

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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Contact Information

City of Vancouver Archives
1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9
604.736.8561
archives@vancouver.ca
vancouver.ca/archives



Street.) At that time the approach to their residence was possible by horse and buggy, but not much more than possible, and a horse was the best means; tonight, as we drove along over paved streets, well lighted and with concrete sidewalks everywhere, one could not refrain from reflecting on the changes which time has wrought.

Later, said Mrs. Wilson, there was a car service—once an hour—via Fourth Avenue and Crown Street, but that she said “was about six blocks away, so usually we used to walk down the old Johnston Road, now Blenheim Street—all the way from Twenty-fifth, and catch the car at Fourth.”

Their three children are:

1. Isabel, now Mrs. Holger Tang, of Vancouver, who has two daughters.
2. Morris Charles Wilson, on the staff of the Royal Trust Co. of Vancouver, and who is married and has a son, Kenneth Charles Wilson.
3. Evelyn, now Mrs. Arthur McKim of Vancouver.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH EX-ALDERMAN C.H. WILSON, ALDERMAN, 1903 AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 9 JUNE 1936.

COAT OF ARMS, VANCOUVER, 1903.

“The coat of arms now used by the city was adopted by the City Council in 1903, during my first term as alderman. I opposed it, but it was adopted. Some fool of an artist suggested it.

“The old coat of arms was infinitely better; the present one is a fool of a thing. The Golden Jubilee medal for pioneers is the same as the old crest just reversed, but it is a splendid little token.”

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. CHAS. H. WILSON, EX-ALDERMAN, AT VANCOUVER PIONEER’S ASSOCIATION PICNIC, NEWCASTLE ISLAND (S.S. *PRINCESS JOAN*), 14 JUNE 1939.

SEA OTTER.

Mr. Wilson said: “I’ve just been for walk over to the far end of the island. They tell me that about three years ago, that a sea otter had its nest over on that little Five Finger island yonder or West Rocks; on a bit of small rock about ten feet square. They did not know that sea otter would come into the Gulf of Georgia; their pelts are very valuable; worth five hundred dollars each, or something; there were thousands of them at one time on the west coast” (of Vancouver Island.) “But the remarkable thing is that, three years ago, a sea otter had its nest of kittens on the little island out there.”

KITSILANO BEACH.

Major Matthews: I have heard our older pioneers speak of “the time the sea otter” was at Greer’s Beach; they seemed to think it very remarkable that a sea otter should be at Kitsilano Beach.

WAR, 1914-1918.

Major Matthews: (chatting with Sergeant I.V. St. G. Williams, late 6th D.C.O.R., and who did not go overseas) Sorry the war’s over.

Sergeant Williams: “Why?”

Major Matthews: Well, in war it’s what can I do for you; in peace it’s what can I do you for.

Of all the wonderful things I saw in the war, and we saw great wonders, the most wonderful of all were the men—and the women who stayed at home did as much as the men. Battles are not wholly won by cannon, but by morale; the women kept up the morale of the Canadian army; men cannot fight if the women wail. Their little parcels, of cigarettes, and chewing gum, wore down the enemy.