

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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Vancouver City Hospital, 1902. Beatty, Pender, Cambie streets, and Jane, photo taken looking south west. Twenty nurses, Miss Margaret Glenning, Lady Superintendent, as a hospital, January, 1905, and moved to Fairview. The white square on left is an outside cloth blind to diminish glare in operating room. The tall building directly behind is staff offices, pharmacy, private wards, women's ward, dining room, and kitchen. It was an exceptionally well equipped establishment surrounded with neat green lawns and beautiful flowers. After 1905 it was used, successively, as old peoples' home, crèche, the Gill University college, and Social Services Dept offices. On the evening of 18 Nov. 1949, a largely attended reception was held as a farewell to the old place, soon to be demolished, and its site converted into parking accommodation for motor cars. Its condition is a tribute to the builder, City Archives, p. 5, 7c.

Item # EarlyVan_v7_033

[photo annotation:]

Vancouver City Hospital, 1902. Beatty, Pender, Cambie streets, and lane, photo taken looking south west. Twenty nurses. Miss Margaret Clendenning, Lady Superintendent. Owned by City of Vancouver, and operated as civic department until 1902, when it was incorporated as "Vancouver General Hospital." Vacated as a hospital, January 1905, and moved to Fairview. The white square on left is an outside cloth blind to diminish glare in operating room. The tall building directly behind is staff offices, pharmacy, private wards, women's ward, dining room, and kitchen. It was erected in 1897. The main building on right, erected several years earlier, contained surgical wards below, and medical wards above. It was an exceptionally well equipped establishment surrounded with neat green lawns and beautiful flowers. After 1905 it was used, successively, as old peoples' home, creche, McGill University college and Social Services Dept offices. On the evening of 18 Nov. 1949, largely attended reception was held as a farewell to the old place, soon to be demolished, and its site converted into parking accommodation for motor cars. Its condition is a tribute to the builder. City Archives. J.S.M.

THE CITY HOSPITAL, 1902 RE AN EXCERPT, ANNUAL REPORT, 1948, VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL.

27th April, 1948.

Sir:

A printed circular, apparently issued by the Woman's Auxiliary, General Hospital, Apr. 1948, quotes as follows:

"The Vancouver General Hospital was incorporated 1902 ... took over ... City Hospital ... on Cambie St. and had a capacity of 35 beds."

This may be a misprint; it may mean 135 beds. From my own personal knowledge the capacity in September 1902 was

Main building, 4 wards, each 12 beds	48 beds
Private rooms (8)	8 beds
Elderly men, approx.	40 beds
Women and Children ward, approx.	<u>30</u> beds
Total 126	beds

In addition there was the Maternity institution which was in a separate building somewhere up towards Burrard street. Beginner nurses were trained there. I do not know how many beds.

In 1902, the population of Vancouver was, approx., 30,000—perhaps 35,000—I have not looked up. It is not reasonable that the City Hospital serving a community of that number would have 35 beds only. Further, the new hospital plans were well under way and it is not reasonable to suppose that the accommodation contemplated was to increase from a mere 35 beds to that provided by the first General Hospital buildings still standing as built a year or so later—about 1905. The 'trouble' with these imperfect figures is that they are quoted by students of history in Vancouver, and, being incorrect, the students suffer in their examinations.

With best wishes,

Most sincerely,

J.S. Matthews
CITY ARCHIVIST

The Secretary
Board of Directors, I
Vancouver General Hospital
Vancouver

JSM

was a patient for 13 weeks.