

Early Vancouver

Volume One

By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.

2011 Edition (Originally Published 1932)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1931-1932.

*A Collection of Historical Data, Maps, and Plans Made with the Assistance of
Pioneers of Vancouver Between March and December 1931.*

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. 1 (Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011), 33.

Bibliographic Entry:

Matthews, Major James Skitt. *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 1. 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 Reverend Canon Sovereign came down the gang plank. Colonel Malkin hurried forward with extended hand, and, many people being within hearing, greeting him with an effusive welcome, more than ordinarily loud for Colonel Malkin, "How do you do, Canon Sovereign?"

Canon Sovereign, who has a rather high-pitched voice which carries well, responded in kind with "and how are you, *Colonel* Malkin?" (Emphasis on "Colonel.")

Mr. Stirling, who was a friendly spectator to the performance, ejaculated, "Listen to the big guns roar."

"And pray what do you mean by that, Mr. Stirling?" ask Colonel Malkin enquiringly.

"Smooth bores," replied Mr. Stirling without hesitation and with a smile.

At the time Brigadier General Victor W. Odlum, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., was "running" for parliament for Vancouver South (approximately 1925), large advertising placards were appearing in street car advertising giving his full military title and the *initials* of his honours. It is reported that a stenographer, on reading the placards, exclaimed that they meant, "Come Boys, Don't Say Odlum, Call Me General." General Odlum was, so it is said, at one time the youngest general in the British Army (38) and upon his return from the war was, at first, much acclaimed, which afterwards led, unjustly, to a common assumption that he was domineering, self-opinionated, and self-important. As he grew older, he relaxed this stiffness.

14 OCTOBER 1931 - EARLY PUBLIC LIBRARY. CORDOVA STREET AND HASTINGS MILL.

Attention was drawn to an article which appeared in the *Vancouver Star*, 19 August 1931, in reference to the demise of Mr. H. Beeman in which it is stated that "Mr. and Mrs. Machin were the founders and first librarians of the city, which originated in a little store on Cordova Street."

Mr. H.P. McCraney says that this is an inaccuracy, and relates as follows:

"After the city" (Vancouver) "got started, the boarding house at the Hastings Sawmill was discontinued. Other boarding houses were springing up and there was no need to keep it on, so Mr. Alexander decided to close it. With the closing of the boarding house, there was no further use for the library there, and the books were collected in a pile and lay unused. Mr. Alexander mentioned the matter to the Reverend H.G. Fiennes-Clinton of St. James Church" (Father Clinton), "and asked Father Clinton if he could make use of them as they were no longer wanted. Mr. Clinton spoke to Mr. Carter-Cotton" (of the *News-Advertiser* afterwards.) "Mr. Carter-Cotton and I lived in the same house on Carrall Street. Mr. Carter-Cotton spoke to me. The three of us, Father Clinton, Mr. Carter-Cotton and myself got together and appointed ourselves a library committee and took over the books. Some of them are in the Vancouver Public Library yet" (1931).

"We took the books, went around town, gathered up all the old books and magazines we could collect, also collected some money whenever and wherever we could get it. We hired a room over McLennan and McFeely's store, the old store on Cordova Street on the south side about half way between Abbott and Cambie streets, and put George Pollay and his wife in charge. I think Mrs. Pollay is living yet; Mr. Pollay was afterwards killed in a mining accident, and George Pollay was librarian there for several years" (?) "before the Machins came. We kept minute books; I wonder what has become of them." (Continued.)

15 OCTOBER 1931 - THE ELLESMERE ROOMS. PENDER STREET WEST.

The Ellesmere Rooms is a tall wooden building still standing, in 1931, at the corner of Pender Street West and Homer Street (northwest corner), and lower portion of which is now used for cheap stores and offices. It was the first large "boarding house."