

## **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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Excerpt, *Columbian*, 25 June 1862: "We hear great complaints from settlers on this road" ... "the prospect of securing an abundance of coal on Coal Harbour has caused a flood of applications for preemptions there."

4. Excerpt, Preemption Record, 205, 17 October 1860, 250 acres, Col. R.C. Moody, R.E.: "On False Creek, near the trail, to include clear land around the two ponds, and abut on the upper end of False Creek."

*NOTE ADDED LATER:*

One of these "two ponds" was no doubt Trout Lake, and the other a much smaller one, now dried up, which straddled what is now Renfrew Street, at a point where the Great Northern Railway crosses that street in Blocks 35 and 36, and shown in a map issued in 1906 by the Provincial Government for use at the sale of government lands at auction by Messrs. Rankin and Ford, Auctioneers, 1906.

5. Excerpt, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 1, conversation with C.E. Pittendrigh, New Westminster: "There were, in the early days, many dried weather-whitened antlers of elk lying around Little Lake" (Deer Lake).

Note: Indians, when travelling in the forest, naturally follow the easiest grades, and the lowest grades are the creek beds, and a route from Burnaby Lake to False Creek, via Still Creek, Trout Lake and China Creek—at the mouth of which there was an Indian clearing—would not rise more than 100 feet above sea level. An Indian trail from False Creek to the swamps of Trout Lake, "Renfrew Street Lake," Still Creek, and Burnaby Lake muskegs—in all of which elk and beaver abounded—would naturally have been used by Indians to bring out the heavy carcasses of meat for consumption by the hundreds, perhaps thousands, living in the villages east of Point Grey and Point Atkinson. The trail mentioned by Col. Moody, R.E., was probably an old Indian trail as well known to Indians as Kingsway is to us.

J.S. Matthews, 14 April 1939

**EXCERPT FROM LETTER, DATED 26 NOVEMBER 1932, FROM THEO. BRYANT, LADYSMITH, B.C., SON OF REV. CORNELIUS BRYANT, METHODIST MINISTER AT GRANVILLE, B.C. IN EARLY '80s.**

Copied from lead pencil postscript of back of letter of 26 November 1932 in ink.

"You mention a place, Morton's, of 1862.

"I may say that I was at an old log house on the edge of the woods about 1879 or 1880. It was towards Coal Harbour, as was known then. The old house was in disrepair then, but had been inhabited for some time, and the trees had grown into the clearing. The currants and raspberries were growing wild, and also the foxgloves were in bloom; it was quite a climb up the bank to the top where the old place was. I never had any information as to who it belonged to; perhaps it was Morton's."

Comment on above: it undoubtedly was, for no other hut or clearing other than Morton's clearing could possibly have existed in that neighbourhood which could conform with the above description.

J.S. Matthews, 1932

"Province"

June 26, 1934

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## MORTON WILL CASE SETTLED

Surplus Income From West  
End Estate Will Go  
To Daughter.

**TOTAL \$350,000**

By order of Mr. Justice Robertson in Supreme Court the surplus income from the estate of John Morton goes to his daughter, Mrs. Lizzie Thornton, aged 54, of Sardis.

Morton, who died on September 23, 1915, owned a large portion of the West End before the advent of the C.P.R. At the time of his death his estate was valued at \$772,000. On April 18, 1933, it had shrunk to \$536,591. This has since been written down to \$350,000.

The will left an annuity of \$1200 to his wife, Mrs. Ruth Morton, aged 86, of Sardis.

### \$100,000 TO BAPTISTS.

Interlineations in the will by the late Mr. Morton indicated that the surplus income should not be distributed until after the widow's death.

After hearing argument from counsel, Mr. Justice Robertson decided that Mrs. Thornton did not have to wait for that eventuality, with the result that the surplus income from the whole of the estate will be paid to her.

On Mrs. Morton's death, \$100,000 is to be paid out of the estate to the Baptist denomination of British Columbia for educational and religious purposes.

The remainder will be divided among Mrs. Thornton's three children. She has come into the share left to her brother, Joseph Morton, on his death.

After his lordship decided the surplus income issue in favor of Mrs. Thornton, counsel stated that they did not think the court would have to be troubled about other points which they had been prepared to discuss.

One was a request of Mrs. Florence Morton, widow of Joseph, for payment of a \$1000 annuity, left him by his father; and another was a suggestion that a granddaughter, Mrs. Edna Ruth Rennie, should settle her claim for \$20,000.

Mr. R. L. Reid, K.C., was counsel for Mrs. Thornton, Mr. J. G. Gibson for the trustee, Yorkshire & Canadian Trust Ltd., Mr. J. P. Hogg for infant children of Mrs. Thornton, and Mr. G. Roy Long for Mrs. Florence Morton.

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Copy.  
(Excerpts only.)

R.R. No. 1  
Sardis, B.C.  
September 1<sup>st</sup> 1932

Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.  
Archivist,  
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear sir:

Your letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> of August 1932 with data enclosed re the early settlement of Vancouver by my father, Mr. Brighthouse, and Mr. Hailstone, received, for which I thank you very much.

My brother, Joseph Morton, has pretty well covered the ground. I might add that I am the mother of four children.

Edna Ruth, who is now married to George H. Rannie. They have one son, Floyd Norton Rannie, nine years old.

A son, John Edward, recently married to Miss Evelyn Betts.

Another daughter, Mabel Elsie, who passed about 30<sup>th</sup> September 1928, and a daughter, Viola Heather, who is now attending Columbia College, Westminster.

There are three or four incidents which might be of interest. On one of my father's trips to the Cariboo; on his way out he met a pack team the owner of which shod his mules, and he had two dozen horse shoe nails which he didn't wish to pack, so he gave them to my father. He carried them one day, and met another pack train going into the Cariboo, and sold the nails for four dollars each, \$192.00, in all.

He told me on different occasions about wanting a canoe on Coal Harbour; they bought one in New Westminster, and it took them two days carrying it through the woods from New Westminster to Coal Harbour on their backs.

Another time, while my father was on his preemption with Hailstone and Brighthouse, an Indian called at the door holding a salmon. Brighthouse went to the door first, and could not understand the Chinook language. The Indian kept saying, "sit-cum-dolla," "hiash close," which meant 50¢ for the salmon. Mr. Hailstone then went out, and returned the same as Mr. Brighthouse. The last to go was Mr. Morton, and the Indian still repeated, "sit-cum-dolla," "hiash close." My father said, "What! Six dollars and all my clothes for one salmon?" The sale was not made.

(signed) Mrs. Lizzie Thornton (née Morton)