was destroyed in the great fire, together with the parsonage. When a survey was made the lot was found to be on Water Street.

Under the Rev. Joseph Hall's pastorate the Methodist Hall was built, which did good service until the Homer Street church was built, as the new city began to assume proportions. The Rev. Dr. Robson was then Pastor. The Indian Church was built in 1875, and as Indian Missionary I dedicated it in 1876, with Rev. T. Derrick, Minister to the white people.

Yours, C.M. Tate.

P.S. I have added two names, with their addresses; sons of our early Ministers.

C.M.T.