

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.

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Contact Information

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





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THE FIRST COUNCIL ASSEMBLES.

"At the head of the table sat Mr. MacLean, and the late Major C. Gardner Johnson, the poll clerk. Mr. Gardner Johnson administered the oath of office to His Worship, and then His Worship swore in the aldermen, and all seated themselves around the long table. Among the few present were Mr. John Boulton, Mr. G.F. Baldwin, Mr. J.J. Blake, Ex-Chief John Stewart, Mr. Jonathan Miller, the jailer, and Mr. T.F. McGuigan. I do not recall any others, though doubtless there may have been. I stood, as a sort of godfather, at His Worship's right."

"I doubt if any of the aldermen were experienced, and after being sworn in they sat down. Someone asked, 'What do we do next?' I said, 'If you will wait a moment or two I will show you,' and I went out around the corner to a little stationery and book store, Tilley's, bought a pad of writing paper and a pen, came back, wrote the city's name at the top of a sheet, and then suggested that they should now appoint a City Clerk.

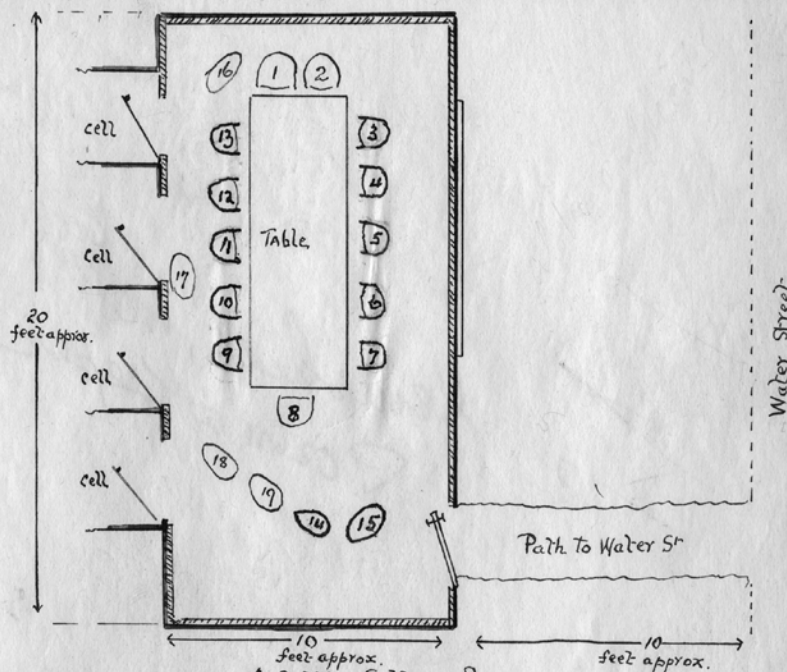
"Someone moved that T.F. McGuigan be appointed City Clerk, and after his appointment passed, I took pen and pad of paper, and placed it in front of Mr. McGuigan.

"The second appointment was G.F. Baldwin as City Treasurer, but they had not as yet twenty-five cents of civic funds for him to take care of.

"The appointments continued. Mr. J.J. Blake was appointed City Solicitor. He was a fine lawyer of sound judgment, and never known to make a mistake. Mr. John Boulton was appointed police magistrate."

"Swearing In" the First City Council Vancouver, 1886.

Description of plan of first meeting of first City
Council of Vancouver, 1886, as narrated by W. H. Gallagher Esq.,
one of the three surviving in 1932 of those present, to Major Matthews.



A little Sitting Room.

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| 1 Mayor-elect. M.A. McLean. | 2. C. Gardiner Johnson, poll clerk |
| 3 T.F. McGuigan. appointed City Clerk | 4 to 13 Aldermen-elect, ten in all |
| 16 W. H. Gallagher. "Godfather" | 17 Jonathan Miller, Constable |
| 18 G. F. Baldwin app ^d City Treasurer | 19 J.J. Blake, app ^d City Solicitor |
| 14 John Boulton " Police Magistrate | 15 Stewart " Chief of Police |

A small wooden building, known as the "Court House", formerly known as the "Customs House", on 66 feet, south side of Water St; next Deighton Hotel, Granville, (Gastown). Plain "V" joint cedar walls, 4 prison cell doors, one front door, window, long table, coal oil lamp hanging, no stove at this meeting (April). See Trutch's Map, "TOWN OF GRANVILLE" 10th March 1890.

J.S.M.
1932