

**Early Vancouver**

**Volume Five**

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

**2011 Edition (Originally Published 1945)**

*Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1936-1945.*

*Supplemental to volumes one, two, three and four collected in 1931, 1932 and 1934.*

**About the 2011 Edition**

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home of a quarter of a million people, one of the great seaports of a the world, and the second greatest in Canada, the wife of the first settler of Burrard Inlet, and of our city, and one who, even herself, saw our beautiful city as a wilderness of forest and swamp.

J.S. Matthews.

Rev. P.C. Parker, executor of John Morton, called at City Archives today, 8 February 1939, and tells me Mrs. Ruth Morton has lost her sight.

J.S. Matthews.

### **21 FEBRUARY 1938, 8 P.M. – “THE WHITE SANDS OF ENGLISH BAY.”**

The telephone rang. A soft voice said faintly, “It is Mrs. Morton. Did you see the *Province* tonight, about the White Sands?” And then she added cheerily, “You have got it right, you have got it right.”

The widow of John Morton, first settler on Burrard Inlet was speaking to me, in reference to an article, “The White Sands of English Bay,” published tonight, Monday, 21 February, on the editorial page of the *Province*. It told of John Morton’s fascination for the white sands formerly at the foot of Denman Street, English Bay.

In no other city in the world could such a conversation have taken place; a conversation with a lady whose husband was the first man to settle, who had slept beneath the branches whilst erecting a first shelter, October 1862, and now a city ten miles wide by seven deep, of towering buildings, beautiful homes, three hundred churches, one hundred parks, and seventy schools.

J.S.M.

### **MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. ARCHIBALD MURRAY, WIDOW, 2423 WINDSOR STREET, AND 960 EAST EIGHTH AVENUE, AT CITY ARCHIVES, 11 JULY 1939.**

#### **GENEALOGY.**

Mrs. Murray said: “I came to Vancouver in November 1889 from Brandon, Manitoba, where I had been for six months. My home town was Owen Sound, where I was educated. Father was James Rainey, and Mother, Mary Ann Cochrane, both originally Scotch, but both Mother and Father came from Ireland as children with my grandparents. Mother was just a baby at the time, and it took six weeks to cross the Atlantic in a sailing ship.

“Both grandparents Rainey and Cochrane settled, at first, in the province of Québec, and their children, my father and mother, moved to Owen Sound, where they thought they could do better. It was all bush and woods when they went there, but, as I recall our Rainey home at Owen Sound, it was one hundred and fifty acres of nice level farm land which Father had cleared; it was quite an old farm, with an orchard bearing fruit; stocked with cattle, and mixed farming. Father had developed it out of the wild.”

#### **CHRIST CHURCH ROTHOUSE. FIRST POST OFFICE.**

“I was married to Archibald Murray, November 10<sup>th</sup> 1891, in the ‘Roothouse’” (basement without church above) “of Christ Church, Georgia Street, by the Rev. Mr. Hobson, the first rector. Mr. Murray was a merchant tailor, had a store at first on Carrall Street, then a small wooden building in front of the Rosedale Dining Rooms on the north side of Hastings between Hamilton and Homer” (Miller’s first Post Office, see photo No. P. Bu. 13.) “Mr. Miller died in Toronto, December 17<sup>th</sup> 1931.

“Our only child is James Randolph Murray, who married Florence Batterson; he operated the Collingwood Garage, Kingsway, and lives on School Street. They have one child, a son, Clifford Murray, now twenty-one.”