

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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"Capt. Sacret is on the Hudson's Bay steamer *Silverpalm* now."

Unrevised, J.S.M.

Note: a postcard photo of the wedding automobile shows Earl Grey and three ladies, with Stark as driver, in front of the "Hollow Tree" in Stanley Park. (See photo C.V. P. Trans. 27.)

MEMO OF CONVERSATION (PHONE) WITH MR. J. FRED SANDERS, 1232 WEST FIFTEENTH AVENUE, VANCOUVER, 25 FEBRUARY 1937.

Son of Alderman Edwin Sanders, member of City Council, 1887, and 1895 (by-election), and brother to Mrs. S.H. Ramage, 2415 Alder Street, Vancouver.

ARRIVAL, FIRST TRAIN, VANCOUVER, 23 MAY 1887.

Mr. Sanders said: "I was born in Winnipeg, April 30th 1882, and came with Father and Mother to Vancouver, via Portland, Seattle and Victoria in March 1886. Father was an alderman on the Council of 1887.

"I was only five years old at the time we went down to meet the first train to arrive in Vancouver, and don't remember very much about it, except that Father often impressed upon us that we had been there, and had witnessed the inauguration of a great Imperial service. My sister, Mrs. Ramage, was with us when we met the train, but my wife was not. She was not here then."

FOR ILLUSTRATIONS.

See *British Columbia*, Biographical, Vol. IV, page 556 and 612 for illustrations of Mr. Edwin and Mr. J. Fred Sanders, and narrative.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH JOHN HENRY SCALES, TODAY THE CITIZEN OF VANCOUVER WHO SAW BURRARD INLET EARLIER THAN ANY LIVING PERSON, ONE OF THE CHILD PASSENGERS OF THE *THAMES CITY*, APRIL 1859, OF 3520 MAIN STREET, VANCOUVER, AND WHO VERY KINDLY DROPPED INTO THE CITY ARCHIVES, CITY HALL, AND REMAINED CHATTING FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS, 14 JANUARY 1938.

Note: Mr. Scales is 84, came alone by street car, looks a picture of health, a clear facial complexion with tinge of colour, a mustache almost but not quite white, and slightly drooping at the ends; considerable hair almost white, a tolerably firm step for a man of his age, and a happy smile.

He tells me Mrs. Scales is not so well; has been confined to her bed since just before Christmas; overdid it—they have been married fifty-three years—but is a little better today.

FOREST FIRES. THE BLACK TRAIL.

Major Matthews: Mr. Scales. You were born on the 26th June 1854, so that you must have been nearly five years old when you arrived, and ought to remember things pretty well; what forest fires can you recollect about here?

Mr. Scales: "Between here and Westminster? Well! That fire that came through there, I think started up near Port Moody, and came through back of New Westminster, at the back of the town; it cut around the place where the Royal Columbia Hospital is now at Sapperton; burned two houses down and passed right through at the back, between Westminster and Burnaby Lake; you can see the marks there yet; the tall black tree stumps, high ones, along there by the interurban, the Vancouver-Central Park interurban electric railway line; the fire passed right through there; it took everything before it, timber and everything; *it was an awful fire.*" (See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3, "Black Trail.")

"Father had a piece of property about two and a half miles out of town" (Westminster) "on the road to Port Moody, out Burquitlam way, just about where the road turns off at an angle to go to Port Moody. You go past Sapperton, down the hill, across the bridge over the Brunette, up the hill; there was a stream at the back running into the Brunette. We were kids; Mother, Father and the four of us children were out there—it was before George was born" (note: George is supposed to have been born June 24th 1865 and, it is