

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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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.

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"Henrietta, deceased in Vancouver, buried Mountain View. She married Edward Mitchell, still living and a city employee; they had three children; Thomas about 19 now, Jean about 17, and Walter, about 15.

"Kate, she married J. Crozier, now in San Francisco, one son, about 10.

"Maud, she married Sidict Hodgins, Vancouver, one daughter.

"Mary, married J.H. Brownley, Vancouver, one daughter.

"Nora, married Alex Findley, Vancouver, two sons.

"Thomas J., unmarried, now about 27, lives with me at home.

"All except Henrietta, were born in Vancouver, right where we live now on Rhodes Street."

RHODES STREET. WINTER STREET.

"We have lived on Rhodes Street since the day we came here, almost. Of course, there was no Rhodes Street then."

Major Matthews: Why did they call it Rhodes Street?

Mr. Winters: "Well, it might have been Winters Street. I am the oldest 'squatter' there, but the Council named it after that South African man, Cecil Rhodes. But they did name a street after me, but it is away down by the interurban station at Gladstone; runs down the track to Lakeview Drive; they were calling streets after all the old settlers, and they picked one after me. But it has been changed to Winter Street; they dropped the 's' somehow. I should be taken out and shot—all the work I've done at Rhodes Street; clearing, and one thing and another, and am poorer now than when I started. Of course, if Mrs. Winters had not died it might have been different; that illness cost me nine thousand dollars; but if it had cost ten times as much, I would have spent it. I had a milk ranch out there at Rhodes Street."

GEORGE WALES. WALES STREET. SOUTH VANCOUVER. WATER.

"When we went out there, there was nothing, except part of the land had been cleared by George Wales, and oldest settler there. I bought six acres from him for six hundred dollars. Part of the six acres was part cleared, with apple trees between the stumps; we had a well for water; and horse and buggy, chickens; I had thirty head of cattle there when I had the milk ranch. I had the milk ranch then; am poorer now than then."

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. WALTER WINSBY (NÉE ELIZABETH BEATRICE SAUNDERS), WIFE OF MAJOR W. WINSBY, FIRST MANAGER, BANK OF CANADA, VANCOUVER, 1 APRIL 1937.

S.S. BEAVER.

Mrs. Winsby said: "My father, Henry Saunders, came to Victoria, B.C. in 1862, owned the *Beaver* at the time she went on the rocks at Prospect Point."

(After showing her many pictures, postcards, etc., she continued.)

BEAVER'S BOILER. BELL AND COMPASS.

"This picture" (postcard) "of her boiler" (at Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, Seattle, 1909) "is not her first boiler; boilers don't last forever; Father put one boiler in her, or something of that sort. And the bell at the Merchants Exchange; that is not her ship's bell; it is a bell off the *Beaver*, but it is not her real ship's bell. According to all the relics of the *Beaver* which are in existence now, she must have been as big as the" (Atlantic leviathan ship) "*Queen Mary*. But all that stuff was stolen. Father owned the *Beaver*. People had no right to go down and tear her to pieces; they even used dynamite; Father complained to the police, but they said she was so far out of town that they could not watch her at that distance. And then, Father was in so many things. Why! He lost fifty thousand acres of land through taxes. I know a good deal about Victoria, but not much of Vancouver. I was born on Johnson Street, Victoria. Our family graves are next to that of Sir James Douglas, Victoria; we have been there a long time. What I should like to find is the *Beaver's* compass.

"The *Beaver's* ship's bell and ship's binnacle were removed from the wreck by Capt. Marchant, her master when she went ashore at Prospect Point, by order of my father, who owned her, and a bell was removed by the boy, Ralph Nickson" (son of J.J. Nickson, superintendent of construction, Capilano Water Works) "and subsequently given to the Vancouver Merchants Exchange, as you say, by his mother, Mrs. Nickson of Sechelt, is not, I know it is not, her ship's bell, but the bell from the dining saloon, which was rung at mealtime by the steward."

Note: the inscription—see photo N. Bo. 19—beneath the bell which hangs in the Vancouver Merchants Exchange, reads in part: "S.S. *Beaver*. First steamer on Pacific" (should be North Pacific) "etc., etc. ... The above relic—the bell from the *saloon*—was presented to the Exchange by Mrs. Nickson, etc."

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. HORI WINDEBANK, WELL-KNOWN PIONEER OF MISSION, B.C., WHO IS ON A THREE DAYS VISIT TO VANCOUVER, AND CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES TO CHAT, 30 SEPTEMBER 1936.

Mr. Windebank was born at Burton, Hampshire, 5 August 1852; is now 84 years of age. He states, "I always had money," but added to it as a successful boarding house proprietor in Australia, and returned to England, "They were advertising Manitoba so much that I returned this way" (trans-Canada) "and stayed." He came to Canada in 1882, was steam boating for a time on the lake at Winnipeg, then went to Assiniboia, and finally in 1886 came to British Columbia, settling at Mission, where he still lives, and among other things, owns one thousand acres of land all planted or in cultivation.

Mrs. Windebank, née Jane Barter, daughter of "an old sea captain" in the Old Country, died mid-summer 1936, and is buried at Mission. They were married at Portsmouth, England, and had been married fifty-eight years. There are no children, but an "adopted" (not legally adopted) daughter, Miss Chomat (pronounced Choma), who has been with them since she was a little girl; that is, 42 or 43 years, and Mr. Windebank states, "I have just been making a new will, and she takes 'what's left' when I go."

MISSION CITY, B.C.

Mr. Windebank, whose white hair still covers his entire head, and whose beard is also snow white, said: "I went to Mission when they were clearing the townsite. When I went there, there was only one building, and J.W. Horne, well known in Vancouver in early days—you know of him—owned it. I rented the building from Horne. J.W. Horne had purchased the townsite from Tretheway; it was the old Tretheway homestead or preemption. Of course, there were plans drawn. Merchon" (sic) "and Timberlake were the real estate agents, and Jack Leatherdale—he is some relation to Inspector Leatherdale; maybe he is the same man; he's on the police force of Vancouver now—was clearing the townsite. I had made a little stake—not very large—in the North West, so rented the only building and started a hotel. Then I wanted a license, but the people around there said they did not want anything like that; they wanted their town kept pure; but, however, I got the license, and some of those who had opposed it were my best customers. After I got the license they forgot how very strong temperance people they had believed themselves.

"Then, later, there was a special sale of land. A train, a special train, came with prospective buyers from Whatcom; they call it Bellingham now; a big train of people, and there was the usual real estate excitement."

JOHN MORTON OF BURRARD INLET.

"You have heard about Morton having a farm at Mission, on the river bank below the bridge." (See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2, Joseph Morton.) "I was nearly buying his Mission ranch. I started in Mission about 1889, and after a couple of years I got the original hotel license; Morton and I got especially friendly. I owned the butcher shop, and he had cattle to sell. I always found him fair to deal with; very fair; quite strict, though, but fair. I recall one smart fellow wanted to buy some cattle from him, but he started to brow beat the price down.

"He came to me and told me he could 'do nothing' with Morton, and asked me to act for him. I told him it was not much use trying to beat Morton down in a price; he knew what price he wanted, and that was the end of it. So I went down and I bought the cattle for the fellow easily enough, and at Morton's price. Morton asked the price he wanted for a thing, and that was all there was to it."