

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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MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. S.H. RAMAGE, (DAUGHTER OF FORMER ALDERMAN EDWIN SANDERS OF VANCOUVER), 2415 ALDER STREET, WHO VERY KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES THIS AFTERNOON, 20 SEPTEMBER 1937.

See Howay's *History of B.C.*, biographical section, Sanders.

ARRIVAL FIRST TRAIN, 23 MAY 1887.

Mrs. Ramage said: "I saw the first train arrive; in fact, we children hardly left the" (C.P.R.) "station long enough that day to eat our meals; the recollection is all very real to me even after fifty years. I was given a bouquet of flowers plucked from the floral decorations on the engine, and pressed a number of them; some went to dust in the process of time, but here are what remain; you may have them for the city of Vancouver, and you can have this photo, too, Dr. Mathison's Christmas card, 1924, of the site of the present C.P.R. station as it looked in the stumps in March 1886."

THE GREAT FIRE, 13 JUNE 1886.

"We lived in the cottages on Prior Street which escaped the fire; they are still standing; oh, yes, here they are; we lived in the west one, on the left. Seventeen men slept on the floor of our home, mostly in the dining room, the night of the fire; Thomas Mathews" (the well-known pioneer real estate agent) "was one of them; we have often joked about it; and Pat Myers—and others—he slept in our chicken coop; they cleared out the chickens and made themselves comfortable." (Note by J.S.M.: Mr. Sander's cottage is now, 1937, numbered 217 Prior Street; the others 221 and 225; see photo N. G. F. 5 and P. Bu. 71. Also see Pat Myers, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3.)

PRINCESS STREET, 1889. DUPONT STREET, 1886. PENDER STREET EAST.

"Princess Street! I named Princess Street; we lived on it; they called it Dupont Street, but we did not like the name, so I changed the name to Princess Street; that was before 1890."

(Note by J.S.M.: The original map of Vancouver, adopted by the Council as official, and signed by Mayor MacLean and City Clerk McGuigan, shows Dupont Street in 1886 as extending from Carrall Street to Vernon Drive, but the Dakin Fire Map of November 1889 shows it as "Princess, sometimes called Dupont." The two blocks west of Westminster Avenue (Main Street) were the centre of social degeneracy; and naturally those residents east of Westminster Avenue—where resided many of the most influential citizens—were not complimented, so that part of the street now continuously Pender Street East for miles, was Dupont, and the rest, Princess. Note 2: Directories for 1891 show Mr. Sanders resident at both 306 and 416 Princess Street, both numbers south side between Gore Avenue and Dunlevy. Note 3: The City Archivist surmises that the name "Princess" was in compliment to the little lady who lived there.)

GENEALOGY.

"Mr. Ramage died April 1st 1930, and is buried in Mountain View Cemetery. Our children were:

Edwin, served overseas, now of Vancouver, who is married and has two sons, Edward and Wilbur; Dorothy Ruth, our second child, now in U.S.A.; John Stephen, the third, now in Vancouver, who served overseas in the R.C.H.A., unmarried; Joseph, born 19 September 1900, now 37, unmarried; and youngest is Marguerite, now in Seattle, unmarried. Both Edwin and Stephen were in the Battle of the Somme."

Approved by Mrs. Ramage after reading.

23 September 1937.

JSM.