

**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.

**Contact Information**

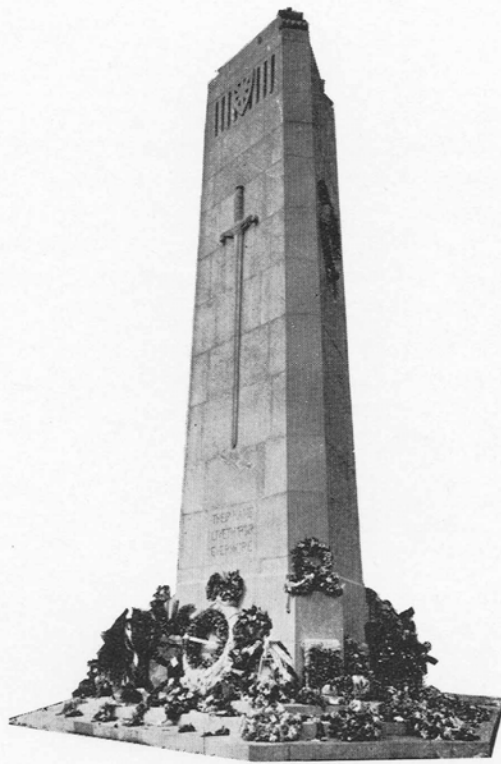
City of Vancouver Archives  
1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9  
604.736.8561  
archives@vancouver.ca  
vancouver.ca/archives



# THE CENOTAPH

## Victory Square

VANCOUVER.



### *Their Name Liveth For Evermore*

Those whose sacrifice this Cenotaph commemorates were among the men who, at call of King and Country, left all that was dear, endured hardship, faced danger, and finally passed from the sight of men by the path of duty, giving their own lives that others might live in freedom. Let those who come after see to it that their names be not forgotten.

CITY ARCHIVES, VANCOUVER.

TO

## The President and Members of the Canadian Club, Vancouver

Report of

### THE CANADIAN CLUB WAR MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

In December, 1914, the Canadian Club of Vancouver, by resolution, petitioned the Provincial Government of British Columbia to set aside what was then known as the Old Courthouse Square, as a public square to be used eventually for some form of memorial to those who gave their lives during the Great War.

In 1918, at the close of the war, it was decided by the Club that steps should be taken as soon as possible, to erect a memorial on the Old Court House Square, now known as Victory Square. A committee of the Canadian Club was then formed under the chairmanship of Mr. J. Fyfe-Smith, known as the Canadian Club War Memorial Committee. At the same time a committee was formed by the civic authorities known as the Civic War Memorial Committee, and for four years these committees worked independently and together with a view to ascertaining the form that the memorial should take. In 1922, the Canadian Club War Memorial Committee, under the chairmanship of Brig.-Gen. A. D. McRae, met the Civic War Memorial Committee under the chairmanship of Brig.-Gen. V. W. Odlum, when it was arranged that a joint committee composed of twenty-four members, to be known as the Vancouver War Memorial Committee and represented by twelve members from each organization be appointed to secure the necessary fund and proceed with the erection of the memorial. Brig.-Gen. V. W. Odlum and Lt.-Col. J. S. Tait, chairman of the Civic War Memorial Committee and the Canadian Club respectively, then appointed the following persons to act as the Vancouver War Memorial Committee:

W. J. Blake-Wilson	Brenton S. Brown
Frank Rounsefell	A. Z. DeLong
Innes Hopkins	Fred Crone
W. C. Ditmars	Stanley Henderson
Major W. C. McIntosh, M.C.	Fred Smith
Fred Beecher	Adam C. Stewart
Major J. Reynolds Tite	R. S. Somerville
J. J. McRae	Mrs. A. J. Paterson
Lt.-Col. H. D. Hulme	A. L. Hager
Jack Watson	W. C. Breeze
E. A. Lucas	Mrs. O. L. Boynton
Rev. A. H. Sovereign	Chris Spencer

This committee was called together on January 25th, 1923, at 4:30 p.m. at 913 Metropolitan Building, under the chairmanship of R. S. Somerville.

ville, who stated that the joint committee was called for the purpose of:

1. The erection of a memorial to those who fell in the Great War.
2. Such memorial to be erected on Victory Square.
3. The memorial not to cost more than \$15,000.00.

This large committee then appointed Mr. F. W. Rounsefell as permanent chairman, and in addition appointed Messrs. W. C. Ditmars, Stanley Henderson, F. L. Beecher, Chris. Spencer and J. R. V. Dunlop to be an executive committee together with the chairman, with power to add to their number, to carry on the work of organization, obtaining of funds and towards the final completion of the memorial. The executive committee in turn added Messrs. W. J. Blake-Wilson, Lt.-Col. W. S. Buell and J. Fyfe-Smith to their numbers. With the assistance of the press, subscription lists were opened in various stores, banks and wholesale houses, in addition to which several members of the organization solicited subscriptions. The work being advanced to the state where sufficient funds were on hand to erect the memorial, the executive committee called for plans and specifications from City architects, preferably those who had served overseas, these plans were placed before the main committee, and those submitted by G. Thornton Sharpe were approved and accepted. The contract was let to Messrs. Stewart & Wiley at a price of \$9975.00, and the work proceeded, the memorial taking the form of a Cenotaph.

It was originally planned to try and have the Cenotaph ready for unveiling by November 11th, 1923. It not being possible to do this, the memorial was completed in time to have it unveiled and dedicated at a public ceremony in Victory Square on Sunday, April 27, 1924, at four o'clock, at which representatives of all Civic and Veteran organizations were present, the military units also assisting. The Rev. C. C. Owen conducted the religious ceremony, and dedicated the memorial, assisted by the Rev. G. O. Fallis. The unveiling ceremony was performed by His Worship W. R. Owen, Mayor of Vancouver, the first wreath being deposited by Mrs. W. R. Owen for the city at large, and a great number of wreaths were deposited by the different organizations in the city including the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire.

Since the Cenotaph has been unveiled, through the generosity of Mr. J. F. Southam, Victory Square has been beautified and a stone embankment built around the Cenotaph, and the whole is now a worthy setting for the memorial to those who gave their lives for freedom in the Great War of 1914 to 1918.

F. W. Rounsefell,  
Chairman

(undated)

CITY ARCHIVES  
CITY HALL  
VANCOUVER  
September, 1956

F.W. ROUNSEFELL,  
H.S. VAUGHAN,  
K.S. VAUGHAN,

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*Vancouver,*

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

August 31, 1937.

Major J. S. Matthews, City Archivist,  
City Hall,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of the 27th of August and your request that I send you any information that I can in connection with the Cenotaph; I enclose herewith copy of Minutes of a meeting held in Vancouver at which I was appointed Chairman of the Committee. I note that there is no date shown on the copy of the Minutes.

I also enclose Financial Statement from James F. St. John, auditor, dated July 21st, 1924, which outlines the amount subscribed.

Also, letters of appreciation from the Military Institute of Vancouver, the Amputations' Association of the Great War, the Canadian Club of Vancouver and the Gyro Clubs, together with correspondence from Mr. F. J. Burd of the Vancouver Daily Province, and a copy of a letter from Mr. W. S. Rawlings.

Also, an invitation to myself and my wife for the ceremony of the unveiling of the Memorial and a program of the ceremony, Sunday, April 27th, 1924, all of which I trust will be of some interest later on as the years pass by.

Yours very truly,

*M. Rounsefell*

FWR/T  
Encls.