

## **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 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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### **Contact Information**

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



**HOW THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY STEAMER *BEAVER* WAS WRECKED. TRUE, OR UNTRUE; HERE WAS WHAT WAS SAID.**

Memo of conversation with Mr. A.W. LePage, 3538 Dunbar Street, this afternoon, 5 February 1941, as we went to the elevator, City Hall. He had called at the City Archives to give me a gold-plated medallion of the *Beaver's* copper to send to Miss Margaret F. McNeil, first white child born in Vancouver, 115 N.W. 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, Oregon, who intends to present it to the British War Relief Society, Portland, to sell or raffle to raise funds. Mr. LePage is acting for the estate of C.W. McCain, who dismantled the *Beaver*.

**S.S. *BEAVER*. CAPT. MARCHANT. A.W. LEPAGE.**

Mr. LePage said: "Do you know how the *Beaver* came to go ashore. Doesn't it seem queer to you that she should have actually passed out of the Narrows, and went ashore outside Prospect Point?"

"Well, old Captain Marchant, I knew him better than I know you; he told me himself. I used to meet him every day almost. What he said was the passengers on the boat were going back" (to the logging dump) "and some of them were pretty well 'lit up,' and they had forgotten the liquor—call it 'booze' if you want to—and they wanted him to turn back to Vancouver so that they could get a supply.

"So he turned back, and in turning around he ran ashore. Anyway, that's what he told me, Captain Marchant himself."

J.S. Matthews.

5 February 1941.

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH ORMOND LEE CHARLTON, 11 FEBRUARY 1941.**

Pioneer (13 September 1886), Celista, north shore Shuswap Lake, down for the winter, and now staying with his daughter, Mrs. Norman Bennett, 2227 Pine Street (she has four sons; her husband is in the Marine Dept., R.C.A.F., Sergeant, supply boat.)

Mr. Charlton said: "I came to Vancouver from St. Martin's, New Brunswick, C.P.R. and arrived here 13<sup>th</sup> September 1886. I was born at St. Martin's. My father was the school teacher; his name Andrew Charlton, and Mother was Elizabeth Charlton; she was a Miss Elizabeth Fowler, daughter of James Moorehouse Fowler, who was United Empire Loyalist, who was farming in Upham, King's County, and incidentally one of the Uphams, George Fred Upham, is now living in Vancouver. Father was a school teacher; he died in February 1868, when I was only two and a half years old. I was born August 19<sup>th</sup> 1865, and was one of a family of two. My sister, Mrs. William Wood, Alice now of San Francisco, 204 Hugo Street. She has three children.

"Well, as I said, I came to Vancouver, 13<sup>th</sup> September 1886; just a young fellow, 21, and looking for adventure. No idea of what I was going to do. The first job was in the Brunette Sawmill at Sapperton, labourer, and then afterwards I came back to Vancouver and at the time of the clearing of the 'West End' of Vancouver, that is, west of Burrard Street, I was employed as bookkeeper for Harry Berry, and Barnes and McLellan, feed and flour, who had a place of business on Carrall Street, between Cordova and Water Street."

**"CHINESE" JOHN MCDUGALL.**

"At that time all of Vancouver west of Burrard Street was stumps; it had been logged pretty well, but there were still a great number of trees standing, but all the good large timber had been taken out. The owners of the property had combined to let the contract for clearing, and the white labourers had agitated that the contract be given to white labour only. Then the contractors let the contract to John McDougall, who saw that the contract did not specify that he must employ white labour, and so he imported twenty-four Chinese from Victoria."

***THE VANCOUVER CHESTNUT. "SIEGE OF VANCOUVER."***

"But before I tell you any more, I ought to say that the sheet *The Vancouver Chestnut*, this which you have here, was got out by" (Dr.) "Bob' Mathison, the printer, on Hastings Street, and in it you will see a