

Early Vancouver

Volume Five

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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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PHOTOGRAPH, “SPRATT’S FISHERY, COAL HARBOUR,” IN PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES, VICTORIA, B.C.

Memorandum of conversation with Mr. W.R. Lord, also see *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3.

SPRATT’S FISHERY. SPRATT’S OILERY.

Mr. Lord: “The date of this photograph” (looking at copy of “Spratt’s Fishery, Coal Harbour”) “is 1884, because this two-storey building under construction at the back was under construction while I was there. I worked there in the fall of 1883 and spring of 1884, and it was in the spring of 1884 that I worked on that building, which, as you can see in the photograph, is under construction.” (See photo P. Bu. 42, N. Bu. 37.)

FIRST HOSPITALS, BURRARD INLET. MRS. EMILY SUSAN PATTERSON.

(See Crakanthorp papers and *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3.)

City Archivist (J.S.M.): Was Mrs. Patterson a very good woman, Mr. Lord?

Mr. Lord: (positively) “You bet she was.”

1 October 1935

J.S. Matthews

City Archivist

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH W.R. LORD, PIONEER, WHO KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES TO LOOK OVER A PHOTO MARKED “GASTOWN 1884,” 26 AUGUST 1938.

CUSTOMS HOUSE. ISAAC JOHNS. LOUIS GOLD.

Mr. Lord said: “Louis Gold had a pretty good store; just west of Sullivan’s store at Gastown; there was a piece of vacant land between his store and Sullivan’s.

“I think Ike Johns was next door, to the west, but I am not sure; he was a man of about three hundred pounds, and I can see him yet, sitting out under the verandah in front of his little office, the Customs House, west, not east, of Sullivan’s, and near the ‘Hole in the Wall,’ just a bit of an office about ten feet by twelve, little bit of a place. I don’t know where he lived, but was under the impression that he lived in the same building as his office, at the west end of Gastown.

“I went to Gastown in October 1882, and in April 1885 went up to Port Moody to work in Burr’s Sawmill, and then in the fall of 1885 went down to Astoria.” (Note: *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3, he says he went to Port Moody in fall of 1884, and to Astoria in April 1885.)

THE GREAT FIRE, 13TH JUNE.

“Hodgson, the plumber, who had his tin shop on Water Street about three doors east of Cambie, south side, told me the fire came over right back of his place; that is, about the corner of Cordova and Cambie Street” (where George Cary, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2, says it did.) “The wind was almost due west; how could a fire started by Keefer at English Bay be driven to Cordova Street and Water Street, if the wind was west, and the ashes from it fall on the prayer books at Port Moody; it is impossible. The fire did not touch anything much, if anything, west of the Regina Hotel” (southwest corner, Cambie and Water); “look at the photo of ‘Vancouver in ashes,’ and you can see the trees—or what is left of them—alongside of the Regina Hotel still have some branches on.” (See photo P.G.F.4, N.G.F.4.)

SPRATT’S OILERY, ADDITION, 1884. SUNNYSIDE HOTEL, BUILT IN 1884.

“I helped with additions to Spratt’s Oilery in spring of 1884; then helped to build the Sunnyside Hotel—not an addition, but right from the foundation on the beach—and then after that went as engineer to Johnnie Burr’s mill at Port Moody, and then to Astoria in spring of 1885; worked on a couple of boats, and in the fall of 1886 went to San Francisco, as third engineer on S.S. *Umatilla*, Seattle to Frisco with coal—a freighter then, afterwards a passenger ship; then went to Skeena River to the British America Cannery at Port Essington, and got to Vancouver in August 1886, after the ‘Great Fire.’”