

Early Vancouver

Volume Six

By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.

2011 Edition (Originally Published 1945)

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.

Copyright Statement

© 2011 City of Vancouver. Any or all of *Early Vancouver* may be used without restriction as to the nature or purpose of the use, even if that use is for commercial purposes. You may copy, distribute, adapt and transmit the work. It is required that a link or attribution be made to the City of Vancouver.

Reproductions

High resolution versions of any graphic items in *Early Vancouver* are available. A fee may apply.

Citing Information

When referencing the 2011 edition of *Early Vancouver*, please cite the page number that appears at the bottom of the page in the PDF version only, not the page number indicated by your PDF reader. Here are samples of how to cite this source:

Footnote or Endnote Reference:

Major James Skitt Matthews, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 6 (Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011), 33.

Bibliographic Entry:

Matthews, Major James Skitt. *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 6. Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011.

Contact Information

City of Vancouver Archives
1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9
604.736.8561
archives@vancouver.ca
vancouver.ca/archives



EXCERPT, *NEW WESTMINSTER COLUMBIAN*, WEDNESDAY, 1 APRIL 1863.

SECULAR EDUCATION.

A petition signed by the resident heads of families in this city was forwarded to His Excellency the Governor, last week praying for a grant of one hundred pounds—to assist in maintaining the school on unsectarian principles. The parents agreeing to pay an equal amount.

It affords us more than ordinary pleasure to state that a reply has been received granting the request, and holding out the encouragement to expect a more liberal allowance after the expiry of the present year.

We may state that a first class teacher, of fourteen year experience, Mr. McIlveen, has been engaged and the school house erected by Mr. Jamieson, on the Manse Grounds. It is most pleasing to have to record so prompt a compliance with the expressed wish on the part of His Excellency. It is understood that this arrangement is simply provisional and that a proper colonial school system will be introduced as soon as possible.

Note: Rev. E. White was transferred to Nanaimo in late 1863, and returned as pastor to New Westminster in 1866. It was when they returned in '66 that Mr. Burr was teaching.

[FIRST WHITE CHILD BORN AT NEW WESTMINSTER. ROYAL ENGINEERS.]

The first white child born at New Westminster is claimed to be, and doubtless correct, was Newton White, now dead, born to Rev. Edward White and wife Jane. (Mother of J.H.W. of Sardis in either June or July of 1859.) (I have the date, but not now at hand.)

Although in some quarters this is questioned by the statement that a Royal Engineer child was the first, the Royal Engineers did not return from Derby till after that. There was no home for them.

The main body of Royal Engineer was transferred from the *Thames City* because the government did not feel justified in trusting such a big sailing ship to navigate the river. The *Eliza Anderson* was much smaller and had been running up the river for some time.

When the *Eliza Anderson* passed up the Fraser with the main body of Royal Engineers on April 14th, the only buildings were a grocery store and dwelling overhead (the first building erected in New Westminster) owned and built by Wm. J. Armstrong, native of Ontario, but who had dwelt in California since 1851, and had come to Fraser's River with the gold rush of 1858—a butcher shop crudely built by Mr. Dickenson, later a Mayor of New Westminster—a bakery owned by Philip Nick, a German who came with the gold rush from California, and was interested heavily if not the owner of the "Pioneer Mills" built on Burrard Inlet in '63. (The construction foreman and designer, and first man to operate the little mill was T.W. Graham, a good draughtsman and mill builder)—and a saloon owned by "Colonel" John Thomas Scott, who built the Scott Road, later, and the Douglas Road. (Scott was a military man who served in the United States Army for many years, attaining the rank of Captain, but never that of Colonel. It was an honorary sobriquet only. A long obituary of Scott is in the *Columbian* of 15 February (?), 1908.) (See Early History of Burnaby, 4 August 1939.)

Those four buildings, all very crude, and a rough landing of floating logs built by Scott as a temporary landing were there on April 14th.

Opposite "The Camp" (not Sapperton), close beside the Fraser, at the mouth of the Brunette, and west to the Glen Brook, the members of the Royal Engineers (part of the first and second parties to arrive from England only) had started to clear the land. The *Recovery*, an old ship which had been moored as a light-ship to guide shipping at the mouth of the Fraser, was brought to "The Camp" and formed a shelter for the first Royal Engineer men at the camp.