

Early Vancouver

Volume Six

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

2011 Edition (Originally Published 1945)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1940-1945.

Supplemental to volumes one, two, three, four and five collected in 1931, 1932, 1934, 1939 and 1944.

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

Bibliographic Entry:

Matthews, Major James Skitt. *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 6. Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011.

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MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH HUGH E. CAMPBELL, 2848 BIRCH STREET, MEMBER OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE, 1886, ETC., 28 OCTOBER 1941.

I had phoned him to come and see a small "silver" cup presented by the Alert Hose Team to their Captain, 1888-1894, T.W. Lillie, and re-presented to the City Archives by "Billy" Stark, son of James Stark, pioneer. Mr. Stark married a lady who had been a sort of ward of "Tom" Lillie.

FIRST CITY CLERK. THOS. F. MCGUIGAN. FIRST COUNCIL MEETING.

Mr. Campbell: (looking at typed, bound copies of Minutes of First Council meetings, page 4) "I don't care what those minutes record; I was there, and know what happened. It says here" (page 4, para. 37) "that 'THE MAYOR STATED THAT JOHN ROONEY DECLINED THE OFFICE OF CITY CLERK.' May 12th 1886."

POLICE STATION, 1886. GRANVILLE. SUNNYSIDE HOTEL.

"Rooney was not at the meeting; I was, and standing at the back of the little hall; it was a small hall, right where the first fire hall was afterwards on Water Street, but at that time it was the police station and everything else. There were three or four cells, not off the hall, but off a passageway from it; the cell doors opened on the passageway.

"I was just a young fellow, but I knew that Tom McGuigan would take the job; I knew where Tom was waiting; he was waiting in the Sunnyside Hotel across the street. So as soon as Mayor MacLean asked for McGuigan, I said, 'Here,' and then without waiting or making much noise, got up and moved towards the door, slipped across the street, got McGuigan who came right over with me. When we got in, Baldwin was sitting right up front as City Treasurer."

GEO. F. BALDWIN. FIRST CITY TREASURER.

Major Matthews: How do you know as "City Treasurer"?

Mr. Campbell: "Well, he was there up in front sitting. Just as we got in the door, the Mayor asked—he was a blunt old fellow—'What's keeping McGuigan from coming up here,' and McGuigan answered back that he was trying to get through the crowd. And *McGuigan went up and took his position as City Clerk right then.*

"Now, here is another thing; you've seen lots of Tom McGuigan's handwriting; the minutes of the meeting are in his handwriting.

Major Matthews: Yes, may be, but how could he have the old minute book there; they did not buy any stationery until after; look at the old invoices.

JOHN ROONEY.

Mr. Campbell: "Well, Rooney, never worked as City Clerk; of course, he might have declined right there, but I always heard he was not even at the meeting."

Major Matthews: How did you come to be messenger boy for Tom McGuigan?

THOS. F. MCGUIGAN.

Mr. Campbell: "Well, Tom was a hail fellow well met, and had been in the old Mounted Police, and came down here; he resigned from the police, and was not doing anything. Mind you, he was only a young fellow then; that's all he was, but Dr. McGuigan, his brother, was a doctor, and of course quite prominent."