

**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 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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Robertson and Co., Victoria, through their real estate agents, "F.C. Innes & Co., agents," on Carrall Street, sold Lot 9, Block 2, D.L. 196 for \$550 to James Pigott of *Granville* on 27 October 1885, but Henry Mutrie of Port Moody leased Lot 11, Block 2, D.L. 196 (almost adjoining) on 15 December 1885 to J.M.F. Stiles of the "City of Vancouver." Both lots are on Oppenheimer Street near Columbia (or Powell.) (See Graveley papers.)

The *Vancouver Weekly Herald* commenced publication on 15 January 1886, and shows many firms had then adopted the name Vancouver as part of their trade name; as witness:

Vancouver Livery.  
Vancouver Market.  
Vancouver Transfer Co.  
Vancouver Truck and Dray Co.  
Vancouver Real Estate, Rand Bros.  
Vancouver ... S.T. Tilley, books.  
Vancouver ... Granville Livery.  
Vancouver ... Granville Market.  
Vancouver ... T.B. Spring, contractor.  
Vancouver ... Terminal City Land Office.  
Vancouver City ... James Hartney, grocer.  
Vancouver City ... A.W. Sullivan, dry goods.

The school report, 8 February 1886, is dated "Vancouver."

On 6 March 1886, the C.P.R. issued a printed receipt for deposit of money made by Walter E. Graveley on a lot of land, and the paper is printed as "Vancouver."

J.S. Matthews.

Vancouver was incorporated 6 April 1886.

#### **EXCERPT, GENEALOGY, ETC.**

His Worship Thos. F. Neelands, Mayor of Vancouver, 1902-1903.

#### **VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL (FAIRVIEW).**

In 1897 was elected Alderman for Ward Two, continuing in that capacity for four years.

In 1901, in conjunction with the late ex-Alderman Robert Grant, selected his site for the Vancouver General Hospital, and after the incorporation of that institution was one of the first directors and Life Governors.

In 1902 was elected Mayor of the City and in 1903 was re-elected to that office by acclamation.

#### **MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH HIS WORSHIP, EX-MAYOR T.F. NEELANDS, MAYOR OF VANCOUVER, 1902 AND 1903, 5 MAY 1936.**

#### **FIRST WHITE CHILD BORN IN VANCOUVER, 31 MAY 1886. HIS WORSHIP MAYOR T.F. NEELANDS.**

(Note: records compiled in 1932 in connection with "the last four hundred" show that Margaret Macey arrived in Granville, 1 March 1886, and Alice Macey on 1 April 1886. JSM.)

His Worship Mr. Neelands said: "I was here before incorporation, and voted at the first election of mayor and aldermen, 3 May 1886. Mrs. Neelands, my wife, was Miss Nellie, sister to Samuel T. Macey, and still survives."

#### **FREDERICK CHARLES MACEY.**

"At the time of the Great Fire, June 13<sup>th</sup> 1886, Samuel Macey and his wife lived on the north side of Hastings Street between Columbia Street and what was afterwards Westminster, now Main Street. There, their eldest son was born, Frederick Charles Macey, now living in Point Grey; I remember his birth very

well; Dr. Beckingsale was the doctor. Miss Edith Jackson was born later, and was, I think, the first white girl born in Vancouver after incorporation as a city. Fred" (Frederick Charles) "was born sometime in May just after incorporation."

(Note: Miss Edith Jackson was the *fourth* white child born in Vancouver, not the first.)

#### **POSTSCRIPT.**

The "discovery," in September 1939, of the "lost" first white child, i.e., Miss Margaret Florence McNeil, born 27<sup>th</sup> (or 28<sup>th</sup>) April 1886, residing at 2043 S.E. 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, Oregon, and employed as glove buyer by Olds, Workman and King, department store, has finally cleared up the former mystery of what was the fate of the first baby of Vancouver city after incorporation.

#### **MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH HIS WORSHIP THOS. F. NEELANDS, MAYOR OF VANCOUVER, 1902-3, NOW RESIDENT WITH MRS. NEELANDS AT 1665 WEST SEVENTH AVENUE, VANCOUVER. UNDATED, BUT SUMMER, 1936.**

His Worship, now retired, called at the City Archives to chat. He suffers, more or less, from deficient sight, which prevents reading of newspapers, but not other daily activities; Mrs. Neelands is frail of health, too.

#### **COATS OF ARMS, VANCOUVER. ADOPTED 2 FEBRUARY 1903.**

His Worship said: "The question of improving the original coat of arms of Vancouver—that was the idea, of course—was first taken up during the regime of Mayor Townley in 1901. I was then an alderman on the Council, and Mayor Townley proposed it, and others agreed, that we should have something more elaborate, something which would add to the imagination, so Mayor Townley got a gentleman, a Mr. Blomfield, to make two drawings. In due course, Mr. Blomfield sent in his drawings, he was paid for his services, and nothing more was heard of it that year, 1901.

"Later, during my term of office, 1902-3—I succeeded Mayor Townley as mayor—the Council again looked at the designs, selected the most fitting, as we thought, and made an alteration or two. For instance, Mr. Blomfield had the oilskin coat on the fisherman very long, down to the fisherman's heels; we shortened it; then we made a change in the axe, and to balance the two sides" (dexter and sinister), "we put a piece of timber behind the lumberman to match the oar behind the fisherman. Col. Tracey, the city engineer, had the alterations in the design made.

"After we had adopted the new crest, Mr. Blomfield wrote complaining that we had not consulted him before making the alterations, but that did not make any difference; it appeared to us to be, essentially, no different from Mr. Blomfield's original design. It is said that it is faulty heraldry; that the crown should be used only in connection with a fortified city, but we liked the look of it, and we left the crown. The remainder represents, essentially, what the first crest, the engine, etc., represented, and the sea is represented in the new crest by the waves."

City Archivist: What did you put the V-shaped thing (caduceus) in the middle for?

His Worship: "That represents commerce."

#### **MOTTO, CITY OF VANCOUVER.**

"As to the motto, this is the interesting part. It was thought by some that it would be more dignified if it was translated into Latin, so we submitted the motto to a professor of languages in the University at Kingston; to a professor of languages in the Toronto University; then someone suggested that the Rev. Father Clinton of St. James Church was a good Latin scholar, so we included him; three in all.

"In each case the translation submitted was different, so that we decided to leave the motto in English, so that everyone could understand it after they had read it. That's as far as I can go on the coat of arms. Mayor Townley started the change; my council finished it."

#### **VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL. FAIRVIEW, 1901.**

His Worship, continuing: "Well, of course, the old hospital at the corner of Cambie and Pender was getting congested; the matter came up from time to time that it would have to be enlarged; I thought the