

Early Vancouver

Volume Three

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

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.

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

Bibliographic Entry:

Matthews, Major James Skitt. *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3. 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



VANCOUVER, B.C. WATERFRONT PANORAMA IN MAY 1886. CONVERSATION WITH HARRY T. DEVINE, EARLY PHOTOGRAPHER, 8 JUNE 1933.

Mr. Devine: "I took the panorama photograph of Vancouver before the fire in 1886; there were three glass plates, not four. I took it from the old *Robert Ker*, afterwards C.P.R. coal hulk; she was swinging on the tide. The panorama extends from about Abbott Street to beyond Cedar Cove.

Major Matthews: Are you sure there were not four plates; do you know where the plates are?

Mr. Devine: "Not, not four, only three. Don't know where the plates are, they may be in Nelson; there was a fellow up there who had some sort of a lien on them; I tried to get them back. Offered \$50 for them, but he would not take it."

Major Matthews: I have those three plates, paid \$8 for them, but they are in awful shape; I have had prints taken from them, retouched, the new prints retouched, and a key made in black and white tracing; it cost \$31 but the panorama looks well.

Mr. Devine: "I photographed the City Council in front of a tent. 'City Hall' after the fire."

Note: these plates were purchased for \$35 from Ben McGregor, Alma Road, Vancouver, in June 1934. McGregor and his brother purchased a photo business in Nelson, B.C., and found them there many years ago. They were probably kept by Bailey and Neelands, early Vancouver photographers, who also had a photo studio in Nelson in early 1890s.

THE GREAT FIRE OF JUNE 1886. TELEGRAMS.

Wording of copies of telegrams in Dominion Archives, Ottawa.

OTTAWA
THE GREAT NORTH WESTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY OF CANADA
TELEGRAM.

To Sir John A. MacDonald

No. 298 15 pd.

Time 6.40

Ottawa, 14 June, 1886.

Our city is ashes three thousand people homeless can you send us any government aid.

M.A. MacLean

Mayor.

(Answered)

To Sir J. MacDonald

No. 326 22 pd.

Via Sumas

Time 11.05

Ottawa, June 15, 1886

Vancouver city reduced to ashes three thousand people houseless and destitute provincial Govt & corporations assisting what will your Gov't do please answer.

N. Shakespeare

(M.P.)

To Sir J.A. MacDonald

No. 323. 15 pd.

Via Sumas

Time 7.15

Ottawa, June 22, 1886.

Our citizens are in extreme want will your Gov't please do something for us.

M.A. MacLean