

Early Vancouver

Volume Three

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2011 Edition (Originally Published 1935)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1933-1934.

Supplemental to Volumes One and Two collected in 1931-1932.

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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Footnote or Endnote Reference:

Major James Skitt Matthews, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3 (Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011), 33.

Bibliographic Entry:

Matthews, Major James Skitt. *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3. Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011.

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EXCERPT FROM *THE WEST SHORE*, A JOURNAL PUBLISHED IN PORTLAND, OREGON, JUNE 1881. (FROM PAGE 155.)

ADMIRAL RICHARDS. C.P.R. TERMINUS. BURRARD INLET.

"When directly appealed to by the Imperial Government, Admiral Richards emphatically replied: 'English Bay is the natural terminus on the Pacific Shore.' And he significantly added, 'Much indeed might be profitably sacrificed on the land route to secure this good anchorage, convenient in all respects.'"

The article concludes: "It is safely accepted, as a foregone conclusion, that the Canadian Pacific Railway, passing through New Westminster, shall find its ultimate terminus on a tongue of land separating English Bay from Coal Harbor."

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH W.E. GRAVELEY, 22 OCTOBER 1934.

THE "85 ACRE STEAL."

Query: I got a letter from L.A. Hamilton in which he mentions the "85 acre steal"; what does he mean?

Mr. Graveley: "Oh, that! That's part of D.L. 196 between Gore Avenue and Carrall Street. Major Dupont, Dr. Powell, and Oppenheimer, 'put it over' the Syndicate; that's why they called it the '85 acre steal.'"

Query: How did they do it?

Mr. Graveley: "Oh, I don't know."

FAIRVIEW. MOUNT PLEASANT.

Query: Did Hamilton name Fairview and Mount Pleasant?

Mr. Graveley: "No. He had nothing to do with that."

TERMINAL STEAMSHIP CO. S.S. *BRITANNIA* (CAPTAIN J.A. CATES), 24 AUGUST 1934.

The Captain said she was built in his brother's shipyard at the foot of Burrard Street; the engines came from the Old Country. The furnishings came from Chicago.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH HENRY S. ROWLING, SEPTEMBER 1933.

SAPPERTON.

"In the old days, Sapperton was never called Sapperton. It was 'we are going out to "The Camp,"' or 'he's just come in from "The Camp."' I don't know who started the 'Sapperton' name."

S.S. *ISLANDER*.

First arrived in Vancouver on 30 December 1888.

THE "EIGHTY-FIVE ACRES."

Excerpt from letter, J.W. Stewart (now Major-General), Rogers Pass, 24 September 1886.

"Sept. 24, 1886. The people up here have great faith in Vancouver's future, and a great many of them will go to Vancouver as soon as they get through. I believe Vancouver will be crowded this winter. Glad to hear they are clearing the 85 acres."

Remark by W.E. Graveley: "Dr. Israel Wood Powell and his associates had the eighty-five acres which were reserved." (Commonly called the "85 acre steal.")