

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



HASTINGS SAWMILL SCHOOL. FALSE CREEK BRIDGE. EARLY ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

"I was at the Hastings School, here, this one in the photograph. And here, this old bridge, I remember that; the old False Creek bridge was rickety.

"I was driving south over it one day, and it was rickety, and I was watching, and just here, at the south end, I saw a girl coming along reading an open bible, and just when I got near her, she climbed on the rail, and with her bible open, jumped off into False Creek. But her skirts ballooned, and that kept her afloat. I shouted and hollered, and that man who kept the Bridge Hotel at the north end, he came; they got a boat, and saved her. It was her skirts full of air which saved her. I don't know who she was; never found out."

FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH FRANK PLANTE, OF CLARKE ROAD, R.R. No. 2, NEW WESTMINSTER (CLARKE ROAD IS ON THE WAY FROM NEW WESTMINSTER TO PORT MOODY) WHERE HE RESIDES WITH HIS SISTER, MRS. (CAPTAIN) GEORGE MAYERS, 9 AUGUST 1943.

Mr. Plante said that he had been to W.J. Moore, 420 West Hastings Street, as requested by me, and had his photograph taken. He also brought me, for copying, a photo of himself taken by the late Harry T. Devine, pioneer photographer, on 29 October 1889, the day he, Frank Plante, drove Lord Stanley and Mayor Oppenheimer around the Stanley Park for the dedication ceremonies.

I also read to him my account of his conversation of 4 August 1943, which he approved of as correct, *except* that the portion referring to Alderman Robert Balfour, alderman on the first City Council, 1886, needed amplification. JSM.

ALDERMAN ROBERT BALFOUR. MARTIN AND BALFOUR. THE GREAT FIRE, 1886. BALMORAL HOTEL.

Mr. Plante said: (after reading his conversation of August 4th to him) "That's all right except here, where you have me saying: 'I also drove for Martin and Balfour of the Balmoral Hotel' at the corner of Cordova and Carrall." (Note: the original Balmoral Hotel was at the corner of Columbia and Hastings; the second was at the corner of Carrall and Cordova.)

Mr. Plante: "On the night of the fire, the same night, 13th June 1886, Sunday night, I drove the Martin family, the Balfour family, and the waitresses of the Balmoral Hotel, over to New Westminster in an express wagon. There were thirteen of them all told, all in the same express wagon."

INSLEY OF COLONIAL HOTEL. NEW WESTMINSTER.

"I took them to the Colonial Hotel, New Westminster; Insley was 'running' it. The only place they had to put them was in the parlour upstairs, so the whole thirteen of them slept on the parlour floor; it was the only place Insley had."

THE FIRST RUBBER TIRE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA. THE FIRST TRACTION ENGINE IN B.C.

On 11 August 1943, Calvert Simson, Esq., 1890 Barclay Street, Vancouver, formerly storekeeper (the second or third) at the Hastings Sawmill, and who came to Burrard Inlet about 1884, presented the City Archives with a piece of thick pure rubber, dark but not quite black, a cube roughly three and one half inches square, which he cut, himself, from one of the tires of the famous Cariboo Road traction engine, the traction engine which is well known in the histories of the Cariboo. It is in excellent state of preservation despite its age of approximately 75 years. The shape of a groove on it, which is one half of a hole cut through, evidently that of a bolt which at one time attached it to the tire, is sharp and distinct as though made last week.

This traction engine was used on the Cariboo Road during the Cariboo gold excitement, or soon after, but did not prove a success. It was afterwards purchased by Jeremiah Rogers of Jerry's Cove, or Jericho, English Bay, and was used to haul out logs by that early timber and logging contractor from the forests of Point Grey and Little Mountain and Fairview and Shaughnessy.

Another sample of this rubber was, some years ago, presented to the City Archives by August Jack Khahtsahlano (Kitsilano), who, as a boy, cut a piece of rubber from the original tire and shaped it with a

knife into a ball about the size of a tennis ball. He presented it to the City Archives some years ago. At the time he cut the rubber for the ball, the old tire was lying in the rubbish of a logging rollway about the foot of Trafalgar Street or Macdonald Street, English Bay.

J.S. Matthews
CITY ARCHIVIST.

City Archives,
City Hall,
Vancouver,
11 August 1943.

CONVERSATION WITH CALVERT SIMON, FORMERLY STOREKEEPER, HASTINGS SAWMILL, AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, CITY HALL, 11 AUGUST 1943.

ROBERT KNIGHT OF KNIGHT ROAD.

Mr. Simson said: "Robert Knight was well known to me; I was the executor of his estate after his death. He had mined in the Cariboo, did not make any money at gold mining, and decided to 'get out.' He and his partners struck out for the coast on foot, and each day they walked as far as they could in order to conserve what little money they had; the farther they walked, the cheaper the meals got. At one place, the meals would be \$2.00, at the next only \$1.50; the nearer they got to civilisation, the lesser the cost of the meals, so each day they walked as far as they possibly could to reduce their expenditures as they had so little money.

"How Robert Knight came to locate at Knight Road, named after him, I don't know. He cleared about five acres out there at Knight Road. He was single, and he left about twelve or fourteen thousand dollars to nieces and nephews at different places in the United States; Texas was one, I think. I wound up his estate. He died about, I should think, 1914, and is buried in Mountain View Cemetery in a plot owned by me. Mr. Knight was a great walker, and used to live in Mount Pleasant; he lived with my wife's family, the Blairs, on Ontario Street near 10th. The houses were built by Jimmy Kemp, who built the Badminton Hotel, and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, and he sold one to my wife's people. Kemp went down to Los Angeles, California, and made a fortune as a contractor."

JOSEPH HUNTLY—JAILER AND FIRST CITY CLERK. JONATHAN MILLER—CONSTABLE. GRANVILLE.

"Soon after I came here" (about 1884) "I remember seeing Joseph Huntly with a gang of prisoners on Water Street, or what is now Water Street, right out in front of Jonathan Miller's cottage" (corner, Water and Carrall Street.) "There were about six of them, and they were doing some cleaning up; Joseph or 'Joe' Huntly was Constable Miller's jailer, and was in charge of them; they were men from some sailing ship down at the Hastings Mill. Well, 'Joe' went and lay down; it was a hot day, and he fell asleep, and when he woke up his prisoners had gone.

"He married Constable Miller's eldest daughter; he was her second husband. Her first husband was the Captain" (Trimble, sic, his name) "of a sailing ship, and he was lost at sea, and then she married Joe Huntly. They had one daughter, and I hear she did well, but who she is now I don't know, but could easily find out; ask Mrs. Alex McKelvie; she'll tell you.

"What became of Joe Huntly I don't know, nor do I think anyone else does; he just disappeared and that is all I know about it, or him; we never heard where he went to."