

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

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Contact Information

City of Vancouver Archives
1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9
604.736.8561
archives@vancouver.ca
vancouver.ca/archives



**MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH HAROLD E. RIDLEY, 1959 VENABLE STREET,
VANCOUVER, B.C., 25 AUGUST 1936.**

VANCOUVER WEEKLY HERALD. FIRST NEWSBOYS.

Mr. Ridley said: "The old *Herald* was published on Carrall Street, east side, between Powell and Oppenheimer Street; many a time I have turned the handle of the old Washington press; 'Washington press' they called it; had a handle on it like a mangle. We used to print all one side first, one side at a time; the sheet ran forward up the machine; you took it out, and put it in a pile; then you changed the type, and printed all the newspapers on the other side, and then—go out and deliver them. I've done it lost of times."

JACK FANNIN OF HASTINGS. START OF PROVINCIAL MUSEUM.

"Talking about Jack Fannin, who lived in a little cottage out at Hastings, just on the little hill above George Black's; I have often been in his cottage; his collection of stuffed birds and animals started the Provincial Museum at Victoria; he had all the birds and animals you could think of in that little cottage, packed around on the floor, on the walls, everywhere; big barn owls, white owls, mink, martin, everything you could think of.

"I don't know who it was, but someone in authority from Victoria, came over the Douglas Road one day, probably going to Hastings Sawmill or somewhere; it may have been a judge on his rounds to hold court, or it may have been the Premier himself; anyway, the story went that he saw the collection and said to Jack, 'I'm going to see if I can get you moved to Victoria,' and that was how the Provincial Museum started.

"I read an account, oh, long, long ago, in some journal, about a mountain goat which he kept around his cabin; tame one."

BARQUE ROBERT KERR. BARQUE CORNELIS, WRECKED 1871.

(See Hastings Sawmill.) "When I was a little boy, the ribs of the old vessel were lying in the mud, just west of the school house, on the beach in front of the store; that would be about 1880.

"Then there was one vessel, they pulled up on the beach and careened her to clean her; she refitted, got a load of lumber, and put to sea.

"Then, I recall the *Robert Kerr*. She ran on Race Rocks, stove a hole in a her bow; Capt. Soule bought her at auction in Victoria, brought her to Gastown, and beached her right in front of the school house, and repaired her there; then she was towed out and anchored in the stream; you know the rest, she served as coal hulk for the C.P.R."

DR. WALKEM OF HASTINGS SAWMILL. R.H. ALEXANDER OF HASTINGS SAWMILL.

"The two cottages facing the old mill store; well, Henry Harvey lived in the most northerly; afterwards Dr. Walkem lived in it. R.H. Alexander lived in the south one, the one nearest the school."

Harold Ridley died 1937, and was buried in a rude box, by a sorrowing family, who could not afford better. He was a fine man, a natural gentleman.

J.S. Matthews.