

## **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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### **Contact Information**

City of Vancouver Archives  
1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9  
604.736.8561  
archives@vancouver.ca  
vancouver.ca/archives

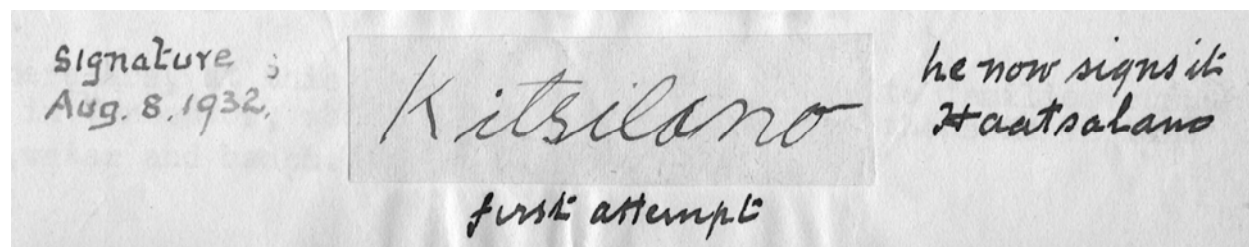


The first photograph of August (Jack) Haatsalano. 56 years old—never previously photographed. Steffens-Colmer Photo, Vancouver.

Cap: eagle's feathers, white patch of rabbit (winter) skins, cloth medallions made by his daughter.

Coat: leather, adorned with little club shaped, flat, painted wood. Hard wood to make noise, when dancing especially.

Trousers, etc. Trousers of cotton, wool socks, coloured, and moccasins. Moccasins have rattles but were not worn on this occasion; same as rattles on chest.



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### **THE INDIAN FOOD SUPPLY BEFORE THE WHITEMANS CAME. AUGUST KITSILANO.**

"Whitemans food change everything," said August Kitsilano in a conversation on 26 October 1932 while we sat at lunch in a downtown restaurant. "Indians had plenty food long ago, but I could not do without tea and sugar now. Them days, Indians not want tea and sugar; know nothing about it. Lots meat, bear, deer, beaver; cut meat up in strips and dry, no part wasted, not even the guts. Clean out the guts, fill him up with something good, make sausage, just like whitemans; only head wasted, throw head away. Then salmon. Plenty salmon, sturgeon, flounder, trout, lots all sorts fish, some sun dry, some smoke dry. Indian know which best wood for smoke dry; lots crab and clam on beach.

"Then berries. Indian woman know how to dry berries, dry lots berries, just like raisins. Dry them first, then press in pancakes, make them in blocks like pancakes, about three pounds to block," (here he made a sign of piling them up in piles.) (Rev. C.M. Tate says, "big, flat compressed cakes.") "stack cakes in high pile in house; when want cook, break piece off. Elderberry put in sack, you know Indian sack; put sack in creek so clean water run over them and keep them fresh. By and by get sack out of creek, take some berry out, put sack back again. Oh, lots of berries 'til berries come again.

"Then vegetables and roots. Indian woman gather vegetables and roots. Woman dig roots with sharp stick, down deep, sometimes four feet, follow root with stick, break off; some very nice for eating, some" (fern root) "make white flour powder, some dry for winter. Oh, lots of food those days. I think maybe three thousand, perhaps more, Indians live around Vancouver those days.

"But whitemans food change everything. Everywhere whitemans goes he change food, China, other place, he always change food where he goes.

"I was born at Snauq, the old Indian village under the Burrard bridge. When I little boy, I listen old people talk. Old people say Indians see first whitemans up near Squamish. When they see first ship they think it an island with three dead trees, might be schooner, might be sloop, two masts and bowsprit, sails tied up. Indian braves in about twenty canoes come down Squamish river, go see. Get nearer, see men on island, men have black clothes with high hat coming to point at top, think most likely black uniform and great coat turned up collar like priest's cowl. Whitemans give Indians ship's biscuit; Indian not know what biscuit for. Before whitemans come Indians have little balls, not very big, roll them along ground shoot at them with bow and arrow for practice, teach young Indians so as not to miss deer; just the same you use clay pigeon. Indian not know ship's biscuit good to eat, so roll them along ground like little practice balls, shoot at them, break them up." (Sign as of bowling a cricket ball "underhand.")