

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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Contact Information

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





"THE BUILDERS"
 The Inauguration of Civic Government, Vancouver, Canada, 1886

His Worship Malcolm Alexander MacLean, first Mayor of Vancouver, delivering his inaugural address at the first meeting of the first City Council, assembled, 10th May 1886, in the largest room of a small primitive building known as the "COURT HOUSE", Granville, and used by the sole constable, standing on Burrard Inlet as his family cottage.

collegially "The Mayor of Granville". J. B. Henderson, one of the first three school trustees. John H. Carlisle, chief, volunteer fire brigade, John Sulzbee, first magistrate. HIS WORSHIP THE FIRST MAYOR, M. A. MacLean, Esq., W. H. Gallagher, electoral campaign manager, later Alderman and last survivor of Granville. Dr. W. F. McGuigan, coroner, and Mayor 1904. G. Gardner Johnson, poll clerk, later Mayor and Commodore. John W. Stewart, the "Night-watcher of Granville", first Chief Constable. Constable Jonathan Miller, pioneer 1862 returning officer, later Postmaster. Dr. Duncan Bell-Irvine, M.D., spectator. Seated behind City Clerk: - J. J. Blake, who draughted City charter; first City Solicitor. Joseph Humphries, Thomas Dunn, Isaacian A. Hamilton. Geo. F. Baldwin, first City Treasurer. Thos. F. McGuigan, first City Clerk. Aldermen E. P. Hamilton, Chas. A. Colwell, Harry Kemlow, Robert Balfour, Peter Gordier, first City Council. By John Innes, celebrated Canadian historical artist, for Major J. S. Matthews, later City Archivist, who directed detail and chose title. Cost \$1,000. Commenced, 1932, completed 1936. Copyright owned by Estate, late John Innes; painting owned by Major J. S. Matthews and eight associates. Placed in Council Chamber, City Hall, January 1943. Custodians: - Trustees, City Archives.

Item # EarlyVan_v7_009

[photo annotation:]

"THE BUILDERS"

The Inauguration of Civic Government, Vancouver, Canada, 1886

His Worship Malcolm Alexander MacLean, first Mayor of Vancouver, delivering his inaugural address at the first meeting of the first City Council, assembled, 10th May 1886, in the largest room of a small primitive building known as the "COURT HOUSE," Granville, and used by the sole constable on Burrard Inlet as his family cottage.

