

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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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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SOUTH VANCOUVER POLICE. POINT GREY. VOSPER.

“The first policeman in South Vancouver was Vosper; he’s dead years and years ago. Then came Jimmy Adjutant, and then Bill Daniels, down on the River Road, you know, in 1905, and I was next in 1906, and stayed until 1923. We were all the only policemen, at the time we served, in South Vancouver.

“At that time, one policeman did duty from the tip of Point Grey to Boundary Road, Burnaby, and he had to attend to everything; collect road tax; no dog tax, no pound, but you were everything. When we wanted to go anywhere very far, say, Point Grey, I had my own horse and I rode there; there were no prisoners; if I found a man doing wrong, I gave him ‘cain’; it did him more good than putting him in court. I had only one case in 1906, that’s a fact, and that fellow skipped. He was ‘Red’ Morrison, drove team for T.G. McBride on Westminster Avenue, and I’ll tell you how I got him. It was a Sunday and he had a couple of fancy ponies, piebald, circus horses, and he was driving on the old Westminster Road to New Westminster; it was near Earls Road; all bush along there then; he might have been under the ‘influence,’ but he was ‘cutting’ the horses unmercifully with a whip.

“I summoned him before Harry Alexander” (H.O. Alexander), “magistrate at Vancouver—we had no magistrate in South Vancouver—but he perjured himself, and Harry sent him up for trial, so while he was out on bail for two thousand, he skipped to San Francisco, and the bail was paid, but I never found out who paid it.

“Of course, out in South Vancouver then, there was no street lights, no sidewalks, no phone, nothing except we used to get the morning paper, the *News-Advertiser*.”

GLADSTONE INN. MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY. SHERDAHL. SWAN. SCHWAN.

“Mrs. Morris ran the Gladstone for quite a few years; she was the owner. Her husband was up in the Klondike. She sold to Dorfman, and Dorfman sold to Curry. Poor old McDonald of the cemetery; he was caretaker. At first he lived in the little cemetery cottage on the corner of Bodwell Road and the North Arm Road; had a little pigsty at the back. You remember the Swan Bros.; one of them married the Sherdahl girls; two of them married the Sherdahl girls; well, August Swan” (or Schwan), “he had a hog ranch out there at 38th and Inverness; he used to go out there for a week and sober up.

“There was only an old house or so in that distract at that time.”

EARLS ROAD. WALES ROAD.

“Earls Road; that was named after old Harry Earl; Wales Road was named after Mr. Wales, the oldest settler out there; he had about twenty acres.”

(Unrevised. J.S.M.)

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH THOMAS WINTERS, 5429 RHODES STREET, IN WHOSE HONOUR WINTER STREET IS NAMED, AT CITY ARCHIVES, 27 JANUARY 1938.

GENEALOGY.

Mr. Winters said: “I was born in Co. Letham” (Letrim), “Ireland, 23rd November 1863, and went to the Mohill school at the village of Mohill. I enlisted in the 88th Connaught Rangers, 6th January 1882, and in March 1882, my elder brother claimed me to the 1st Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers, stationed at Aldershot. In 1883 I went to India with the regiment, stayed there until 1889, then I went home, time expired, took discharge, stayed a couple of weeks, and just came out to Canada for no particular reason; adventure, perhaps; came all by myself; got off at Montréal, stayed six months, then went all over the United States until 1898, then left for Finland, and came to Vancouver, 10th February 1899.

“In 1895, at San Francisco, I married Miss Katherine Nauska—church of England—and we had six children. Mrs. Winters died 9th February 1913, aged about 38, I think; died in Los Angeles, California; cancer; and is buried in Mountain View Cemetery.

“Our children were, in order of age:

"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.