

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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SONS OF HIS WORSHIP THE LATE L.D. TAYLOR, THEODORE (“TED”) PIERCE TAYLOR, 5301 LEXINGTON AVENUE; KENNETH OSBORNE TAYLOR, 1215 NORTH HOBART STREET, HOLLYWOOD 27, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A.

This afternoon, 14 June 1946, two middle-aged gentlemen called at the City Archives and I immediately recognised one of them, Ken, as His Worship’s son whom I had met twice previously—last year—when, in the uniform of the United States Army (sergeant) he visited the City Archives with his father. The other, “Ted,” I had not met before. They are remaining in Vancouver for a few days in connection with their father’s estate, and are residing in his old apartment, Room No. 213, Granville Mansions, corner Granville and Robson streets.

Mr. “Ted” Taylor told me that he had been married, but hinted that all was not well with his marital status. However, he added, “I have a daughter, Mary Louise, who lives with me at 5301 Lexington Avenue, Hollywood, California.” Mr. “Ken” Taylor is unmarried.

We spent most of the afternoon—about two hours—talking. I told them much of their father, Mr. Taylor, his trials, triumphs and tribulations, and was careful to emphasise that had it not been for him in 1933 when he was Mayor, there may not have been an archives department in Vancouver at all. I explained that it was the only institution of its kind operated by a city in Canada; had done a great deal of good; that enquiries were repeatedly received as to how it was operated from other cities, and that much which has happened in Vancouver of recent years could not have happened had it not been in existence. I told them that I had once said to their father that if he had done nothing else during his eleven years as chief magistrate and had merely done one thing, i.e., establish the City Archives—or enable me to do it—that it would have been of sufficient importance to justify his eleven years in office.

I showed them the records we had kept, and they were very much interested; indeed, it seemed that I did all the talking and explaining. They were most attentive and interested and said I should hear more from them. They said that, so far as they knew, their father died a comparatively poor man.

During the conversation Ken sat in his father’s old chair, and I showed them one of their father’s famous cigars he had given me, and also a photo taken on 5 April, beside me, his last photo at his last public luncheon. I referred to the great concourse of people who, ten deep on both sides of Georgia Street, watched the cortege go by on the day of the funeral. They told me that they intended to give the oil portrait of their father to the City, but that it was not a very good one, and had been painted from a photograph, not from life.

Altogether the visit was most cordial and pleasant, and Miss Klemm provided us all with cups of tea and cake at my desk. She was the only other person present.

J.S. Matthews

CITY ARCHIVIST

City Archives

City Hall

14 June 1946.