



## Celebrating the History of Mundy Park and the Munday Family of Coquitlam

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*Munday family, ca. March 5, 1902*

*Back row, from left to right: William, Annie, Thomas, Harriet and Henry*

*Middle row, from left to right: Elizabeth, Edward, Jane Constance, George Anthony and George*

*Front row, from left to right: James, Matthew and Constance*

In celebration of Coquitlam's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary...



Thomas and Annie Munday

A distant relative of myself and immediate family, by the name of George Anthony Munday, married Miss Jane Constance Thompson and emigrated in 1869 from Hampshire, England to Owen Sound, Ontario with their first four children. From there they moved to California in 1877 and then to Sapperton, BC. They had 3 more girls, now with 11 kids in total.

In 1895, Mr. George Munday purchased 150 acres of land known as Mundy Park today.<sup>[1]</sup> He managed to make this purchase through a Dominion Crown grant for homesteaders. The cost of the land at the time of purchase is not known, but was of little value in comparison to today's economy.

George Munday was always remembered as a very honest and well-respected man in the community. In 1882, he was a father and a brick manufacturer and passed away June 12, 1915, aged 72. The executor of the estate held meetings at a family home, where they discovered there was a five-acre property on Columbia Street, which was subsequently divided into 20 lots in the year 1916, as no one had any interest in them. The City claimed them for back taxes, but there was no mention of the Coquitlam acreage, due to the fact that it had already been sold off.

The Munday Family then lent its name to Mundy Park, Mundy Lake and Mundy Street (although the Coquitlam Municipality altered the spelling around 1979 – 1981).<sup>[2]</sup>



Myrtle Munday

My Great Aunt Myrtle Constance Munday Hamilton, my father Terrence Munday's Aunt, was the granddaughter to the original founders, George and Constance Munday. Myrtle also lived in Coquitlam at Christmas Manor on Austin Road for many, many years.

My father, Terrence Munday Greenall (full legal name), was raised by his adoptive family after his mother Philamelia Munday's passing, and at age 11, helped build his new home at 620 Robinson Road (named after Mr. and Mrs. Robinson of Coquitlam, who were living there at that time; Ivy Avenue was also named after our longtime family friend, Mrs. Ivy Schmidt). Due to the fact that my father was adopted, he was given a new name, but was a Munday nonetheless.

My father purchased the home for what seemed a great sum at the time of \$18,000.00 back in 1963 – '64, when he and my mother Lavinia Mae Sturm Greenall began to raise their own family of three daughters, myself, Stacey Lee Munday-Greenall, Shelley Ann, and Sherri, growing up with the good fortune of knowing the Robinsons and Ivy Schmidt.

My father lived in Coquitlam from 1953 at 620 Robinson Street, Coquitlam, until his death Nov 25, 2006, and is buried straight across the road, literally feet from the home he grew up in at Robinson Memorial Cemetery.

The home was designed and built by my Step-Grandfather, John "Jack" Greenall, of Greenall Bros. Construction, where the home still stands today. We are in the hopes that this home will one day be declared a heritage home by the City of Coquitlam.

It wasn't until our first reunion in 1985 at Mundy Park that we had the chance to meet our extended family, along with another reunion at Queens Park in New Westminster, BC and the last one at the Peace Arch Park near Blaine, Washington in 1991 – '92; family from all over Canada and the U.S. came to what now seems like may have been our final reunion.<sup>[3]</sup>

I'm hoping to arrange another family reunion one day, and by sharing this story, this may help get the word out that a reunion has long since been overdue.

I'm proud to know that my distant relatives George and Constance were the founders of this incredible piece of

land, and it's been preserved for not only its residents to play ball, go on nature walks and ride by ponds and incredible scenery, but also to provide a home to a plethora of wildlife like black bears, coyotes, raccoons and a wide variety of birds and ducks, making it one of Coquitlam's most precious gems in its 125-year history.

- *Story and images submitted by Stacey Lee Munday-Greenall*

[1] The Crown Land Grant for District Lot 359 was granted to Jane Constance Munday in 1895; however, the Tax Assessment Roll for 1893 (the City's earliest existing tax assessment roll) lists George Anthony Munday as the owner of Lot 359. The Munday ownership of that lot appears to predate 1895.

[2] The earliest reference to the new spelling 'Mundy Road' is in the Council Minutes from 1929, so it appears that sometime between 1907 and 1929, the spelling was changed, but it's not known why it was changed.

[3] By 1933, some of the district lot was owned by the Corporation of the District of Coquitlam, and part of the lot was marked "Park" in the tax assessment records. By 1939, 90 percent of the lot was owned by the municipality, as was most of District Lot 360 next to it. In 1944, Councillor Gueho recommended that an area around Mundy Lake be reserved for Park purposes. It was so moved that 40 acres surrounding Mundy Lake in District Lot 362 (north of Lot 359) be reserved for park purposes. (Council Minutes, April 24, 1944). Then, in 1971, according to Bylaw No. 1973 (1971), Mundy Lake Memorial Park was dedicated as a public park. After that, Bylaw 2699 (1993) dedicated Mundy Park as an Urban Forest Park on December 7th, 1993.

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