

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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After about two hours, Mr. Plante and his sister Mrs. Mayers and the little girl departed. Mrs. Mayers is a fine specimen of womanhood; good looking for her age; shapely features; her complexion shows no sign of any Indian blood; she is most kindly mannered, modest and somewhat heavily formed; she must weigh about 150 or 160 pounds, I suppose; by no means small, nor large, but is a very well-proportioned and motherly woman whom I surmise keeps a very comfortable home for those who look to her. Both brother and sister seemed to have enjoyed their visit, and were quite complimentary on the work being done by the City Archives.

J.S. Matthews.
20 June 1944.

From notes made last evening at the City Hall, immediately they left.

SURVIVORS, 1944. PETITION FOR INCORPORATION.

On the afternoon of 11 July 1944, Mr. W.H. Chase, pioneer, last proprietor of the Deighton Hotel, Granville, otherwise "Gassy Jack's of Gastown," called at the City Archives, City Hall, accompanied by his daughter, Mrs. W.W. Hatfield, and enjoyed tea and cake with Major Matthews.

During the conversation the photostatic copy of the petition was produced, Mr. Chase found his own signature on it, and also that of his brother, Ben. F. Chase. And then the complete roll of names was slowly read out to Mr. Chase. He could recall all of them which most people can recall, and there were others he knew nothing about, just as the rest of us do. So that is fairly certain that a required number of signatures were necessary to the petition, and, it is probable, guests at the hotel were pressed into service to that end. Anyway, there appear to be ten or a dozen names which seem to be unknown to all of us.

And Mr. Chase and I came to the conclusion—and Mr. Calvert Simson, former storekeeper at the Hastings Sawmill, 1884, concurred—that with the exception of Mr. W.H. Chase and his brother Ben. F. Chase, now in California, none of the other signatories are now living.

J.S. Matthews.

CONVERSATION WITH MR. HERBERT WILLIAM MARTIN, PIONEER, OF 744 WEST 8TH AVENUE, WHO TOGETHER WITH HIS SISTER, MRS. J.M. VYE, VERY KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES THIS AFTERNOON, 17 JULY 1944.

I noticed Mr. Martin was wearing the lapel "button" indicating that he had served in the last war, 1914-1918.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION. ALDERMAN ROBERT BALFOUR. BEAVERMOUTH. STONEY CREEK BRIDGE. SURPRISE CREEK. REVELSTOKE. SICAMOUS.

Mr. Martin: "My father, with my mother and the rest of the children, and Alderman Balfour of the first City Council; my father was in partnership with him all the time, came over the mountains just ahead of the Canadian Pacific Railway grade. Father was keeping a boarding house at the end of the steel; we would be ahead of the grade, then when they came up to us, we would move on. Balfour was superintendent of bridge construction; he built the Stoney Creek bridge; at the time it was built it was supposed to be the highest bridge in the world. We started at Beavermouth, just west of Field, and the next stop was at Surprise Creek, and the next was Stoney Creek, and the next Revelstoke, and then where Sicamous is now, and then we stopped at Kamloops. Then we had to cross the river to the opposite bank to where the railway was being built. So we crossed and drove to Yale, and took the old stern wheeler *Rithet*, flat bottom, to New Westminster."

ARRIVAL AT GRANVILLE, 1885.

"We took the boat from New Westminster to Victoria, but they did not like the place and came back to Granville, or 'Gastown,' arriving here October 1885. Then we went into the hotel business, and built the Burrard Hotel at the northeast corner of Hastings and Columbia streets, where the Broadway Hotel is