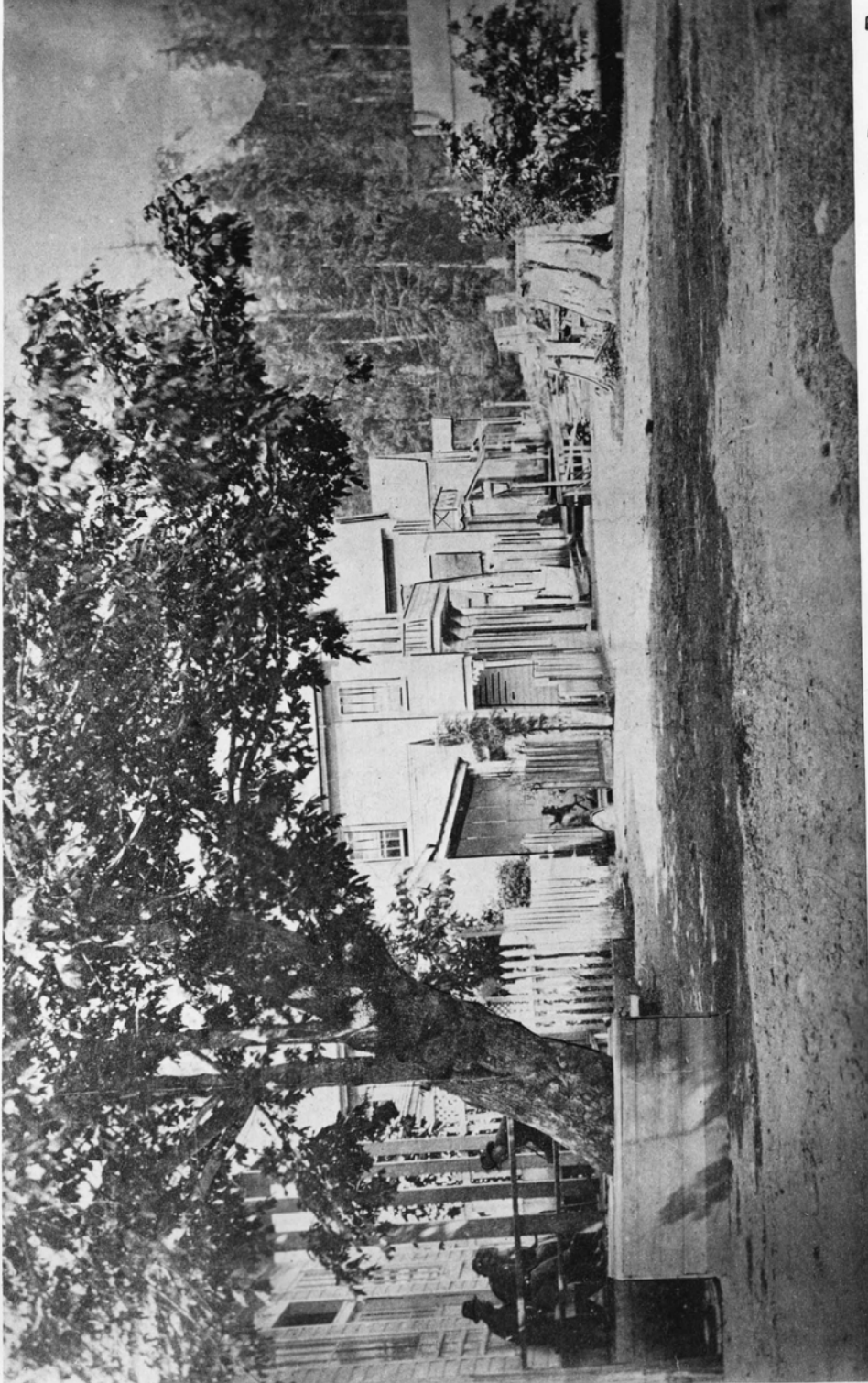
Standing: - left to right. Three unknown spectators, symbolic of pioneers. John Leask, later City Auditor. Joseph Mannion, pioneer, 1865, colloquially "The Mayor of Granville." J.B. Henderson, one of the first three school trustees. John H. Carlisle, chief, volunteer fire brigade. John Boulton, first magistrate. HIS WORSHIP THE FIRST MAYOR, M.A. MacLean, Esq., W.H. Gallagher, electoral campaign manager, later Alderman, and last survivor. Dr. W.J. McGuigan, coroner, and Mayor, 1904. C. Gardner Johnson, poll clerk, later Major and Commodore. John W. Stewart, the "Night-watchman of Granville," first Chief Constable. Constable Jonathan Miller, pioneer 1862, Returning Officer, later Postmaster. Dr. Duncan Bell-Irving, M.D., spectator. Seated behind City Clerk: - J.J. Blake, who draughted City charter; first City Solicitor.

Seated: - left to right. Aldermen J.R. Northcott, Joseph Griffith, Joseph Humphries, Thomas Dunn, Lauchlan A. Hamilton, Geo. F. Baldwin, first City Treasurer. Thos F. McGuigan, first City Clerk. Aldermen E.P. Hamilton, Chas. A. Coldwell, Harry Hemlow, Robert Balfour, Peter Cordiner.

By John Innes, celebrated Canadian historical artist, for Major J.S. Matthews, later City Archivist, who directed detail and chose title. Cost \$1,000. Commenced 1932, completed 1936. Copyright owned by Estate, late John Innes; painting owned by Major J.S. Matthews and eight associates. Placed in Council Chamber, City Hall, January 1943. Custodians: - Trustees, City Archives.

Major J.S. Matthews beside his painting, Council Chamber, City Hall, February 1943.

Ridley's photo of Gastown, date unknown. "My parents told me it was thus when I was born, i.e. 1875." H. E. Ridley, 1933.



Portugese Joe's.

Curve of beach.
Vine maple bush.

Trail to west

Lamppost ^{here}
May be Tom Pickett's pile of
Hand rail. Cedar shakes
Fence on edge, bank, water.
"Hole in the Wall" Saloon.
Lamppost
Children

Sullivan's store
Blair's Saloon
Shed to hotel.

