

**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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## **[LETTER FROM C. BREW.]**

June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1865.

I have the honour to state that a Squamish Indian called Supple Jack has squatted for the last three years on the land in question. There are two male relatives now living near him. Captain Stamp has no objection to their remaining where they are. They can be at any time removed; the ground does not belong to their tribe.

C. BREW, J.P.

The Honorable  
The Colonial Secretary.

## **FIRST DIVINE SERVICE, CITY OF VANCOUVER (OLD BOUNDARIES).**

*Daily News-Advertiser*, 27 September 1888:

“Yesterday afternoon Rev. Dr. Sutherland laid the corner stone of the new Methodist Church, corner Dunsmuir and Homer streets ...”

(This was the “Homer Street Methodist Church” on the northwest corner, Dunsmuir and Homer, now the Labor Temple, built about 1911.)

“In a review it was stated that the first religious services within the precincts of what is now the City of Vancouver was held in the cookhouse of the Hastings Sawmill on July 30<sup>th</sup> 1865 by the Rev. E. Robson.”

## **FERGUSON POINT, STANLEY PARK.**

### **A.G. FERGUSON, ESQ. THANKED FOR HIS SERVICES BY THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS, 1898.**

Minutes of the Board, 17 January 1898, page 130:

RESOLVED that the thanks of the Board be allowed Mr. A.G. Ferguson for his valuable services in the past, and hope that he will continue to give them the benefit of his advice during the coming years.

R.G. Tatlow,  
Chairman.

## **THE NAMING OF SOUTHLANDS.**

Dear Mrs. Vincent:

You speak of “SOUTHLANDS,” and your preference for it as a name.

It was about 20 years ago—I could give you the exact date—that I appeared before the Southlands Ratepayers Assn., an association just formed, in a vacant store on the north west corner of 41<sup>st</sup> and Dunbar. About 12 or 15 men and women were present; most of them seemed to be interested in real estate; that little corner was just emerging “out of the woods”; it was new and they were choosing a name, and they were not, in my opinion, a very broad minded group; that little corner was their “world.” Nearby lived Col. W.H. Malkin, (Hon. Col. then), and he lived in his fine residence named “Southlands.” The association needed funds, and I learned that he had done more than his share, and they felt very kindly towards him. So, in compliment, and also because they like the name, they chose “SOUTHLANDS.”

I pleaded with them NOT to adopt it. I pointed out that we already had South Vancouver, South Hill, South Shore, South Granville, South Little Mountain, South Arm Fraser River, South New Westminster. They were polite, but I failed completely. I pointed out that Vancouver was

deluged with “Heights,” “Views,” and “Crests.” (We have about 50 heights; 30 views, and 10 crest), and the “south” “lands” meant precisely nothing. It was no good; I made no progress.

I pointed out that the Indian name “Kitsilano” was the only one of its kind in the world; no matter what continent one was on, “Kitsilano” meant one place and one place only. It had an interesting history; Southlands would be unromantic historically.

My suggestion was “MUSQUEAM,” a name dating back to 1808; unique; it would be the only one on earth; had an historical background of interest to all Canada and beyond; was euphonious, i.e. mus-kwee-am. One could lecture for an hour on “Musqueam,” but sixty seconds would be long enough for Southlands.

And that is the end of my story.

With my deep respects,

Most sincerely,

J.S.M.

Mrs. C.W.J. Vincent,  
3905 West 39<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Vancouver.

## **FOUNDING AND NAMING ABBOTSFORD, B.C. SHORTREED, B.C.**

### **EXCERPT.**

Letter from John Charles Maclure, pioneer of Granville, B.I., son of John Maclure, Royal Engineer, 1858, of Matsqui. Mr. J.C. Maclure is the discoverer of the clay deposit at Clayburn, B.C.

Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, 1950.

Dear Major Matthews:

You are right in assuming that the name Abbotsford was chosen as a compliment to Harry Abbott, superintendent, Canadian Pacific Railway, upon their agreeing to build a station there in exchange for a free right-of-way through the property. The spelling was later changed to, and still is, Abbotsford.

SHORTREED was the first to buy a lot and open a store in Abbotsford. He was also a Justice of the Peace. I think he has been dead now some years; like all my associates in this, my first, real estate venture, viz., Robert Ward, W.C. Ward, and D.J. Munn.

The last of the original lots remaining unsold when the B.C. Electric Chilliwack branch (Fraser Valley) was built (about 1910) were sold to E.E. Rand to make a clean-up—at the suggestion of my partners. All were very well pleased with their venture.

I am now only an interested by-stander, but very much interested in watching the town grow.

Most sincerely,

J.C. Maclure.

P.S. Congratulations on your having joined the ranks of greatgrandfathers, for all of whom I have a strong fellow feeling. I am planning to spend my Christmas with all my great grands—about a dozen—in Los Angeles—whom I have not seen for five years.