

Early Vancouver

Volume Five

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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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reception. We had our tents with us, and we put them up on a piece of ground where the police told us to go and place them; the women had a small tent; the men had a big one; both square tents about twelve feet by sixteen feet. There were so many incidents in connection with the Dawson experiences that I really don't know where to start. Well, we went up river to cut logs to build a barracks, and we made them into a raft, but we didn't know much about working a raft. We floated down river, but when we were just about to Dawson we were on the opposite side to what we wanted to be, opposite side to Dawson City. The river is very wide there, and very swift. We managed to get snubbed a few miles down river, and then we took our canoes, and put bolsters across each end of the canoes, and loaded the logs on each side, and two men began to row, and one to steer, and the first thing to do was to cross the river. So we got across and between rowing and towing we managed to get our logs up past the City again, and this time on the bank we wanted them. Then we repeated that operation again and again until we got every log back. We were young and strong.

"The Salvation Army stayed in Dawson for years, and the first officers were followed by a regular succession of others.

SALVATION ARMY, SKAGWAY, ALASKA.

Mrs. McGill: "My husband" (Envoy McGill) "was farewelled from Dawson and sent to open up Skagway, and that is where I came into the picture. We were married in Victoria. I was Miss Laura Aikenhead, and we met in Victoria, and were married in the old Presbyterian Church—it was an Army wedding—we got the use of the church, and Dr. Campbell, Presbyterian minister, married us."

THE SALVATION ARMY AND THE "KLONDIKE RUSH," 1898.

Note: in May 1898, a party of eight members of the Salvation Army, six men and two women, left Toronto and Winnipeg to proceed via Vancouver, the steamship *Tees*, Skagway, Dyea, the Chilcoot Pass, lakes, Thirty Mile River and Fifty Mile River, to establish the Salvation Army in Dawson, Yukon Territory. Ensign Thomas James McGill was adjutant, and, lacking a song with a "swing" in it, he composed his own. It was sung, with gusto, at their meetings en route. Afterwards his party built their own log cabin at Dawson, hewing the logs with their own hands, floating them down river to the site, and then erecting the log cabin themselves. Their arrival at Dawson met with a most cordial and spontaneous welcome from a large crowd, probably five hundred, gold miners.

In August 1945, Envoy and Mrs. McGill participated in the solemn ceremony of the rededication of Hallelujah Point, Stanley Park, 22 August 1945, where Major Matthews, City Archivist, made their acquaintanceship. On 15 September following, Envoy McGill gave Major Matthews a manuscript of the song, McGill's Klondike Song.

MCGILL'S KLONDYKE SONG

Tune: "We're Going Back to Dixie"

When the General was in Seattle
Amid the noise and smoke of battle,
His heart went out in pity for the North,
The Commissioner took in the situation,
And arranged this expedition;
So now we're off to Klondyke for all we're worth.

Chorus

We're going to the Klondyke (repeat)
We're going after sinners in that land
We're happy lads and lassies
We're not afraid of passes
We're going to the Klondyke at God's command.

Here's Dowell, an old-timer,
And Keeney, he's a climber,
Lecocq and Bloss have been on men-of-war.

McGill is an old farmer,
And Morris, he's a charmer,
And Ellery and Aiken are all there. (Chorus.)

There's lack of woman's nursing,
There's lack of woman's tears,
A famine of their love and tender care.
So open up your purses; assist those two brave nurses.
Who for Jesus' sake are going right up there. (Chorus.)

Composed by Thos. J. McGill, in Brandon, Manitoba, 1898.

18 SEPTEMBER 1945 – MOODYVILLE, BURRARD INLET. EARLY FIRE PROTECTION.

Memo of conversation, over the phone, with Miss Muriel Crakanthorp, R.C.A.F. No. 2 Equipment Depot, Indian Reserve, False Creek, only daughter of Mrs. Alice Crakanthorp, 1406 Davie Street, pioneer of Burrard Inlet, 1873; first at Hastings Sawmill, 1873, and afterwards at Moodyville Sawmill, 18 September 1945.

MOODYVILLE SAWMILL. MOODYVILLE, B.C. FIRE PROTECTION.

Miss Muriel Crakanthorp: "Mother says to tell you that there was no fire brigade at Moodyville; all they had was barrels and buckets of water on top of the roof of the sawmill; the buckets had something painted on them like 'Property of Moodyville Sawmill'; something like that.

"In the case of fire, the men of the mill were supposed to rush up on top of the mill and man the buckets. There was lots of water at Moodyville, and there were very few fires. If a house caught on fire, the men all gathered and put it out with buckets; bucket brigade. There was no hose, or fire brigade; just buckets."

As told to me. J.S. Matthews.

CONVERSATION, SAME DAY, WITH MR. CALVIN PATTERSON, BROTHER, MRS. ALICE CRAKANTHROP, PROPRIETOR, CIGAR STAND, HOTEL GEORGIA.

MOODYVILLE SAWMILL. MOODYVILLE, B.C. FIRE PROTECTION.

Mr. Patterson: "Oh, they had some hose, and hose reels about the sawmill too."

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. THEODORE BRYANT, LADYSMITH, B.C., 24 SEPTEMBER 1945.

Son of the Rev. Cornelius Bryant, minister of the (Wesleyan) Methodist Church, more commonly known as the "Indian Church" at Granville, or "Gastown" from 1878 to 1881. Mr. Bryant is on a visit to Vancouver; has been up to Prince Rupert for a trip; also to Ashcroft, and is on his way home, and spent this afternoon in the City Archives. Despite his age he is sound of mind and thought, and as active as a cricket. He has been a postmaster over *fifty years*; first at Wellington, Vancouver Island, for thirteen years and eight months, and at Ladysmith since 1907.

ROLLER SKATING RINK. HASTINGS TOWNSITE. GEORGE BLACK.

Mr. Bryant: "It was earlier than 1881 that George Black had a skating rink, roller skates, at Hastings, because Father was here from 1878 to 1881, and it was before we left. George Black used to get a wagon, fill it with straw, and come down to Granville, or 'Gastown' as they call it now, and pile all the children he could get into the wagon; sit us on the straw, and take us up to Hastings Townsite to his skating rink."

GRANVILLE HOTEL. SULLIVANS OF GRANVILLE. MAGEE BROS. STORE. JOSEPH MANNION.

"In this photograph here, this Granville Hotel" (photo C.V., Dist. N. 19, P. 30; Granville, 1884) "this hotel was not the original Granville Hotel; the one you see here was built while we were in Granville, probably in 1879 or 1880. It replaced an earlier building, which was pulled down or moved or something, but I