

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.

Copyright Statement

© 2011 City of Vancouver. Any or all of *Early Vancouver* may be used without restriction as to the nature or purpose of the use, even if that use is for commercial purposes. You may copy, distribute, adapt and transmit the work. It is required that a link or attribution be made to the City of Vancouver.

Reproductions

High resolution versions of any graphic items in *Early Vancouver* are available. A fee may apply.

Citing Information

When referencing the 2011 edition of *Early Vancouver*, please cite the page number that appears at the bottom of the page in the PDF version only, not the page number indicated by your PDF reader. Here are samples of how to cite this source:

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



there. As a woman she could not fight so she did the next best thing, she portrayed the deeds of those who had, the one thing the soldiers could not do themselves.

What Mrs. Hamilton depicted is true to life. I saw her "Cemetery at St. Eloi." I saw her "Sadness of the Somme." I sat in that sewer called "Voormezele." I heard the ping as the shells struck the iron boilers of the ruined "Sugar Refinery," and, in my curiosity, I explored the inside of her "Abandoned Tank."

Today we accept the British Commonwealth, the greatest structure for political good the world has ever know, as we accept the free air, unmindful and forgetful of the sources of our good fortune. Mrs. Hamilton is Canadian born, third generation U.E.L. There might never have been a Canada as we know it had it not been for the blood from which she is sprung, the United Empire Loyalists of 150 years ago.

Mrs. Hamilton was not obscure before the First War. She was not local—her work was international. She had painted in Germany, Italy, Holland, Spain, and hung in the salons of France. She had painted the lieutenant governors of B.C. for the British Columbia government. Her works were possessed by the eminent of Canada, even Royalty. In 1923 more than one hundred of her paintings were exhibited in a gallery near Trafalgar Square, London, and she has exhibited in almost every great city throughout the Dominion. Today, many are cherished treasures of the Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa.

To you, Mrs. Hamilton, may I be privileged to say that the secret of happiness in mature years is the contemplation of one's own work and to see that it is good. You must be a very happy woman. The only weakness might be that you appear to have been indulging in the enjoyment of too many summers.

Ladies of the Auxiliary and Mr. Morris, our Curator, will you please accept our congratulations and our thanks for your astute wisdom in arranging this reminder of great events, great men and great deeds. We must not and will not forget. Now, let us go and gaze upon the handiwork of an accomplished lady, one who honours us with her presence, who is seated among us, and whose name must, forever, remain upon the roll of those who have brought fame to our country.

J.S.M.

At Vancouver Art Gallery,
Tuesday, 4 March 1952, at 3:00 p.m.

VANCOUVER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB.

Conversation (over the telephone) with A.P. Horne, Esq., pioneer, now of 4025 Granville Street South, 30 October 1947.

RUGBY FOOTBALL. BROCKTON POINT GROUNDS. VANCOUVER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB. CRICKET.

Mr. Horne: "You are quite right in saying that had it not been for the rugby footballers, and the cricketers, Brockton Point Grounds would not have been developed so early as they were. I think we played more rugby in those days when we of Vancouver were few than we do now that we are many. I am speaking of 1889, 1890, 1891 and 1892. One reason why there was so strong an interest was that many, perhaps most, of the players were young men newly arrived from the colleges and universities of the British Isles."

FOOTBALL AT HASTINGS. "GEORGE BLACK'S." C.P.R. "FOOTBALL EXPRESS."

"Before Brockton Point was cleared and made ready for play, I think about May or June 1890, we played at George Black's, at Hastings—football, cricket, lacrosse, bicycle racing, etc.—in the field opposite George Black's Brighton Hotel, a field between the C.P.R. track and the water of the inlet."

(See photo C.V. Sp. N. 101, P. 256-7; G.N. 552-566.)

"The way we got from Vancouver to Hastings for the matches was that the club chartered a C.P.R. train—fare twenty-five cents return. The railway put the train on a siding at Hastings and it waited until the match was over to take us back. The football club never lost any money by the train, nor did we ever make more

than about five dollars profit. At Hastings George Black always provided the ladies with a private room where they could have afternoon tea.

“There was another way to get to Hastings. When the Vancouver Street Railway Co., now the B.C. Electric, built their street car line on Powell Street, it went as far as Raymur Avenue, and some of us used to take the street car as far as there and walk the rest of the way—two miles. Vancouver was a small community of seven or ten thousand persons, and some of the shops would close up in the afternoon, so that the people could go to the football match. We practised on the Cambie Street grounds.”

BROCKTON POINT GROUNDS.

“The first match played on Brockton Point Grounds was early in 1891.” (He may be in error—I think 1890. J.S.M.) “The match schedule for the season was made up for the season among the following clubs: Vancouver versus Victoria, New Westminster, Nanaimo, Nicomen Island, combined British Navy, individual British warships, and ‘Mainland’ versus ‘Vancouver Island.’ The British Navy at that time had many ships stationed at Esquimalt. Some were H.M.S. *Swiftsure*, *Royal Arthur*, *Imperieuse*, *Amphion*, *Egeria*, etc., etc. It was said that one of the best rugby football teams in that navy was at Esquimalt under the captaincy of Sir Richard Arbuthnot, who was in charge of the first class cruisers at the Battle of Jutland, where he was killed in action. Sir Richard was a very fine man and much liked by his men.”

RUGBY FOOTBALL.

“You can read all about it in the old Vancouver newspapers. There is a good account in the *Sunday Province*, February 8th, 1925; another in the *Sunday Province*, January 16th, 1927, captioned ‘Rugby of Thirty-six Years Ago Played Opposite George Black’s Hotel near Hastings Park.’ The former gives the players for the season 1901-1902, one of the strongest teams Vancouver ever possessed—champions of British Columbia.”

