

**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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Footnote or Endnote Reference:

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

Bibliographic Entry:

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

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**THE "ST. ROCH'S" UNION JACK  
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**

1940 - 1944

On October 12th, 1954, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Schooner "St. Roch" entered the Port of Vancouver and docked at Evans, Coleman & Evans wharf, thus completing her last voyage. This Union Jack was flying high on her masthead above all other flags and signals.

The following day, at H.M.C.S. "Discovery", landship, a public reception was tendered Superintendent Henry A. Larsen, F.R.G.S., her commander, and her crew by the Corporation and Citizens of Vancouver. Superintendent Larsen was presented with an engraved commemorative silver salver and, in return, he presented Major J. S. Matthews, V.D., City Archivist, with this Union Jack. Superintendent Larsen explained to the four hundred guests present that it had been presented to the "St. Roch", that he had flown it during his voyages through the North West Passage and the circumnavigation of the North American continent, and then he draped it over the shoulders of Major Matthews, who, some years previously, had given it.

Both men venerated the most respected flag in the world.

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**[LETTER FROM MARY LARSEN.]**

2440 Central Ave.  
Victoria, B.C.  
June 27/48

Dear Major Matthews:

I must apologize for not having written sooner to thank you for two gifts which I have here for my husband until his return from the north.

The brass plaque I know he will treasure highly, together with the copy of his narrative of the North West Passage. Myself, I was delighted with the pamphlet as it has always been my hope that such could be printed. If it is not asking too much may we have 25 copies of this booklet as so many of Mr. Larsen's friends expressed a desire for a copy.

Thanking you again for your great kindness,

I am yours

Sincerely

Mary Larsen