

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.

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



MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH JOHN MURRAY, SON OF JOHN MURRAY, R.E., OF PORT MOODY, 20 JULY 1936.

ROWING RACES ON BURRARD INLET. ANNIE FRASER, RACING BOAT. CUM YEE.

Mr. Murray said: "The photograph" (C.V. P. Port. 238) "I gave you is the crew of the racing boat *Annie Fraser*; we christened her after Annie Fraser, the late Angus Fraser's eldest daughter who died" (1880); "she was clinker built, thirty-two feet long—not Annie Fraser, but the boat—and we never got beaten, excepting once in Victoria, when Tom Lynn, of Lynn Creek, broke his oar. We bought the race boat; she was built by Tom Maloney of Moodyville; he had a boat building yard there; built several boats. Our crew was Angus Fraser, Jim Fraser, Alex Johnston, and myself. Cum Yee, brother of Gum Yow, your old Vancouver Chinese interpreter, was coxswain."

MRS. EMILY PATTERSON. FIRST NURSE ON BURRARD INLET.

"See a long article on Mrs. Patterson in the *Province* magazine section on Saturday. Well, Angus Fraser's wife was going to have a baby, so we got the race boat, and Mrs. Patterson—she was nurse to everybody on Burrard Inlet—and brought her over to Granville from Moodyville."

DOMINION DAY. QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

"Where did we race? Why, on the Fraser River against Westminster crews; at Victoria, on Burrard Inlet against the Moodyville boat, the *Pearl*, or the *Maud*, or the *Grace Darling*; all four raceboats; the distance from Moodyville to Hastings Mill. The *Grace Darling* was built by four loggers in the Lev. Harmon's camp at Port Moody; all were clinker built. The prizes! I forget. But the first prize in Westminster was, once, one hundred dollars. We raced on Dominion Day and Queen's birthday."

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH JOHN MURRAY OF PORT MOODY, SON OF JOHN MURRAY, ROYAL ENGINEER, THAMES CITY, 1859, WHO CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, 15 DECEMBER 1936.

BROCKTON POINT. STANLEY PARK. EARLY CEMETERIES. PETER PLANT.

Mr. Murray said: "There was no official cemetery at Brockton Point; it was just a place where they buried people; there were several people buried there."

"I went over there in the spring of 1878 or 1879 to attend the funeral of a child belonging to Peter Plant. Peter's children were born and brought up in Gastown. Peter worked for Jerry Rogers for years. At the funeral there were just a few of them, and I went over through curiosity. I was young, about twenty then."

BREW'S POINT. TOMPKINS BREW.

"We all went over in a row boat, coffin and all, from the general wharf, it was called Mannion's wharf; just a float on the Gastown beach in front of Joe Mannion's Granville Hotel. Everything over there was in a rough state; no cemetery of any sort. We just rowed across the bay, and landed at what we called Brew's Point; they call it Brockton Point now; Brew lived there just inside the point; not in the Narrows, but well inside on the shore, where the old landing pier was afterwards, between the point where the Nine O'Clock Gun is and the point, both Brew's place and the grave yard was along that shore, but I could not say the exact spot now, but it was well inside the Narrows; it was just a rough place on the edge of the woods beside the beach; it was not kept up, and I was not very much interested in its location."

JACK JACKMAN, BULL PUNCHER. EARLY DEATHS.

"We had no parson with us, but there was in the group what we called in those days a bull puncher, Jack Jackman, ox teamster I suppose you would call him. There was no minister, so he read the burial service. The grave was just a hole in the ground in the bush, and as near as I can remember, there were other graves there. I was just a young fellow, and I was surprised when the bull puncher read the burial service; he was just a rough bull puncher. Just when they were going to put the child in the ground he said—there was no minister—'Is no one going to say anything,' and somebody said, 'No,' they were just going to put the child in the ground, and he said, 'If you will allow me I will.' He had a book in his pocket, and I was surprised to see a rough bull puncher pull it out and read the burial service out of the prayer book."