

**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 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

**Copyright Statement**

© 2011 City of Vancouver. Any or all of *Early Vancouver* may be used without restriction as to the nature or purpose of the use, even if that use is for commercial purposes. You may copy, distribute, adapt and transmit the work. It is required that a link or attribution be made to the City of Vancouver.

**Reproductions**

High resolution versions of any graphic items in *Early Vancouver* are available. A fee may apply.

**Citing Information**

When referencing the 2011 edition of *Early Vancouver*, please cite the page number that appears at the bottom of the page in the PDF version only, not the page number indicated by your PDF reader. Here are samples of how to cite this source:

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.

**Contact Information**

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



**FIRST CHILDREN BORN VANCOUVER, 1886. JAKE GRAUER OF EBURNE. GEORGE GRAUER, HIS SON.**

“Mrs. Jake Grauer still lives, with her daughter, at 1311 West 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and she has told me many times that her son George—he lives out near Ladner’s now—was one of the first children born in Vancouver; she used to talk about it when they were giving a present to Miss Edith Jackson.” (A phone call to Mrs. Grauer’s home brought us the information from Mrs. Grauer through her daughter that George was born 25 November 1886, at 10<sup>th</sup> and Westminster Avenue, now Main Street.)

**GRANVILLE STREET SOUTH. NORTH ARM ROAD. SHAUGHNESSY HEIGHTS. STAGES.**

“Do you remember the accident up on the hill? Up Shaughnessy Heights now; North Arm Road then” (Granville Street); “I saw it. It was just evening; we were all going home after a day’s shopping in Vancouver getting groceries and things for Christmas; it was just before Christmas; the stages were going out to Steveston; we were about the third or fourth team behind the stage, and the tree fell and killed the driver, but never touched the horses or passengers; most extraordinary thing; it just killed the driver. The stage was crowded, and he was on the dash board because it was so crowded on the stage; it killed him outright; great big cedar tree; it was the worst thing I ever saw; we did not get out of the rig; old Mr. Mellish’s stage was right behind the stage the tree fell on, and he picked up the body; we had to circle around to get our rig by; it was gravel road, but narrow; it was right on top of the hill, but that hill has been cut down so much it is hard to tell just exactly where, but it was up by the Shaughnessy Golf links.”

**POST OFFICE STRIKE. POSTMASTER JONATHAN MILLER.**

“Old Miller, the postmaster, he had the post office on Hastings Street, and there was a strike among the clerks, I don’t know much about it, but I think they wanted more pay, but I think the government allowed Mr. Miller so much a year and he had to get his own clerks, and then afterwards the government took it over and they paid the clerks, but I know they had a strike in the post office.” (And Mrs. Howell smiled as she recollected.)

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH HIRAM W. WOODWARD, 151 WEST FOURTH STREET, NORTH VANCOUVER, WHO SPENT THE AFTERNOON IN THE CITY ARCHIVES WITH ME, 8 FEBRUARY 1940.**

**WORKINGMEN’S PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, 1878. TRADES AND LABOUR COUNCIL.**

Mr. Woodward: “Here, you want this; you can have it. It is the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules of the Order of the Workingmen’s Protective Association, Victoria, 1878, and I think the first labour union in British Columbia.”

**EDWIN WOODWARD, LIGHTKEEPER. POINT ATKINSON, 1875. WELLWOOD, SECOND LIGHTKEEPER.**

“The government had one boat only, the *Sir James Douglas*; my sister Mrs. Gough, at that time Miss Woodward, and Dora Ganner, they went over to Point Atkinson on the same boat as Wellwood, the second lightkeeper at Point Atkinson, went over to take charge; that was in the summer of 1877, because my sister became Mrs. Gough in November 1877. My sister said she left Point Atkinson on the same boat as Edwin Woodward; they had to wait at the lighthouse until the *Sir James Douglas* came back to take them and Ed. Woodward away.”

**WOODWARD’S LANDING. GREENWOOD, B.C. ARMSTRONG, B.C. MAYOR FRED COPE.**

“My father, Caleb Woodward, arrived from St. Williams, Norfolk County, Ontario, 24<sup>th</sup> May 1873; I came from Norfolk Co., Ontario, and my mother came from Norfolk Co., England. Father was the second migration from St. Williams to B.C. Robert and Christopher Wood, of the North Arm, Fraser River, were the first. Afterwards there was my father Caleb, and my uncle Edwin Woodward, first lightkeeper at Point Atkinson, and Nat Woodward, of Woodward’s Landing, and his son Dan, who is still living, and Mayor Fred Cope, third mayor of Vancouver, and, of course, the Woods of North Arm. Greenwood, B.C. is named after Robert Wood, and he started Armstrong, B.C. and called it Aberdeen, but the C.P.R. came along and changed the name to Armstrong. Christopher Wood had gone back to England; all came from St. Williams, Norfolk Co., Ontario.

"There were a lot of other Woodwards out here—all cousins of my father's; some went back; one died here. I was 74 on Tuesday" (6 February 1940) "and my son, who is school inspector at Rossland, sent me five dollars for a birthday present.

"Then there was 'Am' Reeves; his name was Amram Reeves, son of my father's aunt; he settled in Chilliwack, and his descendants are there yet."

#### **FRASER RIVER, HIGH WATER. MOSQUITOES.**

"My father went to Chilliwack in the fall of 1873, and stayed until fall of 1875, and went partners with Horatio Webb; they had cows, but the mosquitoes were awful, and the cows stampeded to the mountains, and that put them out of business; could not milk the cows. They used to carry ferns out in the field and make a smudge, and the cows would lie down in the smoke, but the mosquitoes finally got so bad that father said, 'No use stopping here to be tormented,' and sold out. His farm was about a mile out of Chilliwack—near the little mountain—but he had another preemption that he sold to Thomson, the school teacher; it was right at the foot of the mountain.

"There was high water on the Fraser River in 1876, and the river was high in 1882; higher than 1876, but the worst was 1894; that beat them all."

#### **[LETTER FROM H.W. WOODWARD.]**

151 West 4<sup>th</sup>,  
North Vancouver,  
Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 1940.

Major Matthews,  
City Archivist,  
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 9<sup>th</sup> received.

We left Chilliwack per sternwheeler "Onward," which ran between New Westminster and Yale. I know it was late fall 1875 because a young man named Greyell (relative of the Alderman) was brought aboard the boat at Chilliwack on a stretcher with his feet frozen. His father was with him. He had been driving cattle on foot in the snow and slush, when suddenly it turned cold. (His feet smelled awful.) It was probably November. My mother sang to him to cheer him up on his way to New Westminster hospital. She also took up a subscription for him, he being hard up, and raised quite a sum among the passengers; a lot of them miners on their way to Victoria. That's between us.

Arriving New Westminster occupied large house, Columbia street, while my father went to Nanaimo, and opened a wagon shop.

March 18<sup>th</sup> 1876 my sister Anna married Mr. Gillanders of Chilliwack, my father coming home for the wedding, and on March 20<sup>th</sup> 1876 he took us all back with him to Nanaimo, per Str. "Ada," sidewheeler. The "Ada" only ran to Nanaimo when a cargo of beef cattle or baled hay offered; her only passenger accommodation was a bench with no roof over it abaft the smokestack. No other boat to Nanaimo. If it rained, which it frequently did, you could go down on the freight deck among the cattle, and the hay.

If you can't read this, no matter, not worth it.

Yours

H.W. Woodward.