

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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curves on the street car corners were better than they used to be, and Jimmy retorted, 'Yes, I put them in, but we put them in by hand.' The curve in the rails in those days, in the first street car tracks, were all done by hand. Nowadays the curves in the rails are put in by machinery, before they are laid, but when the first street car curves were put down in Vancouver, it was all done by hand."

THE FIRST NURSE.

City Archivist: Remarkable thing, Dr. Robertson, that you, the doctor, and J.B. Kay, a patient, both of the first hospital, are still with us to celebrate the Golden Jubilee year.

Dr. Robertson: "Don't recall Kay. The hospital was a two-storey affair; only two beds I can recall upstairs. Hughes, who was cook as well as nurse, slept up there, and afterwards there was a woman used to come; she slept up there. I was never up there more than once or twice; the four beds and kitchen were downstairs; it was right beside the track, but of course there were no ties on the right of way from Port Moody; I walked on the grade."

As narrated to me today, 19 February 1936.

J.S. Matthews.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION OF A FEW MOMENTS WITH MRS. JONATHAN ROGERS OF VANCOUVER, 16 FEBRUARY 1938.

Who very kindly called at the City Archives and presented me with a small and a large copper medallion, issued by C.W. McCain, in 1901, etc., made from the historic steamer *Beaver*, and also with a coverless copy of the first edition of the history of the *Beaver*, autographed by the author, C.W. McCain.

S.S. BEAVER.

Mrs. Rogers: "Of course, you know, Mr. McCain blew up the *Beaver*; that was to increase the value of his own relics, so that no one else should get any more."

Major Matthews: Well, may I presume to point out, this office has to be very, very careful what they record.

Mrs. Rogers: "Quite so. All I know of it personally is that Mr. Rogers" (Mrs. Rogers's husband) "told me he" (Mr. McCain) "did; that he blew her up."

DEADMAN'S ISLAND. STANLEY PARK.

"I was in London, and Lord Dunedin asked me, 'How is the island; have you got it still?'"

"I replied, 'Yes, we have,' and he answered, 'And, so you should have; I know something about it; it was proven that it was part of the reserve'" (Stanley Park); "I had the last word in that matter, on the Privy Council."

"Then Lord Dunedin said to me, 'What you ought to ask me is, How much were you offered?'"

Major Matthews: Did Lord Dunedin say that to you?

Mrs. Rogers: "Oh, yes. That I know about positively. Those were his remarks to me; there's no hearsay about that."

DEADMAN'S ISLAND.

The judgment of Lord Dunedin, of Privy Council, London, England, in the Deadman's Island case, Attorney-General of B.C. versus Attorney-General of Canada, 1906, Appeal cases, page 552. (In Corporation Counsel's Office, City Hall.)

BY AN OLD TIMER.

To have served under every mayor since the incorporation of Vancouver, is the unique distinction held by two civic employees, Chief J.H. Carlisle, head of Vancouver Volunteer Fire Brigade, Vancouver's Fire Brigade, and Josiah Romang, janitor of the City Hall.