

## **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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**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. JAMES COTTRELL, OF ST. DENNIS STREET, LYNMOUR, NORTH VANCOUVER (MR. JAMES COTTRELL IS TRAFFIC SUPERINTENDENT, B.C. ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY), WHO VERY KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, 12 JULY 1940.**

**MOODYVILLE. MECHANICS INSTITUTE. MOODYVILLE LIBRARY.**

Mrs. Cottrell said, handing me two books, *The Sublime in Nature*, 1872, and *Wonderful Balloon Ascents*, 1871, with book plates, printed "No. 86, THE LIBRARY OF THE MECHANIC'S INSTITUTE, Burrard Inlet, purchased October 1874, Keep Clean" and "No. 103," labelled in same manner, purchased 1874.

"I spoke to Mother" (Mrs. W.A. Harris, 342 17<sup>th</sup> East, North Vancouver) "about the books, and she said that they were about to be burned sometime about 1907 or near that date; I presume when they were clearing away the old mill at Moodyville, but do not know exactly; anyway, Mr. Nicholson, he is an Irish peer now, told Mother to help herself to all she wanted of the books which, as far as I know, were down at the old Institute. Some years ago, Mother gave them to me. And as I felt that the people of Vancouver would like to have them as relics of one of their first two libraries on Burrard Inlet, I spoke to Mother, and she joins with me in presenting them for safekeeping."

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MISS MARGARET ELLIOTT, 1636 WEST EIGHTH AVENUE, SISTER OF JOHN ELLIOTT OF THE APPEAL BOARD, TOWN PLANNING COMMISSION, AND OF MRS. J.F. RICHMOND, FIRST BABY BORN IN FAIRVIEW; 12 JULY 1940.**

**FIRST FAIRVIEW SCHOOL. CHALMERS (UNITED) CHURCH. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FAIRVIEW.**

Mrs. Richmond called to the phone her sister, Miss Elliott, who said: "The first school was on the lane corner, Eighth Avenue. We crossed Granville Street, macadam road and mud, then went down the three-plank sidewalk, south side Eighth Avenue, about forty yards to the lane corner across the lane" (Lot 26, Block 331, D.L. 526), "turned in, and up some steps, five or six, to platform, and entered the school. The whole of the first floor was one room, with the teacher, and a stove—cordwood and airtight heater—at one end; then there was a staircase, and the whole of the upstairs was another room. The building was painted a sort of orange red. Geo. W. McRae was the sole teacher and principal, and then, after about a year, maybe more, Miss Ethel LePage—not of the LePage glue family, but a cousin of that family; she had two brothers, one is in Victoria yet, I think—she came.

"The boys, my brothers; John was the one who started it; he went around with a petition, and gathered enough signatures asking for a school; he went all around Fairview as far as Cambie Street; there were no houses south of Ninth Avenue so he did not go there, and only a few west of Granville Street; and that was how the Fairview School started; there were all grades in the first school; I was in the lowest.

"Then we moved to the big school on the corner" (southwest corner of Granville and Ninth Avenue) "and at first that was a small school. But we started to drill; Sergeant Major Bundy was instructor, and when King George V was here, the Duke of Cornwall and York then, September 1901, we won the flag for drilling; there was a march past of school children, at Brockton Point, and we won the flag.

"In the first school we had slates and blackboards; no lights, but there must have been lights; lamps, I suppose; perhaps electric light."

**CHALMERS CHURCH. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.**

"The first Presbyterian Church in Fairview was held in that school room; they held their prayers there; it's now Chalmers United Church; that's where they started, although there was a split, and there is a Presbyterian Church over in Kitsilano who claim they were the people who started there. The children who went to that first school included Barney Oldfield, a director of the race track now, and old Mr. Sumner's children; he's still there; two or three of his boys, and the Darien family; they are relatives of the DeBou family, and Capt. Robertson's children; he was a pilot, and H.J. Painter, City assessor, his children, and of course my family, the Elliots."

Note: Goad's map, 1912, plate 25, shows the old building, but Mr. A. Quartermaine, present owner, 1940, says "It has not been there for twenty-seven years" (so it must have been pulled down in 1913); "it has always been vacant, 27 years."