

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

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Footnote or Endnote Reference:

Major James Skitt Matthews, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 5 (Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011), 33.

Bibliographic Entry:

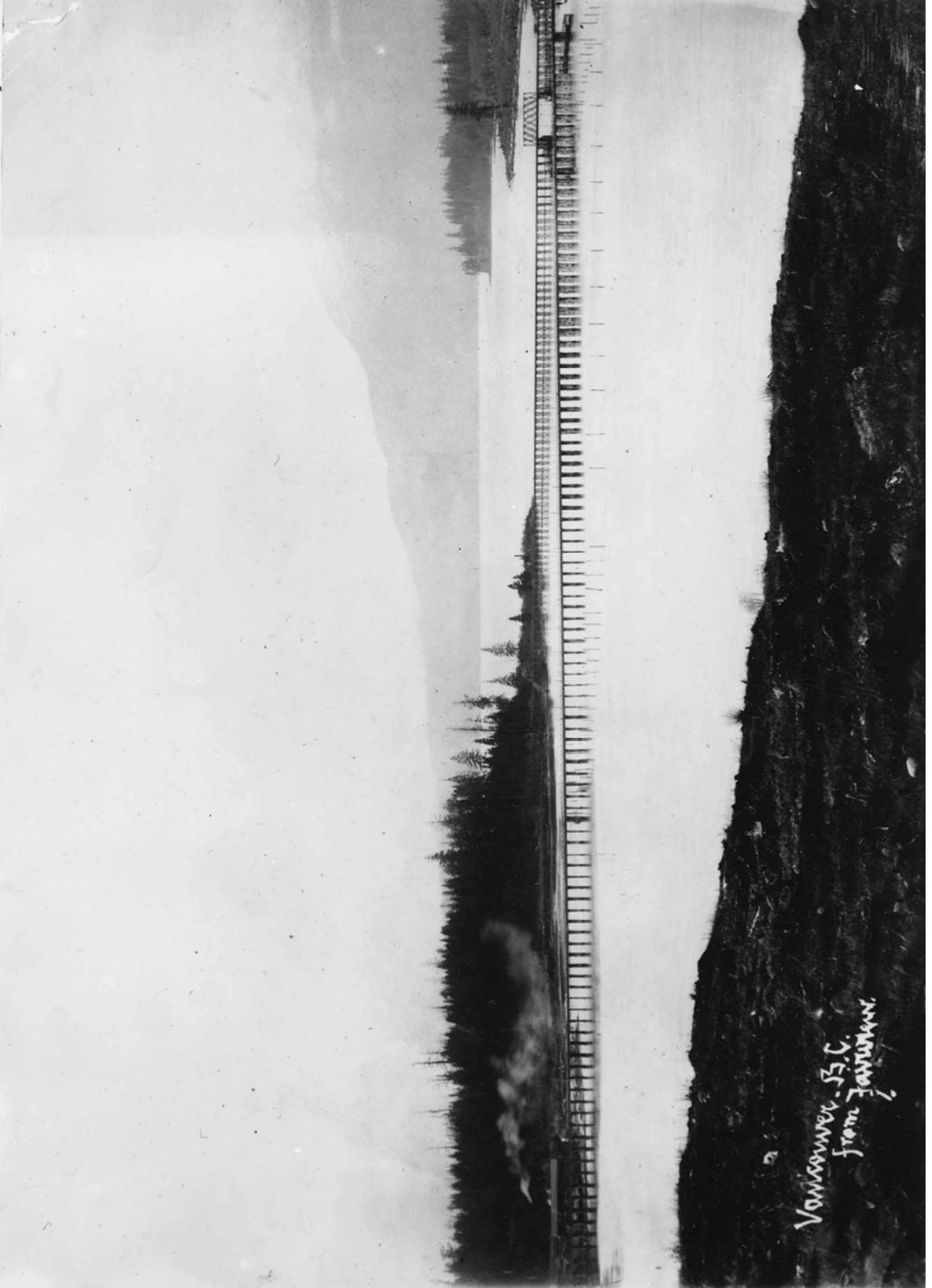
Matthews, Major James Skitt. *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 5. Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011.

