

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



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

Bank in 1909" (to Vancouver) "and we were married at St. Paul's Church, Vancouver, by Archdeacon Pentreath, on August 23rd 1911. We had two children, Barbara and Douglas, Barbara born in Vancouver 5th October 1912, and Douglas born 23rd October 1914 at Ladysmith, B.C. We were there during the coal riots.

JERICHO. CITY HOSPITAL, 1902.

"There is one thing I ought to tell you about. It was a bright summer day about 1902, and we took our lunch and a row boat, and rowed over to where the Jericho Club is today; the only way to get there was by water, and the Dalglieshes were living there, and my brother, the doctor, made great friends with Mrs. Dalgliesh, and she allowed him to pick her prize lilacs. Rowing over he got a blister on his hand and the blister broke and the poison went in, and he had a poisoned hand, and he went to the old Hospital on Cambie Street, and it was so crowded they had to put him out in one of the halls."

FIRST MOTOR AMBULANCES. WOMEN'S HOSPITAL AUXILIARY.

"Oh, I will tell you a queer thing. I helped to beg for the first motor ambulance in Vancouver; it was hard work getting the money. And the first day it was taken out on a trial run, it ran over a man and killed him, in front of old Fader's grocery store on Granville Street, Pender and Granville, where the Bank of Montréal is now; he was the first passenger in our ambulance. It killed him outright; he was visiting here from the States. There was no organisation; there was no I.O.D.E. or anything; we just begged, individually, for the ambulance; we were a sort of hospital auxiliary, but there was no president or anything."

CHRISTMAS FUND.

"We did the same thing with the Christmas fund for the poor; Dr. and Mrs. Munro gave us their home, and we held dances and bridges and invited our friends and raised money, and then we would send out Christmas hampers to the poor, and that was the beginning of the Vancouver Christmas Fund, which afterwards grew to such proportions. You see, I used to go down to the hospital and help a lot, and that was where we got the idea we should have to get a motor ambulance, but this other Christmas fund, you know, the different girls in town would help us pack and deliver the hampers, and everything we bought was wholesale, and so on.

"When I went to see Mr. H.A. Edgett, and told him about things, he said there were 'no poor in Vancouver,' so I told him of some of the cases, and he felt so bad that he filled two big bags with nuts and carried them out to the car for me. Mrs. Dr. Munro gets quite annoyed and indignant when it is printed in the newspapers that Mrs. W.M. Rose is given the credit for starting the *Province* Christmas Fund; Mrs. Munro says it was we who started, Mrs. Munro and myself. Dr. Munro was a very fine doctor; so is she; wonderful people."