

**Early Vancouver**

**Volume Seven**

**By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.**

**2011 Edition (Originally Published 1956)**

*Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected between 1931-1956.*

**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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## **INSTITUTION OF CITY ARCHIVES, VANCOUVER.**

Letter from Inspector Henry A. Larsen, R.C.M.P., F.R.G.S, (300 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, 6 February 1952) who commanded the R.C.M.P. schooner *St. Roch* on her famous voyages through the North West Passage, 1940-2, and 1944, to Major J.S. Matthews, V.D., City Archivist, Vancouver: (excerpt)

My dear Major Matthews:

I was pleased to see in a newspaper clipping from Vancouver that you, at last, have been able to get a little more money with which to run the Archives.

Years and years from now the City of Vancouver will appreciate your work more and more, and be grateful for the legacy you left in the form of historical value, both to Vancouver and to Canada in general.

## **EDITORIAL PAGE OF *THE VANCOUVER SUN*, 20 MARCH 1952.**

### TO HONOR OUR OWN HISTORY

Major J.S. Matthews, Vancouver's able archivist, performs a public service when he seeks funds to place a statue of Lord Stanley in Stanley Park.

He is sound in both detail and principle.

Lord Stanley of Preston was governor-general of Canada from 1888 to 1893, and on October 29, 1889 personally opened, in a pouring rain, the park named for him. It is eminently fitting that as Stanley Park is personalized, his figure should be among those honored.

For Stanley Park should be personalized. All Vancouver should be personalized. History is not a string of events, but a connected narrative of men. Vancouver's history will be a living thing only as we remember vividly the men who had to do with its making.

Some 30 years ago *The Sun* sponsored a movement to erect an heroic sized figure of Captain George Vancouver in some elevated spot where it would be visible to every citizen and to all ships entering the harbor.

We still think the idea has merit, although there is an excellent statue of the valiant Captain at City Hall.

Cities on this continent have the habit of taking on a deadly sameness.

And while the topographical features of Vancouver will not be confused readily with those of Chicago or Winnipeg, we can still do with those personal touches which are peculiar to our own past.

Statues of eminent persons who have contributed to our growth are a form of decoration with substantial meaning.

*City Archivist*  
MAJOR J. S. MATTHEWS, V.D.  
*Assistant Archivist*  
MRS. J. G. GIBBS



**CITY ARCHIVES**  
VANCOUVER 10, CANADA  
INST., 1933

**CITY HALL**

### LORD STANLEY AND STANLEY PARK

It was due to the foresight of our predecessors that Stanley Park, the most beautiful park of its kind in Canada, has been preserved for the use of our people of Vancouver, of Canada, and mankind throughout the world. How grateful we should be that the proposal, with surveyor's plan attached, made on January 12th, 1885, to divide the land, and use the eastern half for commercial purposes, was rejected, and how fortunate we are that the first resolution passed at the first meeting of the first City Council, 10th May, 1886, was to petition the Dominion Government to give it to us as a park, and that our request was granted.

Sixty-six years ago His Worship David Oppenheimer, Mayor of Vancouver, acting on behalf of our citizens, made a written promise to Lord Stanley, Governor General, that the place where he stood when he dedicated the park

"TO THE USE AND ENJOYMENT OF PEOPLES OF ALL  
COLOURS, CREEDS AND CUSTOMS FOR ALL TIME"

would be marked by a memorial. That promise is now about to be fulfilled.



Sydney March, sculptor, one of the foremost sculptors of the British Commonwealth, is now engaged in creating a statue of which Vancouver will be proud. No civic funds are being used; all subscriptions are voluntary. It is desirable that the largest possible number of our citizens participate. The cost will be \$4,500, of which \$1,750 has been subscribed by ninety subscribers.

May we be privileged to include your name among those of the subscribers?

Subscriptions sent to  
"THE LORD STANLEY STATUE FUND"  
care City Archives, City Hall, Vancouver 10,  
will be formally acknowledged.  
Bankers: Imperial Bank, Abbott Street.

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