

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



MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MOST WORSHIPFUL BROTHER A. MCC. CREERY, 5337 BALSAM STREET, OR "ARDGLASS," AS HE HAS NAMED IT, WHO KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES THIS AFTERNOON, 9 MAY 1941, BRINGING WITH HIM, AT MY REQUEST, PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE LATE MRS. MCCLEERY, AND OF HIMSELF.

Mr. McC. Creery invited me to his home to dinner on Monday 28 April, and after a stroll around his garden, of which he is very proud, his granddaughter, Miss Underhill, acted as chatelaine at dinner, and later Mr. A.P. Horne, an old friend of the family, dropped in, and we spent a very pleasant evening.

A. MCC. CREERY.

Mr. Creery said: "Here are the two photographs I promised you."

Major Matthews: Tell me something about them?

Mr. Creery: "My dear wife, she was a daughter of John Henville Hulbert, of Hampshire, England; she came to visit her sister, Mr. Duncan Bell-Irving, Dr. Bell-Irving, at Vancouver. The first time I remember meeting her was at the home of G.G. Mackay, Georgia Street, and I did not know her name, and put it down in my notebook as 'Miss *Holbrook*,' and that was on Georgia Street, and she was living on Alexander Street, and I walked home with her in the rain, and did not get back to my lodging on Homer Street until half past two in the morning, which was very good progress for the first day; that was in July. I had reached Vancouver on 23rd February 1890, and she came in April of the same year. Then we were married at Watford, in England, on June 27th 1891; then we came back to Vancouver, 6th August 1891, and have been here ever since.

"All our children, save Cuthbert, were born in Vancouver; five sons and one daughter, Mrs. F.C. Underhill; she was the eldest.

"I came out here to work in a private bank as a clerk; the private banking firm of Lafferty and Moore, of Calgary. Then Mr. Casement, he came from Ireland, and he and I got together and bought out the Vancouver branch of Lafferty and Moore, and started Casement and Creery, private bankers. And one of our most valued accounts was the Bodega Saloon, and Joe Fortes, the celebrated Joe of English Bay whose monument is out there, was bartender, and used to come up every day with a deposit. The Bodega was run by Sandy MacPherson, and Joe Fortes was the barkeeper.

"We did very well at first; excellent, but the trouble was we loaned money in too large amounts. We loaned a too large amount to Diplock; he had a stationery store, and there was a logger named Taylor; we loaned too much to him, and then when the smash came we could not get it in. The Bank of British Columbia would lend us all the money we wanted at 7%, and we were making as much as 12% or 24%, but then, in the early nineties, the depression came, and J.C. Keith came over one day and wanted us to pay up—he got instructions—and, oh ho, 'Close up.' We did banking business in a real way; I wish I had one of our old check forms to give you, printed 'CASEMENT & CREERY, PRIVATE BANKERS.' And all through it, Mrs. Creery was wonderful, simply wonderful.

"Then I started selling life insurance, and other insurance, and made trips into the interior; Nelson, Sandon; meet W.J. Twiss in the same business at Kaslo."

ROBSON STREET.

"The first street car that went down Robson Street, well, I was on it, but not in it; I was on the roof. It was loaded with people, so some of us got on the roof; it was the first car going down Robson Street."

"ARDGLASS."

Major Matthews: Why did you name your home "Ardglass"?

Mr. Creery: "That was where I was born but I have never seen it. It is the name of a fishing village in County Down, Ireland; it was a place famous for its fresh herring; just a fishing village."

S.S. BEAVER.

“One day Joe Horne” (A.P. Horne) “and myself were fishing at the mouth of the Capilano, and we crossed the First Narrows in a boat, and the tide was swift, and we were swept near the wreck of the *Beaver*, so we went on board, and removed her name board with the name ‘BEAVER’ in big letters on it, off her pilot house. Joe Horne took it home, and kept it for years, then years afterwards I suppose his conscience pricked him or something; anyway, he gave it to the Hudson’s Bay Company, and they have it now.”

