

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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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 MRS. JAMES WALKER, 721 CAMBIE STREET, AT CITY ARCHIVES, 31 JANUARY 1940.

DEATH OF JOSEPH SILVEY, JR.

Mrs. Walker said: "Joseph Silvey, second son of 'Portuguese Joe'" (Joseph Silvey), "my father, and by his second wife, Lucy, the Sechelt Indian, and therefore my half-brother, died in the Vancouver General Hospital about a week ago. He had come from Egmont, B.C., where his home was. I was at his bedside the day before he died in the morning after; he was unconscious; the nurses told me the doctors did not know what was the matter with him, but there was something wrong, I noticed it, with the back of his head; it looked as though he had had a fall and hurt himself or something; he was unconscious and moaning.

"He leaves a widow, his second wife, but I don't think she lived with him. He had two sons and two daughters by his first wife." [Blank] (mentioned a name I missed) "came right over, and paid for the funeral; ninety dollars for the casket; Home Funeral Chapel; out Hastings East, and Mr. Silvey was buried at Sechelt. They tell me he had a big funeral at Sechelt. He had no children by his second wife."

Conversations of 17 July, 6 October and 31 January. Approved by Mrs. Walker, 31 January 1940. J.S.M.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. JONATHAN ROGERS, 2050 NELSON, WHO VERY GRACIOUSLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES THIS AFTERNOON, 27 NOVEMBER 1939.

Bringing with her two large and two small—one of each size—magnificent reproductions of oil paintings by P.A. Hay, London, England, one of Mrs. Rogers, the other of Mr. Rogers, and also a small, but rare, photograph of William Hailstone (Wadds), one of the three preemptors, 1862, of the "West End." Mr. Rogers has been poorly; confined to his bed for eleven weeks, and so, to his deep regret, was unable to attend the banquet at the Stanley Park Pavilion, 27 October 1939, in honour of the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of Stanley Park by His Excellency Lord Stanley, 29 October 1889.

Park records show that Mr. Rogers served as a park commissioner for twenty consecutive years. (Note: park commissioners are unpaid.) Mrs. Rogers says that it should be twenty-six years; the explanation of the discrepancy is Park Superintendent A.S. Wootton.

TAG DAYS, FIRST IN VANCOUVER. VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL. OLD POST OFFICE. WOMAN'S AUXILIARY, GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Mrs. Rogers said: "The first tag day ever held in Vancouver was held on King Edward VII's birthday, November 9th 1902, and the second tag day six months later. Both were held in the vestibule of the old Post Office on the southwest corner of Pender and Granville Street.

"The first tag day was to raise money to build the new General Hospital, and we got a 'lot of money.' You see, the business houses downtown all had post office boxes for their mail in those days, and the business men came to their private post box in the Post Office to get their letters. One gentleman gave me a cheque for five hundred dollars.

"Then, six months later, and for the same purpose, we had another tag day; that was how tag days started in Vancouver. White ribbon printed with a red cross was used; all the ballot boxes were in use at different corners of the city; we used ballot boxes; borrowed them.

"Lady Tupper, wife of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, was president of the Woman's Auxiliary to the hospital, and Mrs. 'Tommy'" (T.E.) "Atkins, of McDowell, Atkins and Watson drug stores, was secretary.

"The old City Hospital was inadequate, and the Woman's Auxiliary was organised in the City Hall by Dr. Harrison, father of George S. Harrison. A Citizen's Committee" (men) "was organised a few days before the Woman's Auxiliary in 1902. I have the details of this somewhere, and will confer with you when I find them."