

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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[LETTER FROM J.S. MATTHEWS TO CHIEF JUSTICE FARRIS.]

1158 Arbutus St.,
Kitsilano Beach,
Vancouver, B.C.
13th June, 1948.

Dear Mr. Farris:

As the days recede, your kind words, spoken in Chambers, 18th May, of the endeavors of Mrs. Matthews and myself, our thankfulness increases more and more that such a commendation should have come from the lips of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia. For 20 years trial upon trial has beset us, but to learn from you that all is well is a solace and a consolation, and a stimulation to our resolve.

The City Archives owes its existence not to money, which has been scant, but encouragement from such as the late John Hosie, Provincial Archivist, who—when I wavered—ejaculated angrily, 'Keep on, man, keep on; don't quit now.' To Alderman W.J. Twiss who, 1933, throwing wide the door to a small empty room in the Temporary City Hall, asked "Will that suit you?" To General Sir Arthur Currie, who wondered as he looked and then said "Gentlemen ... worth ... weight in gold." To the late Lord Tweedsmuir, greatest historian of his age in the Empire, upon his last visit, as his eyes swept the walls of the City Archives, and then passed that amiable remark "This is admirable work; just what I have been urging." Lastly our own Chief Justice tells us it is good.

Why the Almighty chose me from among the host for the especial task of attempting to preserve for our posterity the chronicle of this magic city, and of our race in which it is part, can never be known; but one thing is known—it is that had no Mrs. Matthews esteemed it of greater consequence than our pleasure, and without her silent share and sacrifice, it would not have been.

While life lasts we shall ever take comfort in your generous encouragement.

With our deep respects

Most sincerely,

J.S. Matthews.

The Honourable
Chief Justice Farris,
Vancouver.