

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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THE LATE ARCHBISHOP DE PENCIER.

1st June 1949

Dear Dean Swanson:

May I be privileged to address myself to you; as, wishing to record the performance, I must address myself to someone.

It is that, immediately I left the Cathedral this afternoon at the conclusion of the obsequies of His Grace the late Archbishop, and before leaving the Cathedral precincts, I lit my pipe and smoked. It is admitted that I took six or seven puffs only and then put it back in my pocket lest others may observe a seeming impropriety. It is also admitted that I did not enjoy the smoking very much—indeed scarcely at all. The story is this.

Some twenty or twenty-five years ago the Archbishop, then as until lately the chaplain of Western Gate Lodge—of Freemasons—and I were riding in a motor car, seated side by side at the funeral of, so far as I recall, the late Brother Cross of Western Gate. After we had reached the outskirts of the City a desire to smoke my pipe came over me and I fuddled with it. Then I remarked to the Archbishop, “I wonder if Mr. Cross would mind if I had a smoke at his funeral.” The Archbishop replied, “I’m sure he wouldn’t; you have permission to smoke at mine.”

This afternoon I recalled the permission given, and took occasion to give effect to it. There may be those who regard such as bordering on the trivial, but, in this I do not agree. The Archbishop thought fit to give me permission to smoke at his funeral, and good manners ordain that I should do as he deigned to grant permission. So I did it.

With best wishes,

Most sincerely,

J.S. Matthews

The Very Rev. Cecil Swanson, D.D.
Dean of Christ Church Cathedral,
Vancouver.

TELEGRAM.

Ottawa, 21st Sept. 1951.

Matthews,
City Hall Vancouver

Delighted to lunch Stanley Park September twenty seventh

Derby

FROM VANCOUVER DAILY PROVINCE, FRIDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 1951.

STANLEY'S DESCENDANT HEARS HISTORY OF PARK

Vancouver's Court House site was a wilderness of charred stumps, giant forest trees were standing at Nicola Street, and Indian shacks were dotted around Lost Lagoon that day in 1889 when Lord Stanley of Preston rode behind four white horses to open Stanley Park.

Under different circumstances—but with the same spirit—the scene was re-enacted Thursday in the banquet room at Stanley Park Pavilion.

Principals were Edward John Stanley, Earl of Derby and great-grandson of the Earl who was governor-general in 1889, and Major J.S. Matthews, city archivist.

RECALLS HISTORY. Major Matthews, at a Park Board luncheon tendered the Earl and Countess of Derby, took his audience back over the years to the days when Stanley Park was largely a dream in the minds of far-sighted citizens, and particularly to the day when the park was dedicated to the use of "people of all colors, creeds and customs—for all time."

FROM VANCOUVER SUN, FRIDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 1951.

Scroll for Lord Derby

PRESENTATION OF PARK RE-ENACTED.

Major J.S. Matthews, city archivist, "stole the show" at a luncheon for Lord and Lady Derby in Stanley Park Pavilion Thursday by re-enacting the ceremony in which Lord Stanley presented the park to the city in 1889.

Lord Stanley, then Governor-General of Canada, was Lord Derby's great-grandfather, and when he dedicated the park to the city at the foot of the old Pipeline Road, the grateful citizens of Vancouver presented him with a scroll of thanks.

The scroll was re-presented to the city in 1949, and although the major had it on display Thursday, he said he wasn't giving back the original. He was obviously deeply affected by the visit of Lord Derby and admitted he has been "living for this day."

"It is a great honor today to present you with this copy of the scroll presented to your illustrious ancestor when he dedicated this park for the pleasure of all creeds, colors and kinds of people," the major told Lord Derby.

Lord Derby said he was realizing a lifetime ambition in visiting for the first time the park which bears his name, for he is Edward John Stanley, Earl of Derby.

He expressed great pleasure at meeting Major Matthews, "with whom I have often corresponded, and who keeps me abreast of goings-on here, and of the disposition of the Stanley Cup each spring."

He added that Britain looks with great gratitude to Canada for her help during and after two wars in which "we have bankrupted our economy in the interests of freedom."

About 30 persons attended the luncheon, including many former park commissioners and Mayor Fred Hume.

LORD AND LADY DERBY AT VANCOUVER, 27-29 SEPTEMBER 1951.

Hotel Vancouver
Vancouver
Sept. 29th 1951

Dear Major Matthews:

It was so nice, having corresponded with you for so long, to meet you the other day. Shall look forward to your letters with even greater interest now.

My wife and I have thoroughly enjoyed our stay in Vancouver, and we both send you our regards.

Yours sincerely,

Derby