

## **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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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.

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**CONVERSATION WITH HUGH E. CAMPBELL, 2848 BIRCH STREET, WHO KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES THIS MORNING, 19 AUGUST 1943.**

**HUGH E. CAMPBELL. VANCOUVER FIRE BRIGADE. GUARD OF HONOUR. STANLEY PARK, DEDICATION. LORD STANLEY.**

Mr. Campbell: "My recollection is that Lord Stanley did not go out to Stanley Park in a two-horse hack as Plante" (Frank) "says. He went out there in a carriage drawn by four white horses; there were four white horses in town; two were heavy, and two were light, and they had the light ones as leaders.

"Then, when Lord Stanley came back the Fire Brigade acted as a guard of honour; that was the 29<sup>th</sup> October dedication.

"There was about twenty of us. We were wearing a blue uniform; it was then the paid fire department, not the volunteer fire department. We all stood, about twenty of us, in two rows, and Lord Stanley drove in between the two ranks. We were under Carlisle; no fire engine; the fire engines had been left behind in the Fire Halls in case of fire.

"We were *not* in our red shirts because in the paid fire department we never had red shirts. That was in the hook and ladder company, which were volunteers before the department was formed. The 'hose' men had blue shirts and the 'ladder' men had red shirts.

"Lord Stanley's carriage drove between us, and then they got out and went into the Hotel Vancouver; he did not inspect us."

**THE FORMAL ADDRESS OF WELCOME.**

"I don't know who wrote or composed the formal address of welcome to Lord Stanley. It must have been Tom McGuigan, or the Mayor, or somebody."

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH CALVERT SIMSON, FORMER STOREKEEPER, HASTINGS SAWMILL, WHO KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, THIS MORNING, 26 AUGUST 1943.**

**LEWIS COLBY, 1884. MOODYVILLE FERRY. MOODYVILLE MAIL BOAT. POST OFFICE, 1884.**

Mr. Simson: "When I came here in 1884, Lewis Colby was the ferryman taking the mail by rowboat from Granville, Hastings Sawmill, Moodyville, to George Black's at Hastings."

**D.L. 196. HASTINGS SAWMILL CO. LTD.**

"Some time ago I was looking at some old documents in the office of Macaulay, Nicolls, Maitland Co., real estate, and took this note off them."

D.L. 196. 234.92 acres. Purchase price 4/2, or \$1.00 per acre, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 1865. B.C. & V.I. Spar, Lumber & Sawmill Co. [*first known as "Stamp's Mill"*] bought by Heatley & Co. of London, and name changed to Hastings Sawmill Co. Ltd.

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. HANNAH ELIZABETH GREATREX, WIDOW OF JAMES HENRY GREATREX, PIONEER, VANCOUVER, 1888, 30 AUGUST 1943.**

Mrs. Greatrex is now resident with her daughter, Mrs. C.F. Williams, 3615 Irving Street, Burnaby. She very kindly called at the City Archives this afternoon. I had first met her at the rededication of Stanley Park ceremonies, Lumberman's Arch, 25 August 1943, where she spoke to the great assemblage of citizens, using the loudspeaker, and narrating to them her experiences when she attended the dedication of Stanley Park by Lord Stanley in October 1889, fifty-four years previously.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF SALVATION ARMY, 1887.**

Mrs. Greatrex said: "I have put down a few notes about the Salvation Army for you, as you asked. Well, we came here to open up; that is, the three officers of the Salvation Army; one officer came from Victoria; that made four. Capt. Mary Hackett, the officer from Victoria, she was the organiser; she had been sent

out from the Old Country to organise throughout Canada. Then there was Lieutenant Iverack, a woman, and Lieutenant Tirney, another woman, and myself; I was Lieutenant Lynes—just one ‘s.’” (Pronounced Ly-ness.) “I had been in the Army at Winnipeg, Manitoba; I had lived in Winnipeg, where I was a soldier in the Army, but I was born in Hillsborough, County Down, Ireland, and came to Canada with my parents in 1881. I had been educated in Ireland, and was twenty-four years old when I came to Canada, and, of course, was single then. All of the family came together, eleven of us, six girls and five boys. They are nearly all gone now, but there are” (Ly-ness) “Lynes living; one, a retired conductor on the C.P.R. after forty-six years, is at Falkland, B.C. Both Mother and Father died in Vancouver, and both are buried in Mountain View Cemetery.

