

**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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**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH WILLIAM TEMPLETON, "BILLY," SON OF HIS WORSHIP WM. TEMPLETON, AND NOW OF THE METER DEPARTMENT OF THE B.C. ELECTRIC RAILWAY.**

**VANCOUVER LACROSSE CLUB, COLOURS.**

"Well in 1899, at any rate, they were grey sweaters trimmed with maroon, and a monogram, 'V.L.C.' in maroon on the chest." (See photo, C.V. P. Sp. 4. N. Sp. 5.) June 1899.

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH GEO. MATHESON, DEPUTY LAND REGISTRAR, COURT HOUSE, WHO WENT TO SCHOOL AT THE OLD HASTINGS SAWMILL SCHOOL, 1886.**

**VANCOUVER LACROSSE CLUB, COLOURS.**

"Grey, with maroon wrist bands and collar, and the monogram in maroon."

City Archivist Matthews: Was that for senior, or junior teams?

Mr. Matheson: "Senior, the junior had no set uniform; you must remember there was not much organisation in those days for junior teams; they took what they got; mostly wore their own sweaters, or anything else they felt like when they played."

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH DR. H.E. LANGIS, NOW THE OLDEST LIVING PIONEER MEDICAL DOCTOR IN VANCOUVER, WHO HONOURED ME BY CALLING TO SEE ME, 2 MARCH 1936.**

He came to Port Moody in 1884. A short and stocky man, French or French-Canadian, not more than five feet two or three, pointed Imperial beard; iron grey hair with sandy patches and fairly luxuriant and even yet not quite grey. Reads without glasses, hearing good, and walk quite firm for his 78 years of age. He says that his residence at Parksville has completely cured the neuritis from which he suffered so severely some twenty years ago—but says he feels he is getting weaker. His old contemporary, Dr. Brydone-Jack, is in hospital, has recently had one leg amputated through diabetes.

**FIRST HOSPITAL IN VANCOUVER. C.P.R. HOSPITAL.**

Dr. Langis said: "Dr. J.M. Lefevre was the first doctor at the C.P.R. Hospital, Dr. A.M. Robertson was his assistant, and I went down there sometimes; there were just three of us. Dr. McGuigan and Dr. Beckingsdale did not visit; there were only six beds. One of the first patients operated on was a Mr. Pitt, real estate man, who had his right leg cut off and that is all I know about him.

"The hospital was on the north side of Powell Street, about 150 feet from the Hastings Sawmill water flume from Trout Lake. It was in the middle of the block between Campbell Avenue and Hawks Avenue. It had a kitchen at the back. It was not a new building as I first remember it; perhaps it was a year old, unpainted, and my recollection is that it had a little verandah; there were no tents near it. The C.P.R. tore it down, and the patients were moved up to the City Hospital on Beatty Street; the wooden one."