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Vancouver, 1893. From eminence above Seventh Ave between Oak & Spruce sts on Fairview. Look BlackBIS. Most western scene in panorama of four photos by Trueman & Cable photographers
False Creek Indian Reserve. Smoke from W.L. Tait's small sawmill. Indian village of Snaug, largely between the two bridges, but Chinisset's ("Jericho Charlie") cottage on English Bay—between two trees.
Granville St.—Third Ave bridge to Centre St and North Arm Road. Can. Pac. R. trestle bridge & fixed span. Piles encircling sand bar, (now Granville Is) attempted pre-emption. Beach Ave a trail.
Photo No. 1.
Presented by F.W. Laing Esq. Victoria, 1938 City Archives J57R.



Item # EarlyVan_v5_041

[photo annotation:]

Vancouver, B.C. from Fairview.

Vancouver, 1893. From eminence above Seventh Ave. between Oak & Spruce Sts. in Fairview. Lot 9, Block 315. Most western scene in panorama of four photos by Trueman & Caple, photographers.

False Creek Indian Reserve. Smoke from W.L. Tait's small sawmill. Indian village of Snauq, largely between the two bridges, but Chinalset's ("Jericho Charlie") cottage on English Bay—between two trees.

Granville St.-Third Ave. bridge to Centre St. and North Arm Road. Can. Pac. R. trestle bridge, fixed span. Piles encircling sand bar, (now Granville Id) attempted pre-emption. Beach Ave a trail.

Photo No. 1

Presented by F.W. Laing Esq., Victoria, 1938. City Archives. J.S.M.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. JOHN DUNSMUIR, PRESIDENT, VANCOUVER EXHIBITION ASSOCIATION, AND OF MACKENZIE, WHITE & DUNSMUIR, LTD., AUTO EQUIPMENT, 635 BURRARD STREET, WHO KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, 24 APRIL 1940.

CHRISTMAS TREES. FAIRVIEW.

Mr. Dunsmuir: (responding to some remarks made by Major Matthews upon the marvel of Vancouver's growth from wilderness of forest into a city seven miles deep by ten miles wide in the short space of a single life) "Yes, and when I was a boy I used to come up here in Fairview and cut Christmas trees in the clearing."

Major Matthews: You're the man I'm looking for; when was that. I have often wanted to find out someone who was first in the Christmas tree business; who started it? How old were you then?

Mr. Dunsmuir: "Well, about ten, I suppose; I was born in 1894, and that was about 1904. Harry Goddard—he lived on Richards Street; I lived on Robson—and we had an old buckboard and horse; we used to go around and take orders, and then deliver the trees."

Major Matthews: And the price?

Mr. Dunsmuir: "Oh, about ten cents each. Harry and I cut them up around here" (City Hall, 12th and Cambie), "take them down an old rough trail in the buckboard, and over there" (pointing) "there were cows; down there on Sixth and Cambie" (west of Cambie) "and then over the old Cambie Street bridge to town."

Major Matthews: That was my cow; I rented all that land west of Cambie as far as Ash Street, and down from Sixth Avenue to False Creek for my cow to pasture in; this is my old wharf at the foot of Ash Street" (showing watercolour by Bloomfield.) I paid \$5.00 every three months for the use of about twenty acres of second growth trees; there were little patches of grass here and there, where I used to tether the cow; all down there where the Vancouver Engineering Works is now.

ANECDOTES RE MISS MARGARET FLORENCE MCNEIL.

At the luncheon tendered by the Corporation and Citizens to Miss McNeil, at Stanley Park Pavilion, 27 April 1940, all present—about forty—were invited to speak, and did; each one spoke a few words; some spoke longer than others. Mrs. H.R. Willis, president, Native Daughters, was inadvertently overlooked; Mr. Ernest Walter of the *Province* had to keep an engagement before his turn came.

The last speaker was Major J.S. Matthews, City Archivist, and after describing how Mr. Walter had given him the clue which led to the rediscovery of Miss McNeil after an absence of fifty-four years from Vancouver, he concluded the festivity with these words:

Do not suppose that this moment, this occasion, is without emotion for her; for years she has been waiting for this day. Miss McNeil has known of her distinction; modestly she forbade to tell. After this, let none say a woman cannot keep a secret. Hers is one of the most magnificent instances of feminine patience and modesty which has ever come to my notice.

Major Matthews sat down, and his Worship Dr. Telford indicated that the luncheon was over, and the assemblage commenced to disperse.

In Miss McNeil's radio remarks over K.E.X., Portland, Oregon, on 6 May 1940, in which she described her visit to Vancouver, she says:

Question: Have you always known you were the first white child born in Vancouver.

Answer: Yes. Ever since I can remember; Mother frequently mentioned that I was the first white child born in Vancouver after it was incorporated.

Question: Tell us a bit about the Fire.