“Well, after we reached Winnipeg in 1881, Father took up land on the Pipestone Creek, south of Wapella, and he stayed there until 1910, when he came to Vancouver, and died here about 1933. I knew my future husband, Mr. Greatrex, in Winnipeg; he was an officer in the Army, and then he came west in 1888—after I came—as we were short of officers in New Westminster. I came here in 1887, so was here before he was.

“One day while in Winnipeg, Major Young, the Division Commander, told me I had been commissioned to go to Vancouver to assist in the opening of Salvation Army work in the new City of Vancouver, and he said Capt. Mary Hackett of Victoria would be waiting and would meet us.

“By ‘us,’ I mean Lieutenant Iverack and Lieutenant Tirney, who had been officers in other parts of the west. We travelled from Winnipeg on the C.P.R. line separately, all meeting together, and putting up in a room on Westminster Avenue, and cooked our own meals in our room. Capt. Hackett was with us; we were all together, the four women of us, and for a few days we all crowded in together in the one room, together with use of the kitchen, and did the best we could. Then later we got a house.”

#### **FIRST SALVATION ARMY QUARTERS.**

“Then, later, as I say, we got a house; it was almost on the corner of Hastings and Westminster Avenue” (Main Street.) “It was near where the Empress Hotel is now, on Hastings Street, north side, just east of Main Street, on the northeast corner of Westminster Avenue and Hastings Street. There were four houses all joined together, with a downstairs and rooms upstairs. We lived in the house farthest east of the four. It was in that house that the Salvation Army in Vancouver started.”

(Note: for ground plan, see Dakin’s Fire Map, November 1889. Photograph of houses, see C.V. P. Trans. 17, N. Trans. 6.)

#### **SALVATION ARMY, 1887.**

Major Matthews: Do the Salvation Army here now know this?

Mrs. Greatrex: “Some years ago, the Salvation Army in Winnipeg had a fire, and it burned all their records, and all that can be done about the start of the Salvation Army in Vancouver now is from memory.

“On the train we slept as train travellers usually sleep; we weren’t in the Pullman, I know that, but the Salvation Army pays all the expenses of its officers, and for salaries for ourselves, that is, for single officers, we got five or six dollars a week, and lived on it.”

Major Matthews: Did you keep fat?

Mrs. Greatrex: “Well, we got enough. But we did not have to pay rent; the six dollars was to pay for our food and clothing. We got along very well, of course. No, we did not go to theatres. I fear you don’t know very much about Salvation Army officers; the Salvation Army officer is the most self-denying and sacrificing person in the world today and always has been.

“Well, while we lived in the house on Hastings Street, well, we stayed there about four years. You see, we came in the month of December 1887, and we stayed there all of 1888 and part of 1889. After we got started, in about three months, Capt. Mary Hackett was moved; her health was very poor, and she retired, and I was promoted to Captain. Lieutenant Iverack was sent to New Westminster as Captain, and Lieutenant Tirney went to Victoria, I think as Captain.”

### **HART'S OPERA HOUSE. CARRALL STREET.**

"During these years, 1887, 1888, we held meetings in Hart's Opera House on Carrall Street, south of Dupont Street" (Pender Street), "and when the Opera House was wanted for theatricals, we went out in the street and held our meetings. Hart's Opera House was a one-floor rude building of just rough unpainted boards; it would hold perhaps four or five hundred people, and there was a sort of gallery at the back, but the main floor was level, and the seating accommodations was benches; there were no chairs, and the floor was just rough boards. It had a low platform in front, or stage, and the interior was lighted with coal oil lamps. There were no decorations at all on the walls so far as I can recall. It was more like a barn than an opera house. And they charged us rent for it; not much, but some."

### **SALVATION ARMY MEETINGS. DRUM AND FLAG. STREET MEETINGS.**

"When we were holding a meeting, we had three meetings on Sunday morning, afternoon and night, and meetings every night in the week when we could get the building. At first Capt. Hackett took the meetings, and the other three assistants helped her. We would have Hart's Opera House packed with men; no women at all, hardly; there were no women here, and there were no theatres, or anything else excepting the saloon bar where the men could go, and there were a lot of young men—and old ones—here, who had just arrived, and were strangers and were glad to attend our meetings. We always had a street meeting before we held the public meeting, and the men would follow us into the Opera House. When we paraded the streets before entering the Opera House we were led, well, at first we had nothing but the drum and the flag to carry before us. Lieutenant Iverack beat the drum, and Lieutenant Tirney carried the flag. I sang as we marched along, and Capt. Hackett was out in front. My husband, Mr. Greatrex, took part in the Opera House services; he came the same time as Mrs. MacGill, in 1888, who was out at the rededication ceremonies last Wednesday. You remember, she wore her poke bonnet, and had her tambourine with her. I borrowed my poke bonnet, the one I wore, from her."

