

Early Vancouver

Volume Five

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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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“Three pianos came out together around the Horn; one of them went to the girls’ school at Yale. I don’t know where the other went to, but see Mr. Pugsley, my cousin.”

FURTHER CONVERSATION, 14 JUNE 1938.

NAME OF RICHMOND. RICHMOND VIEW.

Major Matthews: Miss McCleery, what did your father (Fitzgerald McCleery) refer to when he wrote in his diary in 1863, and afterwards, about Richmond: “Going over to Richmond”; “going down to Richmond”?

Miss McCleery: “‘Richmond’ was the name given to Hugh McRoberts’ farm on Sea Island, now belonging to Thomas Lang.”

Major Matthews: Well. Where was “Richmond View”?

Miss McCleery: “I don’t know. I must ask.”

Major Matthews: Where did he get the name “Richmond”?

Miss McCleery: “I don’t know. Hugh McRoberts came here from Australia, and I think it was after some Australian place.”

J.S.M.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION OVER THE PHONE WITH MR. JAMES QUINTIN McCONNELL, 1286 HARO STREET, DOUGLAS 1493Y, BROTHER TO THE LATE ALDERMAN G.S. McCONNELL, 25 FEBRUARY 1936.

(Following notice in press asking for information of anyone who had been in the old C.P.R. Hospital on Powell Street, 1886-1888.)

FIRST HOSPITAL IN VANCOUVER. C.P.R. HOSPITAL. DR. LEFEVRE.

Mr. McConnell said: “I was in the old hospital down on Powell Street, suffering from typhoid fever; must have been there for two months or more. Dr. LeFevre was my doctor; he used to come down and look things over; a Mr. Burke and his wife were in charge.

“It was a little bit of a place, board and batten up and down boards, with a little bit of a verandah in front. I don’t know how many patients were there; I was in the front room all by myself, but I know there were two or three in the back room, but they were strangers to me.”

ST. LUKE’S HOME.

“I think that must have been in the spring of 1888 because there was another hospital in town at the time, St. Luke’s Home on Oppenheimer Street, where Sister Frances and Father Clinton were, but it was full up, and I had to go down to the Powell Street hospital.

“Then, when I got convalescent, I was moved up to the City Hospital, the first one, on Beatty Street.”

As narrated to me and approved by Mr. McConnell.

J.S. Matthews, 17 March 1936.

MEMO OF FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH MR. JAMES QUINTIN McCONNELL, 1286 HARO STREET, BROTHER ALD. G.S. McCONNELL, 17 MARCH 1936.

FIRST (C.P.R.) HOSPITAL. TYPHOID FEVER.

“It was facing Powell Street because I remember coming out and smoking my first cigarette—I had to learn to smoke over again after the typhoid fever—and I walked up and down on a narrow kind of sidewalk—in front of the little hospital.