

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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He says, in his letter to Mr. Green, "Had it not been for the inspiration, persistence and endurance of my dear late wife, and her sacrifices, it (this book) might never have been."

NEWS-HERALD, VANCOUVER, THURSDAY, 7 JUNE 1951.

AGING ARCHIVIST SEEKS ASSISTANT

By Lionel Salt.

Major J.S. Matthews says he is an old soldier beginning to fade away.

And the man who started the city archives from scratch in 1933 is asking for help.

He appeared Wednesday before the city's finance committee seeking an increased grant to the archives.

Will Not Retire.

"There will be no faltering or diminishing on my part," the 73-year-old Welsh-born former officer commanding of the DCOR's told aldermen.

"But I cannot go on forever. And it would take 10 years to train someone to take my place."

The city now gives a \$6000 annual grant. Major Matthews and the archives board of trustees want this doubled to enable them to hire an assistant and a stenographer.

"I'll just take eight minutes of your time," the major told the committee briskly as he began to trace the beginnings of the archives.

Started in 1933.

He said the archives were set up June 13, 1933, during the tenure of late Mayor Louis D. Taylor. "At that time, I was given a stipend of \$25 a month. Since 1946, the city's grant has not increased.

"It is impossible to continue on a 1946 budget. I can't go on forever. I must train an assistant. I haven't had a holiday since before the City Hall was built. For the past eight months I have been alone."

Corporation counsel Arthur Lord explained that in 1933 property of the archives was turned over to the control of a board of trustees. In 1948, the Archives of Vancouver was corporated under the Societies Act.

Brief suggested.

"We have a special committee consisting of Aldermen Anna Sprott and Archie Proctor to deal with archives matters," acting chairman R.K. Gervin told Major Matthews.

"I suggest that the archives society present a brief to that committee, and it, in turn, will make a report to us. Then we can deal with it."

Supporting the request for an increased grant were trustees William Twiss, former city alderman, and W.J. Barrett-Lennard.