

**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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**Contact Information**

City of Vancouver Archives  
1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9  
604.736.8561  
archives@vancouver.ca  
vancouver.ca/archives



**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. REMARKS BY THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE WENDELL B. FARRIS.**

I am most happy to see that Major Matthews is here this morning seated in Chambers.

I think this is an appropriate moment to point out that the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia, and the Dominion of Canada owe a great debt to Major Matthews and his wife for their splendid work for the public, and particularly for the Citizens of Vancouver. They have worked tirelessly and ceaselessly, and in spite of the tremendous difficulties and odds they have had to surmount, Major and Mrs. Matthews have succeeded in establishing an archives which ranks with any in Canada. If it had not been for their very wonderful action in preserving the records of Vancouver's early days, for their gifts of many valuable documents, and even more valuable services, this problem of trusteeship would never have arisen. Through their unselfish donations of their time and their own property, the people of British Columbia and the citizens of Vancouver have been placed in a singularly fortunate position. From their untiring efforts has come a magnificent records of the past.

18 May 1948.

Chief Justice Farris afterwards invited me to his private office, where I said to him that:

To hear those words from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is a great comfort and consolation. I shall hasten home and tell Mrs. Matthews what you have said.

25 May 1948. JSM.

(Memo in pencil.)

So the Judge made the order—

Then, their very first act was the change the lock, and Miss King said they told her that if I appeared at the door she was to deny me admittance. I understand that when she objected they sent her home.

JSM

It was an order which made the agreement between Major and Mrs. Matthews and the City of Vancouver, and no one else, applicable to the Archives of Vancouver Society. JSM.

No sooner had the new society acquired authority that one afternoon, during Major Matthews' absence, two of the pseudo "governors" entered the City Archives, City Hall, and, like two hoodlums, "ran amuck." Their first act was to get the City Comptroller to change the lock on the door so that Major Matthews could not enter. Then they told his assistant that if he attempted to enter she was to deny him entrance. Then they sent his assistant home and told her not to come back until she was sent for. Then they wrote the infamous letter known as the "CEASE ALL WORK IN THE CITY ARCHIVES," instructing both not to pay out any money, order any material, nor remove any article from the premises. The madcaps brought down on their heads the ridicule of even the City Hall janitors.

Then, a month later, one of them wrote an abject letter of apology.

8 June 1948.