### **CAPT. MARY HACKETT. CAPT. HANNAH LYNES. LIEUTENANT IVERACK. LIEUTENANT TIRNEY. LIEUTENANT AKENHEAD. MRS. THOS. MACGILL.**

"Then, when Capt. Hackett was taken away, and Lieut. Iverack went to New Westminster, and Lieut. Tirney to Victoria, I was promoted Captain. I had for my first Assistant Lieutenant Laura Akenhead; she came, I think, from Minnedosa; she had been in charge of the Army there.

"She is now Mrs. Thomas MacGill, and lives in the 4500 block, Sixth Avenue West, and was at the rededication ceremonies with me in Stanley Park the other day" (25 August 1943), "when you will recall we both wore the old style poke bonnets with the hat band 'SALVATION ARMY' on the top of them, and I carried the old tambourine which I had borrowed from her for the occasion."

### **LIEUTENANT DINWOODY. LIEUTENANT SHELLVEY. ADJUTANT TOM SCOTT.**

"Then, still another lieutenant came, Lieut. Shellvey; she came, I think, from Winnipeg, and all three of us carried on in Vancouver. Then, sometime in 1889, Vancouver was made a divisional headquarters, and while we still lived in the house on Hastings Street, just east of Westminster Avenue, we were able to secure a hall on Water Street for our services, and Adjutant Tom Scott was sent to be Divisional Commander. He lived with us, that is, Capt. Lynes (myself), Lieut. Akenhead, and Lieut. Shellvey, and Lieut. Dinwoody, all in the same house. Lieuts. Shellvey and Dinwoody were from Winnipeg."

### **HEADQUARTERS, WATER STREET. DIVISIONAL COMMAND. METHODIST CHURCH. WILLIAM SHANNON.**

"The quarters on Water Street. It was across Abbott Street from the old Methodist church, afterwards a feed store" (Allan's) "on the north side, over the water, and there were stores downstairs, and we had the hall upstairs. A new block was put up east of Abbott Street, and William Shannon, pioneer" (Shannon Park), "was the means of getting us the headquarters. Mr. Shannon was not an Army man, but he was a great Methodist, and he kept up his interest in the Army all through the years."

### **CAPT. LAURA AKENHEAD.**

"I can not tell you how long the Army remained, not exactly, on the north side of Water Street, as, you see, I was moved away towards the end of 1889, and I went to take charge of Portage La Prairie in Manitoba, and I had there Lieut. Mary Colter for my assistant. You see, in those days there was no

training school, as there is now. What they did was, they just gave you an experienced helper, and you did the best possible to train her. My place here was taken by Lieut. Akenhead" (Mrs. MacGill) "and she was promoted Captain. Down at Portage they had already organised, but I was the second officer in charge. Mr. Greatrex and I were not married at the time, and he remained on the coast.

"I stayed at Portage La Prairie for about nine months, and then I went to Brandon, and was there a few weeks only; then I went to Oxbridge, Ontario, to be married to Capt. Greatrex, and the ceremony took place in the Salvation Army headquarters at Oxbridge, but in those days the Army did not possess the privilege they now have of performing marriage ceremonies, and it was necessary to have clergymen present at the actual ritual; we had a Reverend Mr. Henderson of the Methodist Church. After the wedding. Mr. Greatrex and I remained at Oxbridge for several months; then we went to Sarnia, Ontario, in charge, and then Windsor, Ontario, and Chatham, Ontario, and Ridgetown, Ontario, and Galt, Ontario, and then back to Vancouver in November 1904, and have remained here ever since."

#### **WEST FAIRVIEW, 1904.**

"After we came back to Vancouver, we went to live, first on Richards Street, and then at 1620 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and lived there for twenty-two years. You see, in 1904 all that land west of Granville Street South was just stumps, and a lot of timber there. We bought the property, four fifty-foot lots from the Canadian Pacific Railway, and we built three houses on it; two of them are still standing. One was built so that when the Canadian Pacific Railway ran a steam locomotive train, afterwards the B.C. Electric interurban, one of our houses was on the little corner in the way of the railway, and the B.C. Electric bought that corner from us for the right of way.

"After our return to Vancouver we still retained our interest in the Army, but not to the same extent of actual activity. Mr. Greatrex went to work at the C.P.R. roundhouse as machinist, and then a very beautiful thing happened afterwards; I will tell you about it; that is, beautiful for him—not for us—to be translated like that; no pain, no pangs of saying goodbye. Wonderful for him.