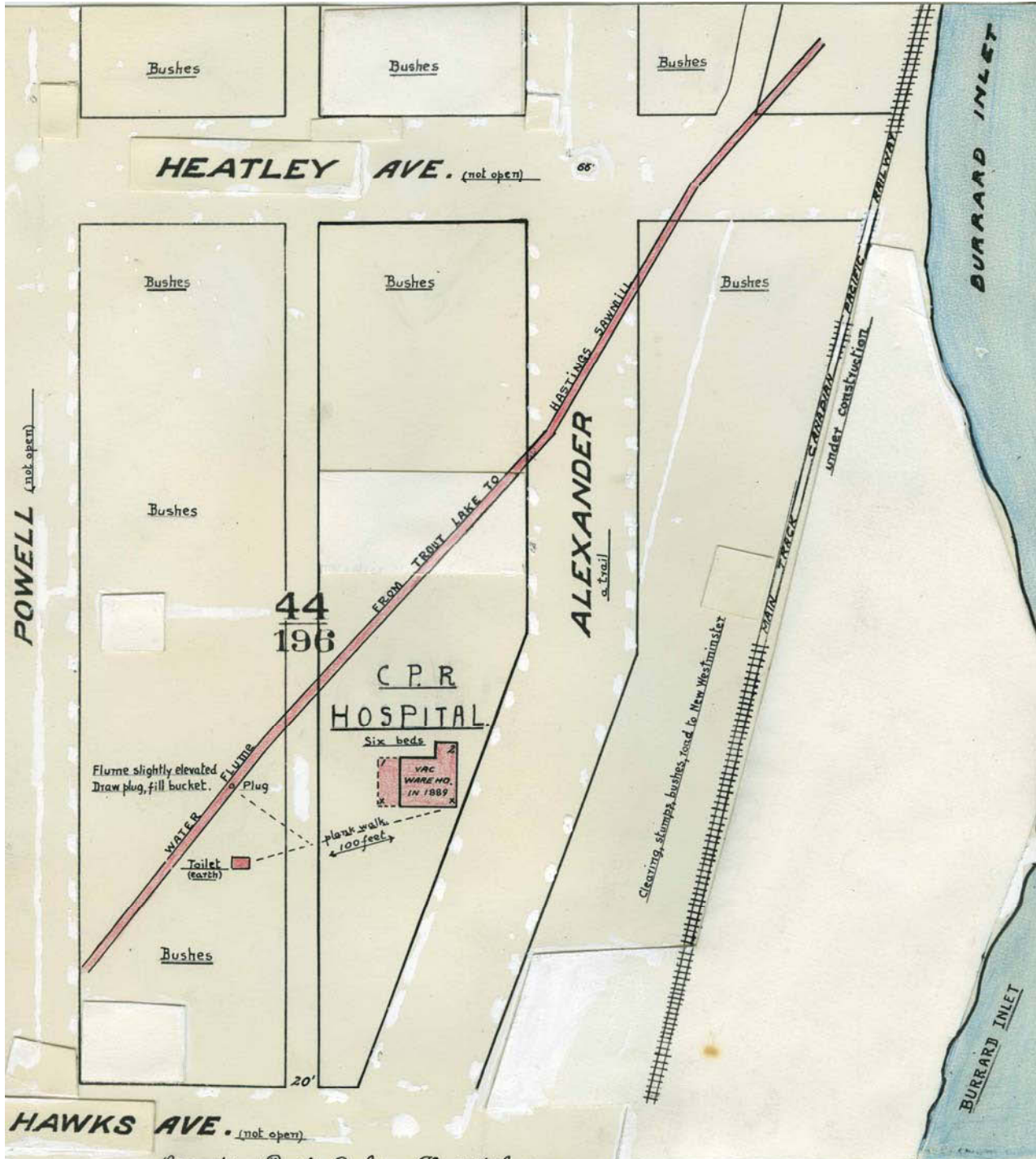
**SMALL POX, 1891 AND 1893.**

"The only tents I recall was when we had tents for the small pox down at Cedar Cove, three small pox patients died, and were buried right there at Cedar Cove. In 1893 we had a floating hospital near Cedar Cove for small pox patients; we had about nine, and two of them died; one was a woman from Dupont Street; she died almost on the stretcher as they were carrying her in, and the other was a man who said he had had small pox in Chicago, and I thought he was immune, but he drank so much; he went away for about three days, and when he came back had small pox, and died in two days. Old Mrs. Gorman was nurse; not a graduate nurse, we had to take what we could get; she was cook too, down on the floating hospital, a scow, for the small pox cases, 1893."

**JOE HUNTLEY. CITY COUNCIL, 1886. FIRST HEALTH OFFICER.**

(See minutes, first meeting City Council.)

"Joe Huntley was the first health officer; he married Jonathan Miller's" (the constable) "eldest daughter. Huntley went, I think to Honolulu, or Australia; anyway, he disappeared and was never heard of again."



*Canadian Pacific Railway Hospital, 1886.*  
*In use during railway construction. First in Vancouver, Canada*  
*Afterwards 1886-7, "City Hospital".*  
*See "Early Vancouver", Matthews, Vol. 23.4.5-6.*

INDIAN Village here, 1886.  
 J. S. Matthews  
 March 1936. *City Archives Vancouver!*

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### **MCCARTNEY OF THE DRUG STORE.**

“Allan McCartney, brother of Allan McCartney of the drug store, left a son, ‘Bus’ McCartney; he lives out in Burnaby; he would tell you all about the Hastings Mill flume for water from Trout Lake.”

### **CHINAMEN AT PORT MOODY. ACCIDENTS, C.P.R. CONSTRUCTION.**

“I recall that Chinaman” (mentioned in *Port Moody Gazette* as injured and attended by Dr. Langis in 1884 or 1886.) “He had his right leg broken, and, next day, when I called he was gone; the Chinamen where I had operated on him told me the injured man had ‘gone to China’; but I believed they killed him. You see, they were paid only thirty cents a day, and felt they could not afford to pay for medical attention for those who got injured. Anyway, where he went to with his leg off—cut off by me the day before—I don’t know.

“What I do know is that, up near Salmon Arm, at Canoe Creek, east of Tappen, there was an accident in which about a dozen Chinamen got badly injured, and when I went through the camp the next day, not one of the them was there; where the injured men had gone to I never knew, but I always believed their fellow Chinamen did away with them—because they were injured, no use, and a drag on the others—and buried them.”

Read and approved by Dr. Langis, 17 April 1936. J.S.M.

Dr. Langis died in Vancouver in the fall of 1937.

### **LAWSON, FIRST CITY ENGINEER.**

“Old Man” Lawson was first city engineer in Vancouver; he lived on Alexander Street; he died. He was unable to go through the woods; he would get that ivy poisoning. He adopted a daughter who married a man named Brown who was afterwards manager of the Gas Works in New Westminster for Jim Cunningham. Afterwards Brown went with the Galbraith Lumber Co., Westminster, and died while with that firm about 1930-1-2.

### **MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH DR. H.E. LANGIS, 1708 WEST 40<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, A PIONEER DOCTOR OF PORT MOODY AND VANCOUVER, ALSO OF PARKSVILLE, APRIL 1936.**

#### **ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH. HOLY ROSARY CHURCH. FATHER PATRICK FAY. FIRST MASS IN VANCOUVER.**

Dr. Langis said: “The first Roman Catholic mass celebrated in Vancouver was celebrated in Blair’s Hall, down the alley way” (behind Blair’s Terminus Saloon in Granville), “by the Rev. Father Patrick Fay, 1885. I was not there myself, but Calvin Patterson told me.

“Father Fay did not die on the road as Mrs. McGovern tells you, but died on a fisherman’s boat, near Anacortes, Washington.”

City Archivist: They call him “The Merry Priest”?

Dr. Langis: “He was drunk all the time. I liked him because he was a good man. I bought him one of those big pictures, ‘Jesus before Pilate,’ and took it up to him. He was well liked. Pat Carey ran the Brunswick Hotel on Hastings Street between Carrall and Abbott, told me Father Fay came up to him and said:

“Father Fay: ‘Can you let me have twenty dollars? Tomorrow is Sunday, and I am going to make a collection; I’ll let you have it back again on Monday.’

“Pat Carey: ‘No, you won’t; you’ll get drunk, and there won’t be any service.’ And that was what happened.”

City Archivist: Who held the service?

Dr. Langis: “There was no service; he was the only priest in Vancouver.”

City Archivist: Well, what did they do?