

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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MRS. HUGH BOYD.

Whose husband was the first Reeve of Richmond; whose father was Sergeant William McColl, Royal Engineer; whose sister, Helen, was the first May Queen, B.C.

June 25th, 1946.

Dear Mrs. Wood:

This will be a 'dead' secret between us; you won't 'give me away' will you, because it is unethical to tell others what is in private letters.

Yesterday a letter came in from Lord Granville, whose official designation is His Excellency the Earl Granville, C.B., Governor of Northern Ireland. In addition he is an Admiral, and his Countess is sister to Queen Elizabeth. Well, this is what he says in his own handwriting:

PORTRAITS IN OIL. HUGH BOYD. MRS. HUGH BOYD.

"Government House, Wed. June 5, 1946. My dear Major Matthews. but this evening am taking the first opportunity of briefly telling you about Mrs. Boyd whom I saw on Monday evening during my official visit to Bangor. She is a wonderful old lady. I realised that as I got out of my car and saw her standing bolt upright all by herself on her front doorstep. I almost felt like a naughty schoolboy going up to a strict school marm to receive a wiggling. She is 92, but could pass for 72 any day. Inside the house were two daughters and a granddaughter, and she rules them with a rod of iron. The portrait of herself is not at all flattering, in fact the reverse, but I should think that of her husband is good. Unfortunately my wife is laid up but is going to have tea with the old lady sometime. She had herself made a tea cosy for my wife. I gave her the photo you sent me of the Fraser River showing where her farm was. She was rather indignant that her old home was pulled down. We chatted some time. She is a grand specimen of what the early pioneers were made of."