

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



FOREST FIRES.

"You see, we emptied our well, filling five-gallon cans of water to put on top of the roof of our house in case of fire; many times it caught fire, and we would put the children in packing cases up at the end of the trail near the North Arm Road. You see, the trees were all on fire, and we had to sleep overnight; we did not have any sleep; we had to be up watching the fire, but the children sat up in the packing cases."

CAROLINE STREET. D.L. 301. 23RD AVENUE EAST. H.V. EDMONDS.

"We brought the big packing cases from Toronto with our furniture in them, and the men carried them up to the end of the trail for the children to get into. You see, there were no fire reels in those days; you had to fight the" (forest) "fire yourself, and then we would use the water up so quickly, we ran out of water, and after that we had to do the best we could, try and save the house, and let the rest go. Oh, we have had some awful fires.

"We were in D.L. 301 in those days, and Edmonds owned that ground. There were no sidewalks or anything there, nothing, and then D.L. 301 was taken into the city, and then our taxes began to go up, and finally the city took the property, our life's work, from us for taxes."

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH W.C. DITMARS, ESQ., ONE OF THE ORIGINAL TRUSTEES, CITY ARCHIVES, FORMER GRANDMASTER OF GRAND LODGE OF FREEMASONS, BRITISH COLUMBIA, WHOSE OFFICE IS NOW 744 WEST HASTINGS STREET, (OVER THE PHONE), 3 OCTOBER 1940.

VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY. VANCOUVER GRANITE CO., NORTH ARM. G.W. GRANT, ARCHITECT. MASONIC TEMPLE, MCKINNON BLOCK.

Mr. Ditmars said: "Yes, I was at the ceremony of laying the corner stone of the Carnegie Library. We" (the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M.) "met at the old McKinnon Block" (now Williams Block, southwest corner Hastings and Granville streets) "and marched to the site in full regalia, and Grandmaster Young, afterwards Judge Young, he laid the corner stone and, of course, with the usual corn, wine and oil, and then we marched back again to the Temple. There was a band there, and the Mayor and Aldermen, and a crowd of onlookers.

"The Vancouver Public Library building is of Gabriola sandstone from Gabriola Island, but the foundations and base courses is from our quarries, the Vancouver Granite Co.'s quarries; not the old C.P.R. quarry, but our own quarry on the west side of the North Arm, opposite Croker Island, and perhaps—but I do not actually know—the old 'Spratt's Ark' brought the stone down.

"The architect was a little man, he had offices in the McKinnon Block; I think he was G.W. Grant; anyway, his name was Grant."