"Well, he was taking a meeting on a Sunday for an officer who was ill. No. Four Corps of the Army, and he was sitting in the meeting awaiting the proper amount to take charge. He was seated in his chair just in front of the platform, and in perfect health, and rose to take his place in charge on the platform. Then, just as he rose to his feet, he leaned forward and fell, and I was sitting beside him and saw him fall, and rushed to his aid, but he passed away without speaking. He never moved; just fell forward as he was sitting, and never spoke again. He was fifty-two. He died 19<sup>th</sup> March 1915.

"We had four children; three are living now.

1. Edith Gertrude Greatrex, born 17 January 1892 at Chatham, Ontario. She is now Mrs. A.P. Williams, at Los Angeles, California, and she has five children.
2. Henry Patterson Greatrex, born October 20<sup>th</sup> 1895 at Donald, B.C. He died on January 12<sup>th</sup> 1934 in Vancouver. He was a widower without children.
3. William Stuart Greatrex. Born May 6<sup>th</sup> 1901 at Vancouver. He is unmarried.
4. Charlotte Ruth Greatrex, born March 29<sup>th</sup> 1908 at Vancouver. She is now Mrs. Charles Frederick Williams, of 3615 Irving Street, Burnaby, and she has, they have, two children, Betty Lou, aged 12, and Charles Brian, aged eight. I live with them, and it is very pleasant indeed to be there."

#### **DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS. SALVATION ARMY. ADJUTANT TOM SCOTT. THE FIRST CONVERT. JACOB GUNDERSON. THOMAS WHIPPLE. JOHN SHOULDICE.**

"I have told you about Adjutant Tom Scott coming in 1889 when the Army was made a Divisional Headquarters.

"Well. Our first convert was Tom Whipple. He became our drummer; he died in recent years, since 1936, and he stayed with the Army, more or less to his death. Then the second convert was Jacob Gunderson; he was a Swede, and could not speak English very well. After some years he became Sergeant-Major of No. 1 Corps, and he remained Sergeant-Major for forty years until he died. He had one of the largest Army funerals ever held in Vancouver; not two years ago as yet.

"Now. The day we had our third convert, was John Shouldice, and he carried our flag all during my term. Now I don't know that I can tell you very much more."

**LAYING FOUNDATION STONE. HOTEL VANCOUVER. SALVATION ARMY BAND.**

"There is one thing. When they were laying the foundation of the old Hotel Vancouver, we were invited with our band; we had a band of six instruments; our first bandmaster was Mr. Grant. We were invited also to the Moody revival campaign held on the present site of the Cenotaph; it was behind the old Court House. We closed our meeting to go to the Moody revival meeting."

**HALLELUJAH POINT, 1889. DEDICATION OF STANLEY PARK.**

"I remember, clearly, going to the park in 1888. We went to Hallelujah Point. I remember leaving Carrall Street, Andy Linton's boathouse and float, and rowing across to Hallelujah Point, where the Nine O'Clock Gun is now. There we had a meeting and a picnic; so far as I can recall, there was no shelter there of any kind at that time; just the open, and I suppose we took our drum with us" (laughing); "we took the drum everywhere we went."

**HALLELUJAH LASSIES. DEDICATION OF STANLEY PARK.**

"Then, we were invited to go with the band to the christening of Stanley Park by Lord Stanley; that was in the fall of 1889. After the dedication of Stanley Park, after it was all over, we had a meeting, and we had a wonderful crowd; it was at Hallelujah Point. I think William Shannon may have had something to do with it; I don't know, but what I do know is that it was called Hallelujah Point because we were called the Hallelujah Lassies, and that's the point we arrived at when we left Carrall Street float in a row boat to go to what is now the Park. You see, the reason we went in a row boat was at that time there was no bridge across Coal Harbour, and to get to Brockton Point we should have had to go all the way around by Second Beach and back again; it was shorter and quicker to cross to Hallelujah Point in a row boat."

**SALVATION ARMY ON PENDER STREET. SALVATION ARMY WOOD YARD. "THE ANCHOR," WATER STREET. "THE SHELTER," WATER STREET.**

"You see, we bought two lots on Pender Street near Cambie Street for a building, and then it was opened up for a Salvation Army wood yard for unemployed to get work and sell wood, but they never built the building, and they never owned a building of their own until they bought the Victoria Hotel where they are stationed now; it is on the corner of Hastings and Gore Avenue.

