

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 MRS. JAMES WALKER, 721 CAMBIE STREET, DAUGHTER OF JOSEPH SILVEY ("PORTUGUESE JOE" NO. 1) AND HIS INDIAN WIFE, KHAAL-TIN-AHT, WHO KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES THIS AFTERNOON FOR A CHAT, 17 DECEMBER 1940.

PETER PLANT. ADDIE PLANT. MRS. GEORGE MYERS. SUPLIEN GUINNE.

Mrs. Walker said: "I saw Lena Myers in New Westminster recently. Peter Plant was, she told me, her father, and Addie was her mother, his wife, and she, Lena Plant, is their daughter. Lena is now Mrs. George Myers of New Westminster; fine woman. She did tell me her grandfather's name, he was French, she told me that he had 160 acres down at Marpole; he must have had money for he sold it. I cannot remember the name, it was a queer sort of name." (Note: probably Suplien Guinne.) "I cannot tell you the exact spot where his farm was, but it was just by the bridge to Sea Island at Marpole, on the mainland side of the river; he had a nice house, and a lovely big orchard, and he had a dairy farm because my father" (Joseph Silvey) "bought butter and eggs there."

"Lena's grandmother, Khah-may, was my grand-aunt, that is, she was my mother's aunt.

"Lena told me that her grandfather at Marpole got old and feeble, he was about 100 years old, and he took a trip to the Old Country, and he came back, and went to Kamloops for treatment, and died there. His wife did not go to Kamloops but went to Point Grey" (Musqueam) "and stayed with her Indian people."

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. GEO. GREEN AT CITY ARCHIVES, WHO RECEIVED HIS INFORMATION FROM REV. JAMES H. WHITE OF SARDIS B.C., 6 JANUARY 1941.

FIRST PRIVATE SCHOOL ON THE MAINLAND.

"Miss Emily Woodman arrived at Victoria from St. Thomas, Ontario, 10th February 1859, came with first party of Methodist missionaries who came to B.C. There were four missionaries, Rev. E. Evans, D.D., leader" (this from A. Begg's *History of B.C.*, page 484), "Rev. E. Robson, Rev. E. White, and Rev. Arthur Browning.

"Rev. E. White was appointed to New Westminster district, then Queensborough. He arrived in New Westminster, 1st April 1859, and his family arrived from Victoria 21st April 1859. There was a four year old boy with him, who is still living, now Rev. James Henry White, Sardis, also a one year old baby girl, now Mrs. C.L. Street of Chilliwack.

"Mrs. E. White's sister was Miss E. Woodman, approaching eighteen years. When the Rev. Mr. White arrived there were no dwelling houses in Queensborough, only a tent which was occupied by James Kennedy, later editor *Columbian*, and the two families doubled up. In the meantime, they put up a crude hut for the family to live in. Rev. Mr. White then built the first church in New Westminster. It was very crude and the back was on a cedar stump" (described in *Vancouver Province* of 25 March 1935), "there was also a cedar stump just in front of the door—John Robson, later Premier of B.C., before they had a bell to call the people to church, stood on the stump summoning the faithful to worship with a tin horn.

"No school existed, and the children were doing nothing. Government refused any assistance, so Miss Woodman started the first private school with attendance of five children, which soon grew to 17. The school was situated on the waterfront, site not known."

(In that early day there were only a few children. Moody's first request for a school was not until October of '59. The families of the Royal Engineers had gone up to Derby from Victoria in April and stayed there for several months. It was when shelter had been built for them at "the camp" that they first came to New Westminster, hence his application in September or October.)

"Her pupils were: (These were probably not the original five, but were some of her later pupils.)

1. Frank Barnard who was sworn in December 17th 1914 [see *Sun of that date*] as Lieutenant-Governor of B.C.
2. Johnny Irving, son of Capt. Irving. At this time, the Captain had just started to build the first steam boat to be built in B.C., named *Governor Douglas*, built on Fraser River. [See *Biographical B.C.*, Vol. 2, page 685.]