

**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**

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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more nervous he became, so instead of buying a ticket he rushed past the wicket and went on board, got his baggage and went back to the boarding house where he underwent no small amount of scoffing for his timidity. The next morning, however, his hostess said, "O you lucky man the boat has gone down with all hands." The vessel was the *Golden Lion* or the *Golden Age*—something golden.

I'll give you another instance which shows you the carefulness and the thriftiness of John Morton. He was very strong in the common virtues. One day, just before I came here in 1907, there was a man doing some work for him on his house down at English Bay. Mr. Morton was drawing some old nails out of the lumber and straightening them to be used again. The carpenter he was employing would not use them, told Mr. Morton he was mean. It was about this time that John Morton went to Church one Sunday morning, and there was a Russian Baron—Baron Uxgull, who was making an appeal for funds for a Baptist College in Russia to train Preachers for the Ministry. John Morton gave \$250 at that Sunday service for the work. Afterwards I said to him, "a man that cannot save cannot give."

### **BAPTIST COLLEGE.**

Mr. Morton gave to the Baptist Denomination several acres of land in the West End for a Baptist College. He got a Mr. Hamilton, an engineer, to choose the most suitable part of his estate for this purpose, and he chose the part near the entrance of Stanley Park where there was a splendid view up the Inlet. The city did not subdivide it. The property was donated to the Baptist Convention but they failed to pay the taxes. The property reverted to the city for taxes, but Mr. Morton stepped up, paid the taxes and took the property back. Mrs. Morton has some letters which show that, as far back as 1887, Mr. Morton counseled with the Rand bros. that were his agents, indicating his desire to provide money for religious educational work. He had a lawsuit with someone who had squatted on his property at the foot of Bidwell Street, which somehow was lost to him. I witnessed his will. He asked me to make it for him, but I told him it was a legal matter and I did not understand that kind of work. Mr. C.B. Morgan made it.

When I organized the Fairview Baptist Church in 1908, Mr. Morton was very generous, giving \$300 as a start, and when it was finished any indebtedness that was on the Church he himself and Mrs. Morton paid. Afterwards he said, "as winter will be coming on, you will require a furnace." I said, "yes." "Well," he says, "I will get you one of the best there is in the city."

Mr. and Mrs. Morton furnished all the funds for the "Ruth Morton Church." They also paid the indebtedness of the North Vancouver Baptist Church. There was no lack of the generosity of this worthy couple.

Checked with original manuscript. 12 January 1936. J.S. Matthews.

### **MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MRS. RUTH MORTON, WIDOW OF JOHN MORTON, FIRST SETTLER OF BURRARD INLET, AT HER APARTMENT, 1190 WEST 12<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, BAYVIEW 5523L, 6 SEPTEMBER 1935.**

#### **MRS. RUTH MORTON. JOHN MORTON.**

J.S.M.: Is that you, Mrs. Morton?

Mrs. M.: (feebly; scratchy voice, but most agreeable tone) "Yee as."

J.S.M.: I want to come up to see you.

Mrs. M.: (same feeble voice of an aged lady) "Let me know when you're coming," etc. etc.