

Early Vancouver

Volume Six

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Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1940-1945.

Supplemental to volumes one, two, three, four and five collected in 1931, 1932, 1934, 1939 and 1944.

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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have any authority to sell it. Miriam Williams married a Mr. Simpson; she passed away in Victoria last week.”

TRADES AND LABOUR COUNCIL. LABOUR TEMPLE.

“Mr. and Mrs. Williams, their sons Claude and Alfred, all went to live out towards Point Atkinson, and after that the Williams took up a newer home in Fairview, next to the old Alexander Orphanage on Sixth or Seventh Avenue. Then after that he got interested and formed the Trades and Labour Council, and he was the one who got the building built on Dunsmuir Street, the Labour Temple, and then, while he was Alderman, he was the instigator for getting the most lasting piece of road in Vancouver, that on Sixth Avenue; that’s that brick pavement; he fought hard for that bit of road. Then he was defeated candidate for Labour member of Parliament. The son Alfred was a carpenter; I don’t know what became of him, but Claude joined the City Water Department.”

See also *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2, McKie and Williams.

CONVERSATION WITH MR. GEORGE W. JAMIESON, RETIRED PRINCIPAL, MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL, NOW RESIDENT 368 EAST SEVENTH AVENUE, 20 NOVEMBER 1941.

See *Province*, Thursday, 23 June 1921, “OLD BELL RINGS AGAIN FOR EX-PUPILS OF MOUNT PLEASANT.” This bell is now in City Archives. J.S.M.

Together with Mr. Kenneth A. Waites, editor, *Vancouver High Schools—The First Fifty Years*, I went to see Mr. Jamieson to ask him to identify the detail of a photograph printed from a 5 x 8 glass negative in City Archives, showing a Chinese funeral passing a building of one storey and three gables—actually three buildings; a fir tree or two also appears on print.

MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL. MAYOR T.S. BAXTER.

Mr. Jamieson: (looking at print, holding it to his glasses) “Well, well; my, I’m glad to see this.” (pointing) “This building here on the right was the first Mount Pleasant School they built; when I first went there I taught in this. Then afterwards they put up another, this one the same as the first almost, on the left; a Miss” [blank] “taught there; then afterwards the carpenters put a roof between the two buildings and made a third school room; T.S. Baxter—he was afterwards Mayor—he taught in that, the middle one. This little bit of a tower is out in front.

“Afterwards the children were so numerous we had to use a two-storey building; it does not show here; it was over to the right and north of these buildings; we called it Temperance Hall.

“Then we got four little shacks built off here to the left, the west; a little group, so that we were in eight buildings, but only for a short while. Then the School Board borrowed some money. I told them we were getting along all right, and that I could do very well as we were, but they borrowed the money, built the Dawson School, and the brick Mount Pleasant school, and twenty years afterwards they had not paid the money back. That started debt.”

BEARS.

“You know, there were bears all around that school. One afternoon, after school, I went out, and there on the corner of the road, Westminster Road, were parents with lanterns and guns; they were waiting. I said, ‘What are the guns for?’ They answered, ‘Bears.’ Of course, I suppose the lanterns were for something else, but there was no electric light out in Mount Pleasant houses then. At night you carried a lantern.

“Then again, one afternoon the children all left school, as usual, and presently they all came back; they were whimpering. I asked, ‘What’s the matter.’ They said there was a bear up the road eating berries; up what we call Main Street now.

“Then, one day there was word that there was a bear up Westminster Road. So I got a gun, and went after him. I shot him square in the side; great big hole in his side.”

Major Matthews: There were cougars, too; the last bear I recall up on Mount Pleasant was where the car barns are now at 13th Avenue and Main Street; that would be about 1904. We went after him but he had gone.

Mr. Jamieson: "That time I have just been speaking about, when the parents came with the guns; the parents were on both sides of the road, and had guns. And there was another time I recall, going out and seeing one man standing waiting with a gun. As I passed, I remarked, 'Why the gun.' He replied, 'Oh, bears.'"

MEMO OF CONVERSATION AT THE VANCOUVER PIONEERS ANNUAL BANQUET, 21 NOVEMBER 1941, HELD IN THE DEFUNCT GEORGIA RESTAURANT, HUDSON' BAY CO. STORE (OPENED FOR THE OCCASION) WITH FRANK HARRIS, FOR FIFTY-TWO YEARS RESIDENT IN THE WATER WORKS COTTAGE AT THE END OF THE PIPE LINE ROAD, FIRST NARROWS, STANLEY PARK.

OAK TREES.

Mr. Harris said: "If ever a lot of oak trees grow up in Stanley Park, I'll tell you how they came to be there. I met an old gentleman in Stanley Park the other day. He gave me his card with his name on it; I forget the initials, but the name was Chamberlain" (sic.) "He's a nice old gentleman, and I think he is on Old Age Pensions, or 'on relief'; something like that.

"He told me that each year for the last three years, he has planted ten pounds of acorns all about Stanley Park. A few which he must have planted earlier, he told me, are now about two feet high trees, oak trees. He has no permission; I don't think the park people know he is doing it, and he plants them anywhere and everywhere. He told me that, in three years, he has set out thirty pounds of acorns, ten pounds each year, in the earth; just pushed them in anywhere."