Mr. Creery is particularly bright and cheerful, especially at his advanced age, but suffers from arthritis, walks with a cane, and has difficulty in rising from his seat and sitting down again.

But I went with him down in the elevator, crossed over to his motor car parked in the City Hall grounds, he climbed in somewhat awkwardly, had difficulty in dragging his leg in after him, but finally managed it, and then drove off—and at his age, which must be about 78, because he once told me he was “27” when that Hastings football photo was taken, and that was 1890, and this is 1941.

As fine a gentleman as lives in Vancouver. He was Member of the Legislature for four years; the Provincial Party elected him, the only one of the party to be elected of about fifty candidates in the Provincial election. There were three Provincial Party members elected, but one was a former Conservative; the other a former Liberal. Mr. Creery was the only true Provincial Party candidate elected. He did not enjoy his experience; said he did not find it edifying, but he said (Premier) John Oliver always kept his promises; the others did not.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. G.A. BONNALLIE, 1361 HARWOOD STREET, WHO VERY KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, TUESDAY, 27 MAY 1941.

MRS. G.A. BONNALLIE. REV. C.J. BRENTON.

Mrs. Bonnallie said: “My father, Rev. Charles Jones Brenton, was the only son of Capt. Brenton, master mariner, who sailed from Liverpool; his last trip was to Malta, where he died and is buried. My mother was Miss Mary Phinney, daughter of Caleb Phinney of the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia; Mother always said that she was not a Canadian, she was a Nova Scotian, because she was born before Confederation. The Phinneys are very, very old timers in the Annapolis Valley; her brother was Guy Phinney, who went to Seattle in the very early days and helped to lay out Seattle; there is a Phinney car line runs out to Woodland Park; it is named Phinney car line in honour of my uncle, Guy, and he laid out Woodland Park, and owned it. He built a church there in memory of his mother, and he called it St. Mary’s Church because the bell tolled on St. Mary’s Day, and no one rang it; the bell tolled before the church was built. There was a painter up on the Church, and he was a Roman Catholic, and the bell rang three times, so the painter got down and stopped his work. Uncle had the first building up after the Seattle fire, and he had to stand and play the hose on the men’s feet while they were taking away the hot ashes so that they could start and build. Both my father and mother are buried in the Masonic plot in Mountain View. Father died in 1909; Mother in 1921. They were married in Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia on April 16th 1864, and out of a family of five boys and six girls, there are living now three only, Mrs. Gwendolin Arnaud in Seattle, and Mrs. E.G. Langley (the youngest), West Vancouver, and myself, Pauline, Mrs. G.A. Bonnallie.

“The Brenton family have died out in Vancouver; there are no boys left. I had five brothers; none of them had sons. Dr. P.R. Brenton, the eldest of the family, had one daughter, Miss Helen Brenton; she is in Tacoma; all around typical American girl, and very successful. And of the four other brothers, Capt. Brenton was drowned in English Bay in 1920, Aubrey died in 1909 (same year as Father), Vincent died in 1912, and one died as an infant.

“The Beckett family” (Major Beckett) “went to Sherbrooke, Ontario, in 1818 by oxen team from Montréal; they are really of Scotch descent; there are Beckett Hills and Lakes in Scotland, named from the same family; one of Major Beckett’s daughters, Rozana, married William Bonnallie of Sherbrooke, and my husband was the eldest son in a family of two sons and one daughter, Douglas and Edith, both deceased. My husband, George Archibald Bonnallie, was born in the room his mother was born in, at Montréal Street, Sherbrooke; they owned most of Sherbrooke, Ontario. He was educated in Sherbrooke, and entered the service of the Eastern Townships Bank, and the Eastern Townships Bank amalgamated with the Canadian Bank of Commerce about 1912. He was transferred out here from the Eastern Townships