

**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**

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**Contact Information**

City of Vancouver Archives  
1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9  
604.736.8561  
[archives@vancouver.ca](mailto:archives@vancouver.ca)  
[vancouver.ca/archives](http://vancouver.ca/archives)



Archives

**EXCERPT, PROVINCE, WEDNESDAY, 25 JANUARY 1905.**

**SOCIAL HEADQUARTERS**

In it was held all the swell social functions of Vancouver's Pioneers. Furniture partly insured, but building was not. Guests lost clothing.

The building that in early days was the scene of all swell functions held by Vancouverites is no more.

The old Brighton Hotel at Hastings has been destroyed by fire. The building was put up by the late George Black twenty two years ago. There was no Hotel Vancouver then to hold balls in, and the big ballroom of the Brighton, overlooking Burrard Inlet, was the social headquarters. The hotel was run by Mr. Black up to the time, of his death eight years ago. After that, for a time, his daughter, Mrs. Ryan ran it. The building was owned by Mr. Black's widow, who now resides in Portland, and it is understood that it was uninsured.

"The lessee was J.H. Travelbea, formerly of the Colonial Hotel of this city. When he took it over he refurnished it and the furnishings were valued at \$4,000. There was an insurance of \$2,000 on the furniture held by Hobson Bros. Very little was saved of the furniture or of the private belongings of the four guests who happened to be in the house.

Mr. K. Brown, who resides near the hotel, first saw the flames bursting out of a corner of the roof. He gave the alarm quickly and although the residents there were willing to do all they could, there was no apparatus with which to work. Owing to the burning out of the telephone, word could not be sent to the city until the fire had almost destroyed the building—Chief Carlisle, when he got word, went out with the hose wagons from No. 1 and 2 Halls, and the engine from No. 3. He organized a bucket brigade, and by strenuous efforts succeeded in saving the cottage adjoining on one side, and the barn on the other.

The old hotel that was such a welcome shelter to many after the big fire in Vancouver in 1886, has itself been a victim of destroying flames. No intimation has been received yet from Mrs. Black as to the likelihood of her rebuilding, but it is very likely that the hotel will be replaced, even if by a smaller building.

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. CALVERT SIMSON, THIRD STOREKEEPER, HASTINGS SAWMILL, WHO CALLED THIS AFTERNOON AT CITY ARCHIVES, 20 DECEMBER 1939.**

**ROYAL CITY PLANING MILLS. GEORGE BLACK. SLAUGHTER HOUSE. JOHN HENDRY. HASTINGS SAWMILL. C.W. MURRAY.**

Mr. Simson: "The Royal City Planing Mills bought the property at the foot of Carrall Street, and erected a sawmill and planing mill on the site of George Black's original slaughter house. John Hendry came from Fredericton, New Brunswick, and so did R.C. Ferguson, who was manager. C.W. Murray, who had been out at Jericho as bookkeeper and timekeeper for Angus C. Fraser, was bookkeeper for the Royal City Planing Mills.

"The Royal City Planing Mills sold the property, together with the foreshore rights, to the B.C. Electric Railway, or Vancouver Gas Co., I don't know just which, and it is my surmise that, before they handed over the money, the Royal City Planing Mills may have had to produce the deed to the foreshore rights."

Major Matthews: Well, what does Harry Hooper mean when he says the Hastings Sawmill had not got the deed to their property until long after 1900.

Mr. Simson: "That must be wrong; Capt. Stamp got the deed to that property. What I think Mr. Hooper knows about is the foreshore rights to the Royal City Planing Mills on False Creek. There was a man in Ottawa, McGivern, or McGovern, or something, and he was all powerful; if you wanted anything in the way for foreshore rights, you had to see him, and that was all there was to it, and, I suspect, Harry Hooper is referring to those rights on False Creek; Hooper was only a servant of Hendry, a driver of his

car, and it is easily understandable that he got confused, but knew there was something going on, but did not know just exactly what."

### **MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH COLONEL EDWARD MALLANDAINE, CRESTON, B.C., PIONEER OF VANCOUVER, WHO VERY KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES DURING A SHORT VISIT TO VANCOUVER, 8 JANUARY 1940.**

Colonel Mallandaine tells me he is a Reeve of Creston—three years—terms, 1936-7-8, and 1939, '40 and '41; that he has been a stipendiary magistrate since 1899; i.e., in 42 years; that he is Past Deputy Grand Master, District No. 8, Freemasons, and that he has sold the Creston Water Works, \$35,000. Col. Mallandaine is the boy who appears in the famous photograph of Sir Donald Smith (Lord Strathcona) driving the last spike at Craigellachie, B.C. (C.P.R.), November 1885.

We "toured" the City Hall; introduced him to His Worship Dr. Telford and others; spent an hour or more together. It was an extraordinary experience for both of us. For one who had voted at the first election of civic authority in Vancouver to inspect the great edifice, the "City Hall," and recall the day when he had voted in Constable Jonathan Miller's little cottage on Water Street, and cast his vote for the first Mayor and Alderman of this great city. It was an experience for His Worship Dr. Telford to meet such a man; it was a privilege for me to be his escort, to be able to talk with, and touch, so remarkable a link with the beginning of a great railway and a great city. It was a privilege which few value as they should; we are too near to the event.

#### **FIRST ELECTION, 1886. MAYOR M.A. MACLEAN.**

Major Matthews: Col. Mallandaine, did you vote at the first election for mayor and alderman?

Col. Mallandaine: "Certainly, and helped to drag Mayor MacLean up and down Water Street in a two-wheeled cart; I don't know if it was a butcher cart or not, but it had two wheels; some were in the shafts, some pulling ropes; we could not go far; just up to the end of the street, turn around, and pull the new mayor back again to where we started."

#### **ST. JAMES' CHURCH.**

Major Matthews: Wish you would write down a few things you think ought to be preserved in writing.

Col. Mallandaine: "How about St. James' Church? I'll write you about the start of St. James' Church."

We parted on the south entrance steps. He is flying back to Creston tomorrow. What a remarkable age he has lived through. To stand in the tower of this huge building, and look over a city spreading seven miles deep by ten miles wide, and reflect upon the day when he saw it all as a wilderness of towering forest; an experience which, and such as, will never again be the experience of any man.

J.S. Matthews.

### **MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. WILLOUGHBY HOWELL, 2 FEBRUARY 1940.**

Née Frances Errington (the Erringtons of Lulu Island are cousins) who came to Vancouver 6 March 1889, lived in Vancouver until 1894, when she went to live on their own farm on No. Thirteen Road, right in front of the Sea Island Airport—across the road. (It would seem their farm must have been on Sea Island.) Mrs. Howell, in company of Miss McColl of Addressograph Department, City Hall, kindly called at the City Archives; rather small of stature, but just another one of those charming, gracious, kind pioneer women with white hair, the wrinkles which experience have brought, and the same courageous persistence.

Mrs. Howell said: "Mr. Howell's father was an officer in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers stationed with the Imperial Forces at London, Ontario, and Mr. Howell was born there on June 26<sup>th</sup> the year the Prince of Wales" (King Edward VII) "came" (1860) "to Canada, and Mr. Howell's mother was at the military balls, and the Prince of Wales paid her much attention. I was born at Glanworth, Ontario, 15<sup>th</sup> July—I shall be 76 this year" (1940.) "Then Mr. Howell and I were married at Christ Church, Glanworth, on the fifth or seventh January 1888; Anglican church, and we lived there a year, and then we came by C.P.R. to Vancouver, and lived on Pender Street for a while, and then near the corner of Howe and Pender. Mr.