

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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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.

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DR. MASTERS OF GRANVILLE, 1882. DR. WALKEM. "HOLE IN THE WALL."

"All I know about Dr. Masters" (see photo No. N. Dist. 6, 1882) "is that he was here in 1882. He had a little office adjoining the 'Hole in the Wall' saloon." (See same photo.) "Old Dr. Walkem had been here previous to that, but had moved to Nanaimo, and Dr. Masters took his place. Solid built man; rough and grouchy; English doctor; he died in hospital, I think at New Westminster, about 1884 or 1885."

INDIAN CHURCH, GRANVILLE. METHODIST CHURCH, GRANVILLE. ST. JAMES CHURCH. HASTINGS SAWMILL.

"I don't recall the Indian Church, but the Rev. Ditcham was at St. James, along the beach, almost covered up with trees. A two-plank walk ran on the bank just above high tide from Gastown to Hastings Mill; I know it well. I used to carry meat along it twice a week. Hastings Mill used to work eleven and a half hours a day; start at six in the morning, half hour for lunch, stop at six at night. I think that went on until the fall after the 'Fire' of June 1886; there was talk of a strike, and they changed it to ten hours."

R.H. ALEXANDER.

"R.H. Alexander, manager of Hastings Sawmill, had four children; Dick, the eldest, H.O., and Fred, and Mrs. J.G.L. Abbott, the only daughter, and the youngest. Fred and Mrs. Abbott are the only two living."

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH ARTHUR AUSTIN LANGLEY, 1600 ROBSON STREET, AND WHO CAME TO GASTOWN IN SEPTEMBER (SEPTEMBER 1ST) 1882, 29 FEBRUARY 1936.

SAM GREER. GREER'S BEACH. KITSILANO BEACH. D.B. CHARLESON.

"When the C.P.R. started to eject Sam Greer from Greer's Beach, I was sworn in as a deputy to Tom Armstrong; that is, the first time they went down there.

"I met Chief John Stewart on the street, and he asked me if I was doing anything; he wanted a man to go down to Greer's Beach, and serve some papers; he took me over to Tom Dunn's" (Alderman Dunn, hardware) "and swore me in, and then I said to myself, 'This begins to look serious,' but said nothing else. We went down to the Royal City Planing Mills at the south end of Carrall Street on False Creek, and took a row boat. Charleson, who the C.P.R. had clearing the 'West End,' got in the boat, Tom Armstrong, and myself, and three or four others, rowed down False Creek, and finally got to Sam Greer's house on the beach. I heard them talking as we went along that they were going to dispossess Sam; they had axes and crowbars to tear the house down."

THE FIGHT FOR KITSILANO BEACH. MRS. SAM GREER.

"When we got there Sam was not at home, but his wife was, and she objected strenuously; raising trouble. Finally, under the direction of the sheriff, Charleson and his men took off the door, and commenced carrying the furniture outside. Well. Then Sam came along; evidently he was out around some place, and he also started to interfere with the sheriff's orders, stopping the men, and the sheriff put him under arrest, and Sam said, 'That's all right. You've arrested me in my own house. I won't bother you anymore.' He said to the sheriff, 'What are you going to do?'

"Tom said: 'Take you to town.'

"Sam said: 'Want to change my clothes.'

"Tom said: 'All right.'

"Sam went to change his clothes, and when he came out of the room, it so happened there was neither sheriff nor any of the men inside the house—they were all standing outside—so Sam grabbed the axe standing by the doorway, and stood in the doorway and defied anyone to enter.

"'Well,' said the sheriff to me, 'I don't know what we had better do now,' and I replied, 'I don't either; don't know anything about it.'

"Then the sheriff told me to go to town and tell Chief Stewart what had happened, and to send down two or three officers, so I started off to walk up to the C.P.R. trestle over False Creek.

"Well. It happened about half an hour after I left Sam. Sam took after them with an axe, and drove them off. So they got into the boat, and came back to the Royal City Planing Mills, and that ends that episode.

"Sam was not prosecuted."

FURTHER MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. A.A. LANGLEY, 1600 ROBSON STREET, WHERE HE IS STILL LIVING WITH HIS DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER, NOW AGED 70, BUT ACTIVE, 20 OCTOBER 1937.

Mr. Langley will be 79 on 11 January 1938. He is getting feeble; has lost the sight of his left eye, and is losing the sight of the right; is entering the General Hospital today for a slight operation to his eye.

HASTINGS, B.I., 1884. MOST FASHIONABLE WATERING PLACE IN B.C.

Mr. Langley said: "This is a photo of Hastings looking west along the beach from George Black's. It is about 1884. I can tell by this wharf here in the foreground; you can see it is in process of construction, is unfinished. I went to Hastings in 1883, and it was not there then, but when I came back from Salt Spring Island where I spent 1884, that is, I came back in 1885, the wharf was built. So as this photo was taken in the summer, perhaps on the 24th May celebration, you can see it is summer time by the people on the beach in summer clothing; I should say it was taken in 1884.

"This is a lumber scow on the beach; it has probably brought the lumber to build the wharf; you can see some of the lumber on the beach; the C.P.R. afterwards ran around this steep bank in the distance. This projection on the right here, in the distance, is Moodyville." (Photo No. P. Dist. 17.)

JACK FANNIN. WAH CHONG. SLAUGHTER HOUSE. GEORGE BLACK.

"Jack Fannin lived in a little cottage on the hillside west of, and above George Black's. The slaughter house was about eighteen by thirty feet, and over the beach, and over a little hollow, sort of creek hollow, just about one hundred yards or so west of the hotel." (See C.P.R. survey map.) "That was Black's first slaughter house; he afterwards moved to False Creek."

DAVID WITHROW. PERRY. MAXIMILLIAN MICHAUD.

"David Withrow was running George Black's; he went bankrupt; he had trouble with his wife, so I was asked to take over from him, which I did, and I did not leave there finally until 1887. Perry was running Michaud's old place; a little building which was moved across from its old site to a new one over the beach just west of George Black's."

C.P.R. CONSTRUCTION. JOHN HARPER. PIONEER PLACE. BLACK BLOCK.

"John Harper owned the land at Pioneer Place, Carrall and Hastings Street, and when the C.P.R. cut across Hastings Street on their way to the roundhouse on False Creek, they cut up his property, so they gave him in exchange sixty-six feet where the Flack Block is now at the corner of Hastings and Cambie Street. The C.P.R. said to John Harper, 'We are cutting off the corner of your property,' so they gave him sixty-six feet where the Flack Block is; at that time, of course, the C.P.R. owned everything."

COMMERCIAL HOTEL. METROPOLE HOTEL. ALEX JOHNSTON. L.A. HAMILTON.

"John Harper sold it, and a piece at the back was used to build the Commercial Hotel on; the hotel stands on the back part; the same property; things were changing every day in those days, and it is hard to recall just how it all happened. Same things with other properties, for instance. Alex Johnston had just immediately east of the lane on Cordova Street" (Oppenheimer Street) "where about McLennan, McFeely's is now, he had lots there. L.A. Hamilton went to him and told him the C.P.R. line to the roundhouse would cut up his property, and to pick out other property, so he picked out eighty-six feet on Cordova and Abbott, and built the Metropole Hotel on it; it is where Woodward's department store is now. Oh, Hamilton gave those people property worth twice what he took; in some cases three times."

J.S. Matthews
18 November 1937