Early Vancouver
Volume Three

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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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HOMER STREET METHODIST CHURCH.
The corner stone of the Homer Street Methodist Church at the corner of Dunsmuir and Homer Street was laid on 26 September 1888. (See Weekly News-Advertiser, 3 October 1888.)

Burrard Inlet School District.

Granville or Hastings School District.
Is not yet established under the School Act. Steps were taken early in the current year to form the District, but the matter was deferred until after the passage of the school Act. A teacher, Miss Georgina Sweney, has been appointed, however, temporarily till close of year. Salary, $40 per month. School room large and comfortable, put up by the mill proprietors, and used as a church. Desks, blackboards, etc. required. About 20 children in district.

Sgd. JOHN JESSOP.

Education Office,
Victoria, 30th August 1872.

From First Annual Report of the Public Schools in the Province of British Columbia for the year ending 31 July 1872.

First City Hall.
The original aldermen’s desks of the council Chamber, small, primitive “affairs” with one top hinged “drawer,” numbering at first ten, afterwards twelve, and made locally of cedar, served for many years both in the old City Hall on Powell Street and afterwards in the City Hall (Old Market Hall) on Westminster Avenue (Main Street). The aldermen continued to use them until the city offices were moved to the “Temporary City Hall” (Holden Building) on Hastings Street, when they were replaced with small oak desks.

One of the originals was saved in 1934 from the basement of the old City Hall, now a Public Library reading room, and a descriptive brass label placed upon it.

17 NOVEMBER 1934 – MRS. MARGARET MCINNIS.
Place and date of birth: Middle River, 1850.
Date of arrival in Granville or Vancouver, B.C.: 1878, from Le Mars, Iowa.
Avocation: John R. McInnis was a school teacher before going to Iowa. Live in Le Mars, Iowa before going to B.C. Farmed in Iowa.
Marriage: Le Mars, Iowa, 1875.
Bridegroom: John R. McInnis, son of Donald McInnis of Nova Scotia. Mrs. Margaret McInnis was the daughter of John Finlayson of Middle River, N.S.
CHILDREN.
Alexander John McInnis, born 8 October 1876, Plymouth Co., Iowa. Died 16 October 1882 in Granville, B.C.

Duncan Donald McInnis, born 20 April 1880, Surrey Township, B.C. Living at Middle River, N.S.

Alexander John McInnis, born 4 November 1885, Middle River, N.S. Died 4 December 1931 at Middle River, N.S.

Donald Finlayson McInnis, born 8 December 1888, Middle River, N.S. Living at Shubenacadie, N.S.

OTHER SURVIVING MEMBERS OF FAMILY.
“Grandchildren:
“Ruth Morrison McInnis of Shubenacadie, N.S. Aged 14 years.

“Donald Ross McInnis of Shubenacadie, N.S. Aged 10 years.”
- D.F. McInnis, M.D., C.M.

FAMILY ORIGINS.
Grandparents were born in the Highlands of Scotland in Inverness-shire and migrated to Nova Scotia (Cape Breton Island) about 1819. Mrs. Margaret McInnis’ grandfather served his time in the British Army, mostly in India. His son, John Finlayson, was also born in Scotland and came to Nova Scotia at about the age of twelve years. Her mother’s surname was McRae. John R. McInnis’ mother was also a McRae.

HISTORICAL.
“John R. McInnis and his wife, Margaret Finlayson, both went to Iowa in 1869 and were married there in 1875. My father, John R., had taken up a homestead near Le Mars, Iowa, about 1871. In 1877 he sold this homestead and went to B.C. My mother and my oldest brother, then almost two years old, went to B.C. in 1878. They went by the Union Pacific Railway to San Francisco and by steamer from there to Victoria, B.C. Father followed the lumber woods until 1882 when he took over the Sunnyside and was proprietor from June 1882 to June 1885. He left B.C. in June 1885 and arrived in Nova Scotia 1 July 1885. He died in 1929 at the age of 85 years. When my parents returned from B.C., 1885, they came east by the Northern Pacific as the C.P.R. was not completed.

“A trip from N.S. to Iowa in 1869 was made by a sailing ship to Boston and by rail from Boston to Chicago.”
- D.F. McInnis, M.D., C.M.