(See photo C.V. Sp. N. 101, P. 256.)

“All men of the finest calibre in sport or anything else.”

FOOTBALL PHOTOGRAPHS.

“Your photographs show the players’ names. J.H. Bushnell was a land surveyor here many years. P.W. Evans was Percy Evans of Evans, Coleman and Evans. J. Laurenson came from Australia—when he was captain, I was vice-captain. C.H. Woodward was with the C.P.R., and a brother of R.P. ‘Reggie’ Woodward. F.W. Rounsefell was of the firm of Ceperley, Rounsefell & Co., still on Hastings Street. R.E. Palmer was a land surveyor here, and one of the Managers of the Tinto Mine in Spain. A.P. May I don’t recall. A.G. Malcolm, now of Errock Lake, B.C., had played for Scotland. He was an architect and in the office of R.M. Mackay Fripp. R.M. Fripp was a pioneer architect, well-known. R.G. Harvey was of Loewen and Harvey, still in business. E.A. Quigley was ‘Chubb’ Quigley—very well-known athlete. F. Johnson was a brother of C. Gardner Johnson, whose firm is still on Hastings Street. Mclver Mclver Campbell was secretary of the Vancouver Club. A. McC. Creery was afterwards a member of the Legislature and Grandmaster of Freemasons and so was H.H. Watson, still living—both M.L.A.s and Grand Masters. H.O. Alexander was the magistrate, and son of R.H. Alexander of Alexander Street. F.M. Chaldecott, solicitor, still living, a member of the Vancouver Club. Chaldecott Road and Chaldecott Park are named after him. Brown was afterwards Sir George McLaren Brown, European Agent for the C.P.R. in London. And, of course, there was myself.

“I don’t know Draper. H. McGregor was a great lacrosse player. A.E. Swift and I. Bland—I forget their occupation. You will find all these names in the photographs of the rugby teams for 1890, 1891 and 1892 which you have. A. Bryan Williams, afterwards Provincial Game Warden, was a fine footballer. So was Roselli, splendid. And outstanding supporter of rugby was the late Col. A. St. George Hamersley, City Solicitor. At one time he was captain of the ‘All-England’ Rugby team.”

As told to me,

J.S. Matthews

30 October 1947.

SEE PHOTOGRAPHS:

C.V. Sp(ort). N. 19, 18, 14, 21, 22,
P. 48, 47, 10, 8, 9, 17;

and "Vancouver Football Team, 1889-1890."

Also "Westminster versus Vancouver," Easter Monday, 1887, clipping only.

CONVERSATION WITH MR. A.P. HORNE, 4025 SOUTH GRANVILLE STREET, PIONEER (NOVEMBER 1889), WHO KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES THIS AFTERNOON, 31 JULY 1952.

He was one of the three young men who, in May 1890, discovered the source of Capilano Creek.

BOWEN ISLAND. SNUG COVE. A.P. HORNE. R.M. FRIPP. GORDON T. LEGG.

Mr. Horne: "You know Joe Mannion—he was an alderman on the first City Council. I think it was 1891—a year after I came. One day R.M. Fripp, Gordon T. Legg" (later manager, Union Steamships) "mentioned that it might be good to take a look at an island called Bowen. The three of us were talking together."

VANCOUVER BOATING CLUB. RED CROSS BREWERY. JOHN WILLIAMS.

"So the next nice summer day we went up there. There were no steamers but Legg and Fripp each had a sixteen-foot lapstreak varnished boat, with a small leg of mutton sail forward. One morning we started from the Vancouver Boating Club in Coal Harbour adjoining the western end of the C.P.R. wharf between Burrard and Thurlow. Access to it was a narrow passage way alongside the brewery owned by John Williams. There were four of us—two in each boat. We rowed through the First Narrows, picked up a breeze, and landed at Jericho; had lunch there, then tacked across to Howe Sound. The breeze dropped and we had to row, and rowed into Joe Mannion's place on Bowen Island. His house was close to the brickyard, and it was evening."

DEEP BAY. JOSEPH MANNION. BOWEN ISLAND.

"We asked Mr. Mannion if he had an objection to our pitching a tent and camping for two or three days. 'Why,' he replied, 'by all means. Have you had your supper? And, as to you boys pitching a tent, why not sleep in the barn on the hay?' Which we did, and, after our long pull, we did enjoy the rest. Early next morning he came to see if we were up, and said:

"'No occasion for you to make breakfast yourself—my wife and I have got it all ready.' But we told him we wanted a swim first—before breakfast. That was quite satisfactory. At breakfast he told us we could take all our meals with Mrs. Mannion and himself if we wished, that they were the only settlers there and delighted to associate and converse with human beings. I don't recall any children. We stayed there two or three days and explored the island."

GEORGE GRANT MACKAY. STANLEY PARK BREWERY. LOST LAGOON. CHILCO STREET. JOHN OBEN.

(See photo St. Pk. P. 115, N. 41.)

"George Grant Mackay, my father-in-law, put up the house. Your photo of the bridge shows it in the clearing and the trees beyond. He sold it and they converted it into a brewery. Then, a little further to the west, on one of Mr. Grant's lots, was John Oben who raised his family there. The owner and occupant of the property adjoining him was a French Canadian. John Oben was a great fisherman, and used to troll in the First Narrows."

"CASCADE BEER."

"John Williams had his Red Cross Brewery down on Seaton Street" (Hastings Street West.) "One day he said to me, 'I'm going to give a fifty dollar prize for a good name for beer.' 'Cascade' was the name which won his prize."

J.S.M.