

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.

Copyright Statement

© 2011 City of Vancouver. Any or all of *Early Vancouver* may be used without restriction as to the nature or purpose of the use, even if that use is for commercial purposes. You may copy, distribute, adapt and transmit the work. It is required that a link or attribution be made to the City of Vancouver.

Reproductions

High resolution versions of any graphic items in *Early Vancouver* are available. A fee may apply.

Citing Information

When referencing the 2011 edition of *Early Vancouver*, please cite the page number that appears at the bottom of the page in the PDF version only, not the page number indicated by your PDF reader. Here are samples of how to cite this source:

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.

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 WILLIAM EDWARD McCARTNEY, MOVING PICTURE PROJECTIONIST, 1471 WILLIAM STREET, VANCOUVER.

Son of Allan Edward McCartney, pioneer of Hastings Sawmill and Gastown, and nephew of W.E. McCartney, pioneer druggist of Gastown. (W.E. McCartney was William Ernest.) He very kindly called at the City Archives at my request.

VANCOUVER. NAMING OF EARLY BIRTHS.

Mr. McCartney said: "It is a matter of opinion as to who was the first born child in the city of Vancouver; it is how the matter is calculated as to what decision is arrived at. Vancouver, as a city, was officially incorporated April 6th 1886, but it was commonly known as Vancouver for weeks and months before that."

A.E. McCARTNEY. W.E. McCARTNEY. FIRST CITY HOSPITAL.

"Allan Edward McCartney was my father and a civil engineer and architect; for instance, he drew the plans for the first city hospital. William Ernest McCartney, my uncle was his brother, and was Granville's first druggist. There was a third brother; he vanished; has never been heard of since. Father was born in the Bahama Islands; Irish descent; and he and his brothers went to New York, I believe, and then on to Montréal where Father was employed by the Bell Telephone Co. He was in an early " (1869) "Red River Rebellion; I don't know which one exactly, but it was before the North West Rebellion of 1885. He got a land grant for his services of six hundred acres, and came to British Columbia, and, as I understand it, applied his scrip on North Vancouver land. For a short time, a year or so, he did some work for the Hastings Sawmill, and in the British Columbia directory of 1882-3 is shown as one of their employees—as an engineer."

McCARTNEY CREEK. DEEP COVE. NORTH VANCOUVER.

"He took up some land on McCartney Creek, just east of Seymour Creek, close to the Blair Rifle Range, and he also had some land at Deep Cove, North Arm, Burrard Inlet, which he afterwards sold to the possessor of South African War land scrip. He had more land in different locations; some at Indian River, and some at Pemberton Meadows. As I understand it, he surveyed a lot of land in North Vancouver; when I don't know, but I am told they are using his maps yet. McCartney Creek is named in his honour.

"He married Miss Fanny Mann, from England, from some place called 'Marham'" (sic.)

GENEALOGY.

"Of our family of seven—all boys—three lived. Bertram (Bertie) was born about 1879, died about 1883, anyway when he was four years old, and is buried at New Westminster.

"Allan, the oldest living, was born at Moodyville, October 11th 1881; he now lives at Astoria, Oregon; was formerly of the McCartney Electrical Co.; is still in the electrical business. He has two sons, both born in Vancouver; Ray, born in 1908, and Frank, born about 1910."

DEADMAN'S ISLAND.

"Then there were two sons who both died very young; I suppose one of these was buried on Deadman's Island.

"Percy Gordon was born October 16th 1885, at the Hastings Sawmill, in our cottage which was not destroyed by the Great Fire of 1886. He died at Lytton in 1915, and also is buried in Mountain View Cemetery. His three sons, all born in Vancouver, are Roy, now 26, in New York, and Gordon and Clifford in Hollywood, California.

"As for myself, William Edward, I was born November 14th 1887 at Vancouver—at 513 Powell Street, now called 527 Powell Street, and still standing. I married Miss Aurore De Laurier, daughter of Salvine De Laurier of Montréal, born in Dollarville, Michigan, U.S.A., at the Sacred Heart Church, Vancouver, October 21st 1911. Our children are:

Irene May, born Vancouver, May 1913;
Pearl Fanny, born Vancouver, 16 January 1916;
William Avana, born Vancouver, 29 April 1918.

"Finally, the seventh son, John, was born in Vancouver in 1894, and was buried a year later in Mountain View Cemetery."

OPPENHEIMER STREET SCHOOL. EAST END SCHOOL.

"I attended the Oppenheimer Street school until it was closed about 1895, and the Strathcona School nearby opened. Miss Fraser was the last principal of the Oppenheimer Street school, and afterwards the old school building was used as a gymnasium for the Boys' Brigade. There was no Powell Street Grounds then; it was stumps."

FURTHER CONVERSATION, 28 SEPTEMBER 1937.

A.E. McCARTNEY. W.E. McCARTNEY.

Mr. McCartney said: (and wrote) "Father" (A.E. McCartney) "died in Vancouver in 1900 and is buried in Mountain View Cemetery; Uncle" (W.E. McCartney) "died at Kamloops in 1899."

"Father must have been in the first Riel Rebellion of 1869, for he was eighteen when he was there, and he was 49 when he died in 1900. I have been told that General Buller, commander in chief in the early part of the South African War, 1899-1902, were both corporals" (sic) "together in this rebellion." (Note: he probably means ensigns.)

"The two brothers, my father and uncle, arrived by ship, and landed at New Westminster, but I am not sure whether they came by San Francisco or Cape Horn; I know their effects came around the Horn."

Read and, after correction by William Edward McCartney, approved, 28 September 1937.

J.S. Matthews.