"They had two places on Water Street; one was 'The Shelter'; that was the outcome of the wood yard, for men in difficult circumstances to make a little money and get shelter. Adjutant Hay started it." (See photo of "The Anchor," C.V. P. Bu. 268, N. Bu. 166.)

"I think the Army has six or seven corps in Vancouver now, and one in North Vancouver. Now I think we had better finish up with this thought: the Salvation Army still retains that old fighting spirit, and while they keep up that spirit, they will bless the world; that's all."

Approved by Mrs. Greatrex, 9 September 1943. J.S. Matthews.

Note: as Mrs. Greatrex departed, she presented us with a song book, one of the earliest, in which she wrote in her own handwriting, the following inscription:

ONE OF THE FIRST SONG BOOKS USED BY THE SALVATION ARMY IN VANCOUVER FOR MANY YEARS. THE FIRST ONE WE SANG IN 1887 WAS 79, A COMPOSITION BY OUR BELOVED GENERAL WILLIAM BOOTH. WE SANG ON THE CORNER OF CARRALL AND CORDOVA STREETS. DONATED TO THE CITY ARCHIVES BY ONE OF THE FIRST OFFICERS.

Lieut. Hannah E. LY-NES, now Mrs. H.E. Greatrex.  
30<sup>th</sup> August, 1943.

### **SALVATION ARMY, ITS FIRST STREET PARADE, VANCOUVER, 10 DECEMBER 1887.**

Memo of conversation (over the phone) with Mrs. Hannah Elizabeth Greatrex, née Lynes (pronounced Ly-ness), who lives with her daughter, Mrs. C.F. Williams, 3615 Irving Street, Burnaby, and kindly telephoned me, 10 December 1943.

### **SALVATION ARMY, FIRST STREET PARADE.**

Mrs. Greatrex: "We went on the corner of Carrall and Cordova Street and had an open air meeting, the first; today is the anniversary, 10<sup>th</sup> December. Captain Mary Hackett, Lieut. Iverack, Lieut. Tirney and myself" (Lieut. Lynes), "just the four of us, and our drum and flag. And then after the open air meeting—that was the first in Vancouver—we paraded down to the other end of Carrall Street, and the men all followed us, and we went into Hart's Opera House and had another meeting in there."

J.S. Matthews  
December 1943

### **A REMARKABLE VISITOR—FRANK PLANTE. FIRST WHITE CHILD BORN ON BURRARD INLET, 1868.**

In no other city in the world could such an incident as took place this afternoon, 7<sup>th</sup> September 1944, in the City Archives, City Hall, Vancouver, have taken place.

François Plante, commonly called Frank, the first white child born, 13<sup>th</sup> April 1868, on the site of Greater Vancouver, eldest child of Peter Plante, the first bridegroom, and his wife, Ada Plante, née Miss Ada Guinne, the first bride whose wedding at Moodyville, 1868 was the first marriage by Christian rite solemnised on Burrard Inlet, or Vancouver, walked into the City Archives carrying a small parcel, and remained, seated at my desk, smoking and chatting for an hour or more.

The parcel he carried contained four pictures, the two larger being black and white drawings from carte de visite photographs, the two smaller being actual photographs of carte de visite size.

One of the larger, a drawing, is of Supplien Guinne, commonly known in very early days as "French John," the first preemptor and settler at what is now Marpole, Vancouver.

The other larger one, also a drawing, is of Peter Plante, the father of my guest, François Plante, and son-in-law of Supplien Guinne.

One of the smaller, a photograph, is the photograph of Supplien Guinne, and the original from which the larger black and white drawing had been made.

The other smaller one, also a photograph, is of Mrs. Peter Plante, formerly Miss Ada Guinne, daughter of Supplien Guinne, wife of Peter Plante, and mother of François Plante.

Mr. Frank Plante presented them to the Citizens of Vancouver, as represented by the Trustees and Governors, City Archives.

Mr. Plante, our first baby, is 76 years old, is very active, and a most agreeable personage. We gossiped for an hour.

About us, beyond, lies a great city, Vancouver, ten miles wide by five deep, with 150 churches, 100 parks, 70 large public schools, 90 private ones, monumental buildings, luxurious offices, beautiful homes and green lawns, all of which have risen out of the wilderness of primeval forest in the short span of a single life, the life of our first baby, Frank Plante, who honoured me with his presence this afternoon.

J.S. Matthews

CITY ARCHIVIST.  
On my 66<sup>th</sup> birthday.

City Hall, Vancouver.  
7 September 1944.