

Early Vancouver

Volume Six

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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.

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Patterson, a pupil of the first class, April 1873, of the first school, Hastings Sawmill School, on the site of the City of Vancouver.

She is now, November 1940, the sole survivor of that first class resident in Vancouver; her two sisters, also pupils with her in 1873, survive, but reside in California.

She was driven to the Hotel Vancouver by Mr. Kenneth A. Waites, Vancouver school historian (King Edward High School), and was seated at the head table to the left of Dr. Alexander Robinson, principal of the Vancouver High School, an aged educationalist of distinguished carriage. She was "introduced" to the great assemblage of over 400 gathered in the great banquet hall, and rose from her seat, bowed to the brilliant scene before her, and sat down.

This demure little lady amazes one to look upon. She is an actual living connection between that humble, solitary unpainted shed standing in the clearing, midst stumps and forest debris scattered about in hopeless confusion, and a splendid educational system comprising 70 public schools, 90 private schools, 1,500 teachers, 50,000 scholars, together with many colleges and a University, which in the short space of her life has been created out of the silent wilderness. It is a little bewildering to reflect upon, yet it is true, for before I left that scene of magnificent luxury and splendour, and saw a large gathering of well groomed men and superbly gowned ladies disperse and go back to their homes, I actually shook Mrs. Crakanthorp, who was accompanied by her daughter, Miss Muriel, by the hand, and kissed her cheek.

J.S. Matthews.
City Archivist.

Vancouver, 18 November 1940.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. FRANK W. HART (THE SECOND MRS. HART) OF PRINCE RUPERT, WHO CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES WITH A RELATIVE, 19 NOVEMBER 1940.

She is on a visit from Prince Rupert, is returning in a week; she is 77, but no one would ever know it. She is as active as a woman of 57, and converses fluently. During my absence she was shown all the records we have made of Mr. Hart's life, by Mrs. Stanley Williams (née Margaret Giles), and it was reported to me that she was well pleased, especially with Mr. Hart's letters recorded in *Early Vancouver*, Volume 3.

HART'S OPERA HOUSE. JOHN W. STEWART. HECTOR STEWART, HIS SON.

Mrs. Hart said in part: "You know, the Opera House" (Hart's Opera House, first in Vancouver) "had a canvas roof."

Major Matthews, interjecting: And cotton lined walls, and a sawdust floor. (Note: see *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3, for an amusing story of the "Texas Steer," where the horse fell through the stage, and the "circus seats" fell with the crowd, injured a man, and they settled it by the prima donna giving the injured man, a rough logger, a bouquet of flowers at his bedside, and a kiss, and Hart left a twenty dollar gold piece beside his bed; nothing more was heard; no lawsuit for damages.)

Mrs. Hart: "Well. The roof was of canvas, and could be pushed up, and boys would peep inside. The boys climbed up the outside of the board wall, pushed up the canvas and peeped under it, and could see the stage. Well, Hector Stewart—he was just a lad then, perhaps eleven—he was up, had climbed up the outside and was peeking in, so Mr. Hart went outside, and gave him a push from behind. *He fell over into the Opera House* on top of the people. One or two were hurt when he fell on them, but not very much; nothing serious. Hector Stewart was the Chief of Police's son; both dead now.

"But afterwards, in the Yukon, Mr. Hart was ill, and Hector was up there, and carried Mr. Hart a long way to hospital on his back; Hector was a big strong man, but Mr. Hart was a big man too, and heavy, but he" (Hector) "carried him a long way."

The ladies left, apparently well pleased with what they had seen. Mrs. Hart is a very delightfully charming lady; no one would ever suspect her age, 77.