

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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Footnote or Endnote Reference:

Major James Skitt Matthews, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 7 (Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011), 33.

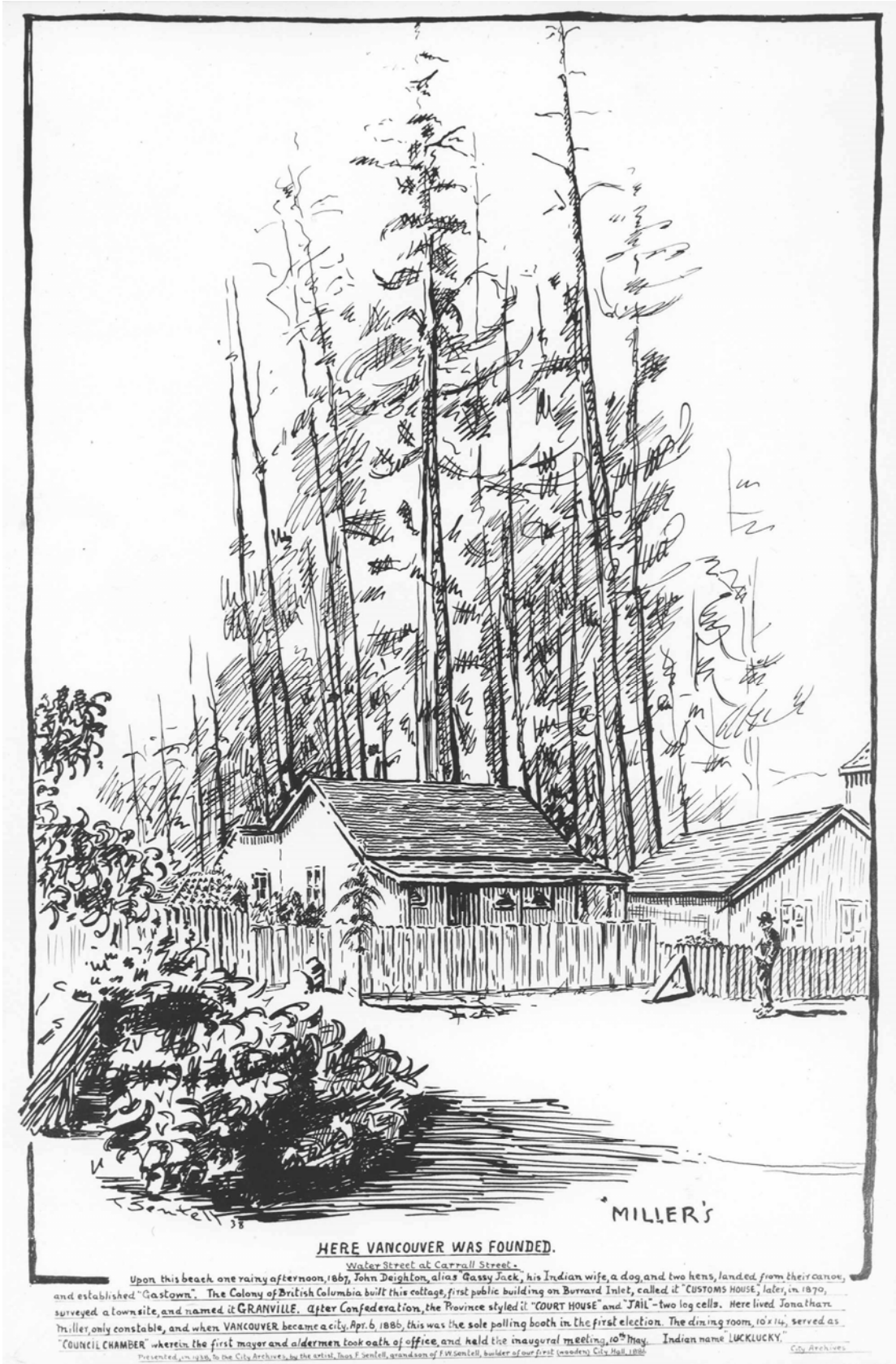
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HERE VANCOUVER WAS FOUNDED.

Water Street at Carrall Street.

Upon this beach one rainy afternoon, 1867, John Deighton, alias Gassy Jack, his Indian wife, a dog, and two hens, landed from their canoe and established "Gastown". The Colony of British Columbia built this cottage, first public building on Burrard Inlet, called it "CUSTOMS HOUSE", later, in 1870, surveyed a townsite, and named it GRANVILLE. After Confederation, the Province styled it "COURT HOUSE" and "JAIL" - two log cells. Here lived Jonathan Miller, only constable, and when VANCOUVER became a city, Apr. 6, 1885, this was the sole polling booth in the first election. The dining room, 10' x 14', served as "COUNCIL CHAMBER" wherein the first mayor and aldermen took oath of office, and held the inaugural meeting, 10th May. Indian name LUCKLUCKY.

Presented, in 1938, to the City Archives, by the artist, Thos. F. Semler, grandson of F. W. Semler, builder of our first (wooden) City Hall, 1868.

City Archives

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[drawing annotation:]

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City Archives.

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[LETTER FROM ALICE CRAKANTHROP.]

Aug. 18, 1946.

Dear Major Matthews:

No doubt you have read Mr. McKelvie's article regarding the treatment of prisoners, such as tying them to trees, here in the early days. I would be very interested in hearing just where Mr. McKelvie got such information.

As you know, I came to Vancouver or Gastown as it was then called, in April, 1873, at the age of nine years, and as the settlement was small, we all knew what went on, and I am sure no one else ever heard of such a thing as tying anyone to a tree.

The men who were our leading citizens, many that I could mention, were men of fine character and I know would not for one moment, allow such treatment. There was a proper jail in Gastown and Jonathan Miller was the constable.

It would be interesting to the real pioneers to know where these "Young Pioneers" get their information. It is really amazing.

Yours sincerely

Alice Crakanthorp.