

## **Early Vancouver**

### **Volume Two**

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

**2011 Edition (Originally Published 1933)**

*Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1932.*

*Supplemental to volume one collected in 1931.*

### **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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## **JOHN MORTON OF BURRARD INLET AND ENGLISH BAY, VANCOUVER, B.C., 28 JUNE 1932.**

The attached statement, headed "John Morton, Vancouver's early pioneer," was written by his son, Joseph Morton, and is a carbon copy of a statement which he (Mr. Joseph Morton) requested the Vancouver newspapers, *The Sun* and *The Province* to publish—according to his own statement made to me this 28 June 1932. He delivered the statement to me at my house after, he stated, unsuccessfully attempting to get it published by these newspapers.

Mr. Joseph Morton has been well known to me for many years, and he has always laboured until intense emotion when discussing the manner in which his father's estate was bequeathed, afterwards administered, and its present inaccessibility to him. He stated to me today that "all I have" is the "Morton Rooms," facing the beach at English Bay, that the revenue from these rooms is annually \$2,460, that the expenses are approximately \$1,200 per annum, and that, within a recent time, \$3,000 was spent on repairs. He said, "You see, that does not leave much for me." And he added, "I was given this property, or \$30,000, but was not given the option of a choice."

Mr. Morton is not now employed, nor has he been, to my knowledge, for some years; he spends much of his time experimenting with machinery, etc. in his basement. Three or four (roughly) years ago, his wife was employed in a clerical capacity in some office, I believe a medical practitioner's.

J.S. Matthews

The impression might be gained from this statement that Mr. Joseph Morton's filial attachment to his father is or was not what might be expected of a son, but this is not the case in fact. Except when discussing the manner of the distribution, etc. of the estate of Mr. John Morton, his references to his father are such as one would naturally expect from a dutiful son, and his references to his mother—who died three days after his birth—are as affectionate as though he had known her. She is, to him, a sort of beautiful legend.

J.S.M.

Joseph Morton died in the Asylum for the Insane, New Westminster, eight months later, on 2 March 1933. He had been ailing for months; about a week before his death was taken to the general hospital, became violent, was sent to Westminster, and died shortly after admission. For years he never ceased to talk of the supposed undue influence of designing friends over his father before his father's death, and the fraud and manipulation of the estate after his father's death. It was an obsession.

## **MEMOIRS AND FACTS RELATING TO THE LIFE AND DEATH OF JOHN MORTON, VANCOUVER'S EARLY PIONEER.**

Mr. John Morton, accompanied by his cousin Mr. Sam Brighthouse and Mr. William Hailstone arrived in New Westminster, B.C. in the year 1862.

Shortly afterwards they came over to Burrard Inlet and preempted from the government all the land situated west of what is now known as Burrard Street and extending to Stanley Park. All three pioneers died very wealthy and within about thirteen months of each other, Mr. Morton passing away on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 1912. His wife, Jane Ann Morton, was the mother of his two children who survived him and who were Mrs. W.E.A. Thornton of Sardis, B.C. and Joseph Morton of 2116 York Street, City.

Mrs. Morton was formerly Miss Jane Ann Bailey of Blackpool, Lancashire, England and was the sister of James Bailey, Esq., Councillor and Justice of the Peace of Blackpool and she was also the sister of Mr. Sam Bailey, Tea Merchant of Blackpool. Mrs. Morton was also in partnership with her brother James in business in Blackpool which partnership she retained even during her married life to Mr. Morton until the time of her death in the year 1881 at New Westminster, B.C.

She is also one of the old pioneers but apparently has been forgotten though she is still resting in the Odd Fellows Cemetery at Sapperton, New Westminster, B.C. It was the wealth from her share in her business venture in which she formerly worked and helped to build up the business with her brother as above related that allowed Mr. John Morton to hold onto his preemption here