

**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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Archives

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH HENRY S. ROWLING, WHO CAME TO SOUTH VANCOUVER IN 1868 TO HIS FATHER'S MILITARY GRANT OF LAND.**

**PEMBERTON TRAIL. SEYMOUR CREEK TRAIL.**

Mr. Rowling said: "The reason the Seymour Creek trail was a failure was because the cattle got sore feet. The cattle had been raised on the Pemberton Meadows, on the soft ground, and had soft feet, and when they got on that hard trail, the gravel and rocks made their feet sore, they lay down, and would not walk."

**OXEN.**

"I often thought they might have shod them. We did it, but I was never good at it myself; their hooves are thin. We used to put a band under their bellies and haul them up off the ground, then shoe them."

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. (CAPT.) H. SACRET, 415 TENTH AVENUE EAST, ONE OF THE EARLIEST SETTLERS OF MOUNT PLEASANT, AT CITY ARCHIVES, 19 JANUARY 1937.**

**WILLIAM JOHN ALLEN.**

Mrs. Sacret said: "My father, William John Allen, builder, came to Vancouver from Emerson, Manitoba, together with my mother, Elizabeth, who died September 6<sup>th</sup> 1936" (see Obituary Book, page 146), "and we resided on Hornby Street for a period, and then—before the street cars ran up the hill to Mount Pleasant" (November 1891) "—we built at home at 23" (West) "Twelfth Avenue, and we remained there until Father's death about 1924. Father never filled any public office in Vancouver."

**W.J. ANNAND. FIRST AUTOMOBILE WEDDING. FIRST AUTOMOBILE BUSINESS.**

"W.J. Annand, my brother-in-law, who has a grocery store now at the corner of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Cambie Street, had the first automobile business in Vancouver, in the old wooden building still standing on the south side of Hastings Street, just east of Columbia Street." (See Fire Insurance map of Vancouver, 1889, where it is shown as a "livery" stable.)

"My wedding was the first automobile wedding in Vancouver." (Captain and Mrs. H. Sacret.) "It was a kind of cold wedding, too, in an open car, and they played all kinds of tricks upon us; white streamers behind and all that sort of thing, and the car was open and as we drove down to the Seattle boat at the C.P.R. wharf, everybody could look at us seated high up in the motor car without any protection from wind, weather, or their gaze. We were married by the Rev. John Hethington, Methodist, at 23 West Twelfth Avenue, 14<sup>th</sup> September 1905, and drove down to the *Princess Victoria*; I think that was the boat; we were going to Seattle for the honeymoon. It was the first four-cycle engine in Vancouver. The Governor-General, Earl Grey, had a ride around the park in it in 1909. W.J. Annand came here about 1898, and started a bicycle store; at first, a little way up Hastings Street" (to the east) "and then he went in with the Starks, and moved down the street a little to the old livery stable I spoke of; that was before I was married on September 14<sup>th</sup> 1905. Mr. Annand was in the bicycle business, and then went in with Willie, Walter and Ernest Stark" (Vancouver Cycle and Auto Co.) "and then they brought out a car, a little one at first, and then the big red one."

**FIRST STARK AUTOMOBILES. "THE ROLLING PEANUT."**

"Automobiles would never run in those days; they would get stuck, and people would pass remarks; call to us, 'Get a horse,' jeeringly. They called the first little one we had the 'rolling peanut.' I used to stop at the store" (Vancouver Auto and Cycle Company) "on Hastings Street, and they" (Mr. Annand or Mr. Stark, partners) "would send me home to Mount Pleasant in the car. It used to bump up and down, especially when going over a crossing" (when Vancouver had macadam roads, and the crossings at street corners were three boards, twelve-inch planks side by side, and the earth used to wear away on each side of the crossing.)

"I had to sit in the only seat beside the driver, and there was nothing to hang onto, and I did not like to hang onto him; oh, it was terrible; you couldn't hang onto a man out in the street with passing pedestrians on the sidewalks to watch. They used to say at the shop, 'Take Miss Louie home in the peanut,' and I did not know the 'boys' who drove; it was terrible. Billy Stark is the only one of the Stark boys living."