

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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“NORTH WEST PASSAGE,” 1940-42 AND 1944.

30th June 1948.

Dear Mrs. Larsen:

It is the utmost gratification to me to learn of your approval of the presentation to the public, near and far, of the gallant story of your dear husband's intrepid and historic achievements; and, to me, the utmost gratification is a great reward. Fear that it might not have been done with the full measure of dignity and precision that is deserved has caused me some nervousness, and, now, to have your commendation is indeed an immense relief and delight. I am bursting with pride.

The pamphlets are not for sale anywhere; are obtainable at my home only; they are sent to selected persons only, and a register of the names and addresses kept.

You ask for 25 copies and thirty have gone by post to you this morning. In this proud endeavor it is for you and for the Inspector to command, not to plead, so if, when the thirty are gone, you will, I know, not hesitate to ask for more. I printed 500 copies.

Alike with all men, we have our time of trial and difficulty, and your remarks come as an elixir to stimulate and to encourage, and a triumph to spur us on.

With my deep respects,

Most sincerely,

J.S. Matthews
CITY ARCHIVIST.

Mrs. Henry Larsen,
2440 Central Ave.,
Victoria, B.C.

SUPERINTENDENT LARSEN AND THE UNION JACK.

On 12 October 1954, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police schooner *St. Roch* entered the Port of Vancouver, docked at Evans, Coleman and Evans wharf, thus completing her last voyage. A 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 a Union Jack. He explained to the four hundred guests present 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.

Upon one occasion, Superintendent Larsen remarked to Major Matthews, "I love that flag," and knew that his friend did likewise.