

## **Early Vancouver**

### **Volume Four**

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

**2011 Edition (Originally Published 1944)**

*Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1935-1939.*

*Supplemental to Volumes One, Two and Three collected in 1931-1934.*

### **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 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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Rev. C.L. Thompson, whose daughter lives in Vancouver and was born in parsonage.

Rev. Joseph Hall, living at the "Parsonage" at the time of the Fire, 13 June 1886, and whose son works in Chemist shop, David Spencers Ltd.

Rev. Ebenezer Robson, 1887 to about 1890, whose son is in Customs House now, 1936, Vancouver.

### **MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. INSLEY, 9 MAY 1939.**

Widow of the late John E. Insley, and mother of Frank Insley, City Accountant, City Hall, Vancouver, now resident 75 East Seventh Avenue East, who very kindly called at the City Archives this beautiful afternoon; a tall gracious lady, she must have been a "beauty" in her day.

#### **JOHN E. INSLEY. LELAND HOTEL. CHRIST CHURCH ROTHOUSE.**

Mrs. Insley said: "I see the Dean has been mentioning the City Archives in connection with the Golden Jubilee of Christ Church Cathedral, and that you are helping with a booklet on its history, so I thought I would call, and tell you I was married in the 'roothouse.'

"During this period, about 1898-1904, when Mrs. Machin was active in Christ Church choir, I used to sing in the choir.

"We came from Alderney, one of the Channel Islands, on the same ship, the *Parisian*, as Lord and Lady Stanley" (Stanley Park) "came when they came to be Governor-General" (Lord Stanley assumed office 11 June 1888); "and I was Miss Mamie Draper.

"Mr. Insley" (John E. Insley of Port Moody, and later owner of the Leland Hotel, Hastings Street) "and I were married in the 'roothouse' as we called it—the basement of Christ Church—before they built the church above it; the services were held in the 'roothouse,' by the Rev. Mr. Hobson, the first rector. Miss Evelyn Jowett was my bridesmaid, J.H. Bowman, well-known architect, and still living, was best man, and afterwards we had the wedding breakfast in Mr. Jowett's home, next door to the fire hall on Seymour Street; Chief Carlisle, he's getting old now, was at the breakfast, too.

"Mr. Insley died in the New Westminster Hospital, 25<sup>th</sup> April 1922.

"My living children are:

1. John, now in Vancouver.
2. Thelma, Mrs. Kaye, whose husband is with Union Oil Co., Vancouver.
3. Vernon, on the New Westminster Fire Department staff.
4. Frank, City Accountant, City Hall.
5. Daryl Insley, in Vancouver.

Note by J.S.M.: Mr. John Insley—they went to New Westminster before settling at Port Moody, and Capt. Insley (John's father) died and is buried there in the family plot (Masonic section). John Insley owned, at various times, hotels in Port Moody, Yale, Vancouver and New Westminster.

### **MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH CAPT. THOMAS JAMES JACKMAN AND MRS. JACKMAN, AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, CITY HALL, 11 OR 12 FEBRUARY 1936.**

Mr. Jackman came to Gastown in 1883. (No relation to Jackman of Royal Engineers.) They have arrived in Vancouver within the last few days, and are staying at the Ritz Apartments, Georgia Street. Mr. Jackman is wonderfully well preserved for his years—about 74 years.

#### **HASTINGS SAWMILL. MOODYVILLE SAWMILL.**

Mr. Jackman: "I came to Gastown in 1883; born in St. John's, Newfoundland, and came west. Steamboated, towed logs, etc. for the Hastings Mill on their little tug, *Mermaid*, and for the Moodyville Sawmill on the *Etta White*; towed logs from Seymour Narrows, Cape Mudge, Campbell River."

#### **HAND LOGGING ON JERVIS INLET, ETC., 1883-4.**

City Archivist: That was a long way to go for logs in those days, wasn't it?

Mr. Jackman: "Oh, no. There were a lot of hand loggers up there, no horses, no oxen, no donkey engines. Hand loggers were mostly two men partners; side hill logging, screw jacks; pushed the logs downhill, then let the logs slide into salt water; there was a lot of hand logging up Jervis Inlet. I did a lot of towing in 1883 and 1884. Then, in 1890, I went over to Vancouver Island, and went east in 1920; just come back."

#### **SUNNYSIDE HOTEL.**

"Harry Hemlow was running the hotel as I recollect it, and I looked after the office for him. Nowadays I suppose I should be termed managing director, or president, but in those days I simply 'ran the office.'"

#### **DOUGALL HOUSE, CORDOVA STREET. MAYOR DAVID OPPENHEIMER.**

"Jack Boulton" (magistrate), "David Oppenheimer" (mayor), "Tom McGuigan" (City clerk) "and his brother, Dr. McGuigan, stopped at the Dougall House." (Note: where the first big civic banquet hotel was held. See photo No. Bu. 24, corner of Cordova and Abbott.) "I remember once, when Oppenheimer was running against Templeton, afterwards mayor, for the mayoralty, I bet \$500 that Oppenheimer would win. We were in the bar of the Dougall House when Oppenheimer passed; something happened which made me remark that I had \$500 on his success; he leaned over to my ear and whispered, 'If you lose, charge it to me.' That was the sort of man Oppenheimer was."

#### **MAYOR FRED COPE.**

"Mayor Cope died on the Skagway Trail."

#### **MAJOR GENERAL J.W. STEWART, C.B.**

"Jack Stewart" (Major General Stewart, C.B.) "worked on the townsite survey with Hamilton, doing engineering work; just a young man then, and L.A. Hamilton was laying out the city of Vancouver; I have just been up to see him in this office in the Vancouver Block; he is getting pretty feeble; his wife died recently. Jack Stewart married one of the Moran girls of Spokane; Pat Welch married another, Tim Foley still another; the three Moran girls. That's how it came about Foley, Welch and Stewart, who built the Pacific Great Eastern, and part of the Grand Trunk Pacific, etc. He is one of the grandest men the Lord ever produced."

City Archivist: How do you judge?

Mr. Jackman: (with emphasis) "By his actions. When General Stewart was building the Grand Trunk Pacific, I was captain of one of the boats on the Skeena."

#### **FURTHER MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. T.J. JACKMAN, 20 FEBRUARY 1936.**

##### **GREAT FIRE, 1886. C.P.R. OFFICES AND STAFF. H.H. ABBOTT.**

"H.H. Abbott was C.P.R. General Superintendent at the time of the fire; a Mr. Terhune" (sic) "was his private secretary, and Mr. Smith was the clerk; that constituted the whole C.P.R. staff in Vancouver before the Fire. Of course, L.A. Hamilton was here, but he was in charge of land surveying, and Mr. Cambie was civil engineer in charge of the whole C.P.R. engineering work. They were all living at the Sunnyside Hotel."

##### **SUNNYSIDE HOTEL, NEW PART.**

"Well, the day of the fire, Mr. Abbott was at New Westminster. Just as I was leaving the hotel in a hurry to seek safety—the hotel was in flames, the roof caught fire first, the wind was so strong it blew a firebrand on the roof of the new part, and the roof took fire—well, just as I was leaving the Sunnyside, Mr. Terhune" (sic) "came running across the street from the C.P.R. offices" (Ferguson Block—wood—southeast corner Powell and Carrall streets) "with three bundles of bills" (money in paper notes) "in his arm, and asked me to put them in the Sunnyside safe as they" (the C.P.R.) "had not got a safe. I had barely time to put the three bundles of money in the safe, and then 'beat it.' The new part" (see *World* newspaper souvenir number, 1896, for illustrations of both old and new parts) "was then in flames."