

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 125th anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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[EXCERPT OF LETTER FROM HENRY A. LARSEN.]

300 Carling Ave.,
Ottawa,
Feb. 6th, 1952.

My dear Major Matthews:

[excerpt] ... 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.

From Inspector Henry A. Larsen, R.C.M.P., F.R.G.S., who commanded the R.C.M.P. schooner *St. Roch* on her famous voyages through the North West Passage, 1940-2, and 1944.

“THE UNION JACK—I LOVE THAT FLAG.” LARSEN, OF THE *ST. ROCH*.

Sergeant Henry A. Larsen, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who took the Vancouver built schooner *St. Roch* from Vancouver to Halifax, the first vessel ever to pass from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic around the north of North America, and the first vessel ever to make the return voyage, and, later, the first vessel ever to circumnavigate the North American continent, and Major J.S. Matthews, City Archivist, City Hall, Vancouver, were sitting chatting at Major Matthews's desk. It was about 1948, shortly after the City Archives had published the pamphlet, “The North West Passage.”

Some paper passed before them upon which appeared an illustration of the Union Jack in colour. Larsen pointed to it and then, placing his finger upon it, remarked, “*I love that flag.*”

P.S. Inspector Larsen is Norwegian born; a naturalised Canadian.