

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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MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. RUSSELL ALONZO LEONARD, NÉE ANDREWS, PIONEER, SEPTEMBER 1885, VICTORIA, SEPTEMBER 1886, VANCOUVER (AFTER THE FIRST FIRE), 811 THURLOW STREET, WHO VERY KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES THIS AFTERNOON ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. C.O. BOYD OF 2142 WEST SECOND AVENUE, 3 OCTOBER 1945.

HOTEL VANCOUVER, 1887.

Mrs. Leonard: "I came to Vancouver from Victoria in September 1886; there were no trains in here then. I was born at Andrewsville, near Ottawa; named to honour my father; and then I came to Victoria from Collingwood, Ontario. My husband and I were married in Clinton, Ontario, and lived one year in Collingwood. We were married 1st January 1884, Wesleyan Methodist. We came to British Columbia by the Northern Pacific Railway to Tacoma; there were no trains into Seattle at that time; then by boat to Victoria. My husband was like most men; he was a rover."

GENEALOGY.

Major Matthews: Can I say you roved?

Mrs. Leonard: "Oh, yes, I'm very glad I came. The first work Mr. Leonard did here was on the foundation of the old Hotel Vancouver." (Southwest corner, Georgia and Granville.)

"We brought one daughter, ten months old, with us. She is now Mrs. Ernest John Peel. Hattie's husband is an electrician at Kerrisdale. They have three boys. Mrs. Peel was born 22nd November 1884."

GEORGIA STREET EAST. HARRIS STREET.

"Colin was born January 1887, the 9th, on what is now known as Georgia Street East, but in those days, Harris Street. Our house was one of the first. I think there were three others. Mr. Leonard built it himself. Colin married, but is now a widower; there were no children.

"Frank S. Leonard, my third child, was born in Clinton, Ontario, in March" (about 28th) "1888. I was there on a visit. Frank is married, no children. Amy was born also in Clinton, Ontario. She is now Mrs. Alexander T. Windt; they live in Vancouver, and they have one son and two girls, all married.

"Alice Emily was born when we were living on Georgia Street West, in that row of brick houses opposite the Safeways." (Southeast corner, Seymour and Georgia.) "She is Mrs. John Mellish, Sydney, N.S.W., and they have one daughter. That completes the family; two sons and three daughters.

"Mr. Leonard died in the Peace River country, at Dawson Creek, seven years ago; about 1838."

CHURCH STREET.

Major Matthews: Do you know how that little lane by the old Congregational Church on Georgia Street got its name?

Mrs. Leonard: "Mr. Leonard called it that because we had four dwelling houses down it. Mr. Leonard was a contractor; he was skilled as a bricklayer, and he built those brick houses facing Georgia Street, but do not confuse them with four, one and a half storey houses which were on the lane behind the Georgia Street houses, and which faced east, and there were still more, and a store, on Seymour Street facing west." (See Goad's Map, 1893, folio 19.)

"Well, people did not like living on a lane or alley, so Mr. Leonard named that alley Church Street; you can see it marked here on your map."

B.C. SUGAR REFINERY.

"Afterwards Mr. Leonard built the first sugar refinery; his men would not build the high chimney; too high for them, or something; so he built it himself with his own hands."

ALASKA. SALMON CANNERY.

"I made eight trips to Alaska. Mr. Leonard had a salmon cannery on Chilcoot Inlet, and I went up for two months each summer. The first time I went up was the year before the *Islander* went down."

SALMON CANNERY. PROVINCIAL CANNERY. EBURNE, B.C.

“He also had a cannery out on the Fraser River before that; it was on Lulu Island just across the bridge, the second bridge; it was called the Provincial Cannery. It was sold, and the company sent him to Alaska to the other cannery which he had built. I don’t recall how many years he was there, and then the company sent him northwest again; he was about fifty miles from a place called Yakupat” (sic); “the cannery was built right in the shadow of Mount St. Elias. He was there until the beginning of the first Great War, 1914. They called it the St. Elias Packing Company. He had his own boat and he was putting up salmon for a company in Seattle; he had sent out all the salmon excepting fifty thousand cases. He had sent two hundred thousand cases and was bringing down the other fifty thousand cases on his boat, but coming out of the river to get into the ocean, the vessel was wrecked; the salmon lost. Five men swam or floated back to the cannery, but could not stay there as the supplies left were only just sufficient for the watchman, so they had to walk fifty miles to Yakupat” (sic); “they walked back and were there fifty-three days before they got a boat out. Then the war broke out. So he got back to Vancouver with nothing.”

CARIBOO.

“In 1914 we went into the Cariboo; seventeen miles north of Soda Creek; we took up a piece of land; Buckshot Andrews was up at Australian about five or six miles. We were there for ten years, farming, mixed farming; we were on the west side of the river, not on the Cariboo Road; Castle Rock was the name of our post office. Our nearest neighbour was a mile away—a Chinaman, Oh Sing Lee.”

ENGLISH BAY BEACH. GREER’S BEACH.

Major Matthews: And still you say you are glad you came?

Mrs. Leonard: “Sure I am? Georgia Street, down to English Bay Beach was just a trail, and we used to go to Greer’s Beach, go across the railway trestle, and pick berries, wild blackberries, and there was never a berry grown yet which was any better than those berries. Then my husband would come and bring us home; we walked.”

CONVERSATION WITH MR. MATTHEW SERGIUS LOGAN, OF 1259 WEST GEORGIA STREET, WHERE HE RESIDES IN A HOUSE BUILT, YEARS AGO, BY THE HON. F.L. CARTER-COTTON, OWNER-EDITOR OF THE *NEWS-ADVERTISER*, 20 NOVEMBER 1945.

His office is in the Crown Building, 615 West Pender Street, in which office he was the first tenant, and has been there thirty-five years. He very kindly called, at our invitation, at the City Archives this afternoon for a chat.

GENEALOGY.

Mr. Logan said: “I was born in Morrisburg, Ontario, forty-five miles straight south from Ottawa on the St. Lawrence River. My father was Matthew Logan; he was a farmer; he was born in Elma, just north of there. Mother’s name was Miss Elizabeth Jane Allison; they were of Scotch descent. My grandfather Logan came to Canada somewhere around 1840, I think from County Antrim in Ireland. Father had two sons and one daughter; Grandfather had three sons and three daughters. I have no children. On my mother’s side, Mother’s father had four daughters and seven sons. I was brought up on a farm until I was nine years old; I have milked fifteen cows at one sitting when I was a boy nine years old. I have heard Mother say that she had milked twenty-seven cows. I have heard her say that she had taken the wool off the sheep’s back, and put it on a man’s back. We had forty cows on our farm; butter and cheese; Father had a cheese factory on the farm. Our family belonged to the Wesleyan Methodists. I was educated at Morrisburg Collegiate Institute; it was a sort of advanced high school; they prepared students for the university.

“My brother, Andrew Allison Logan, died in Vancouver in 1930; my sister, Nettie, died in Morrisburg, unmarried, in 1877, and I am the other of the three children. Andrew’s widow is dead, but of his children, Nettie, the eldest of the family, died about 1925, leaving a son and daughter; one is on the prairie at Oak Lake, Manitoba, and the son is in the American Navy; quite a high officer, and has seen service in the