Granville Hotel

Young hemlock

Telegraph office

Boys rocking horse
Prov. Gov^t Bldg.

Believed to be
Miller house.

Identification incomplete
J. S. Matthews, 1933

Steps to hotel.

Maple tree

Cuallip's verandah.

Box protection.
Verandah posts.

Entrance, Deighton.

Item # EarlyVan_v7_010

[photo annotation:]

Ridley's photo of Gastown, date unknown. "My parents told me it was thus when I was born," i.e., 1875.
H.E. Ridley, 1933.

Portuguese Joe's

Curve of beach.

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May be Tom Fisher's here

Handrail. Pile of cedar shakes

Fence on edge, bank, water

"Hole in the Wall" Saloon

Lamppost

Children

Sullivan's store

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Shed to hotel

Granville Hotel

Young hemlock

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Boy's rocking horse

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Believed to be Miller house.

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Maple tree

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Identification incomplete.

J.S. Matthews, 1933

C.V. Dist. N. 14. P. 11. A photo commonly known as "Ridley's Gastown"

[LETTER FROM J.S. MATTHEWS TO F.A. HARDY.]

1158 Arbutus St.,
Kitsilano Beach,
Vancouver, B.C.
29th March, 1948.

"INCORPORATION OF VANCOUVER"

1886

Dear Mr. Hardy:

It was a dark wintry night. One side of the 'street'—the only one—was the beach. A coal oil lamp on a post at the end of the log float where the mail boat tied up—a boat rowed by 'Hans' with one arm, the other was a hook—was the only harbour light on Burrard Inlet (Vancouver Harbor). A gun shot away was the tall dark line, serrated against the gloom of the sky, of the forest. Men with lanterns bobbing were disappearing into an alley beside the saloon, a dark unlighted passage at the end of which, through an open door, men were gathering in a smoke-stained room, unadorned, carpetless, with a great big stove and a pile of cordwood, waiting for the meeting to begin. Alexander, the mill manager, took the chair. It was decided to appoint a committee to see about creating the village of Granville into the 'City of Vancouver.'

Students of history can find out all about the legal process in the various chronicles; the proceedings of the Legislature of British Columbia; the files of the daily newspapers; the various books in the Provincial Libraries; Dominion Libraries and Public Archives.

But, when they ask who were the men who carried those bobbing lanterns, who warmed themselves about that wood stove with its black stove-pipe through the roof, there is naught to enlighten. One hundred and twenty-five men signed the petition circulated 'on the beach.' Today one alone survives, Henry Blair, out-patient at the General Hospital, and almost helpless.

I will not elaborate more. It's a long story, intricate, mysterious, wonderful. All I did—while there was yet time some years ago—was try, as best I could fifty years after the event, to preserve something of the shadows cast by the lanterns each carried; who disappeared down the alley to warm themselves by the stove before seating themselves on the rough benches facing the chairman. Mrs. Matthews joins in asking you to accept the only copy of 'INCORPORATION OF VANCOUVER, 1886' not in our home.

With best wishes

Most sincerely,

J.S. Matthews.

F.A. Hardy, Esq.,
Parliamentary Librarian,
Ottawa.



59A

“Coal Harbor” proposed terminus C.P.R.
Powell St. Alexander St.
Kestfer's Hall, near Alexander St. Burned from Columbia St.

Spauld's "Aid"
Site at present C.P.R. Station
Forest killed, since September, 1885

GRANVILLE, 1886.
From General Hastings & Main Sts.
Water St. at Gerrall St.
Old "Summit" site addition
Site at present C.P.R. Station

Forest on Cambie St.
The "Eighty Five Acres" plot, now in possession
Ferguson Block, corner
Central Ave. & Cambie St.
Two men standing approx. 100 yds. west, on site of Presbyterian Church, lot at Block 9, 25 x 40.

Clearing Fires
Cordova St.
Hansen's corner
Corner of Gerrall & Cordova St.

Weekly "Herald" Post Office, now
Corner of Cambie St. & Cordova St.
Two men standing approx. 100 yds. west, on site of Presbyterian Church, lot at Block 9, 25 x 40.

City Archives, 1940-1941

Item # EarlyVan_v7_011