

Early Vancouver

Volume Three

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Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1933-1934.

Supplemental to Volumes One and Two collected in 1931-1932.

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 125th anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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PROVINCE, 30 JUNE 1933 – AUGUST JACK KHAATSALANO.

(See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2.) A large framed photo, richly coloured, of August Jack Khaatsalano, only surviving grandchild of Khaatsa-lah-nogh, the Indian chief from whom Kitsilano takes its name, has been added to the historical treasures of the City Archives, recently established at the City Hall by the City Council. The gift is made with commendable public spirit by Mr. Richard J. Steffens, of the Steffens-Colmer Studio, from his large collection of portraits of celebrities of Vancouver.

Early in the nineteenth century, Chief Haatsal-lah-nogh—he had no English name, nor must he be confused with the legendary Khaatsa-lah-nogh—together with his brother Chief Chip-kay-am, migrated to English Bay from the place of their birth, Took-tpaak-mik, an Indian village some miles up the Squamish River. Chief Chip-kay-am went to False Creek, where he established Snauq, the first Indian settlement there, on a tiny clearing, framed in towering forest, on the shore. It consisted of a number of Lumlam (Indian houses) and a big potlatch house, and stood on the exact site over which the Burrard Bridge now crosses.

Chief Khaatsa-lah-nogh, the brother, went to Chay-thoos (high bank), a grassy clearing where the Capilano water pipes enter Stanley Park just inside Prospect Point. He died and was buried there some sixty-odd years ago.

Khaytulk, his son, known to early pioneers as Supplejack, also lived at Chaythoos, died in the early 80s, and with much ceremony was buried there, lying in a small canoe, covered with red blankets, placed inside a primitive mausoleum, a small shack with windows, raised on posts. (See W.A. Grafton, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3.) It was at this picturesque spot, beside Supplejack's grave, that the civic procession of Lord Stanley, officials and citizens, after formal progress through the city streets, halted for the speech making at the formal opening of Stanley Park in October 1889. Khaytulk's wife, Qwhay-wat, was buried about 1906 in the old Indian graveyard beside the southern approach (Cedar Street and First Avenue) of the Burrard Bridge.

August Jack Khaatsalano was born at Snauq under the Burrard Bridge, and as a child watched Vancouver burn, in 1886, from that spot. He now resides at Capilano River, North Vancouver, with his wife Swanamia, a demure Indian lady of distinctive personality, and the only one who still clings to the old custom of wearing a shawl. They have one son and one daughter. Mr. Khaatsalano has a logging business of his own. The photograph is unique in that it is the first ever taken of him.

INDIAN GARMENTS. STANLEY PARK.

August Jack Khaatsalano, 10 January 1934: "This," (Bailey Bros. photo, marked on back Photo No. "KWANATAN") "must be in Stanley Park; they are Musqueam Indians. I can tell by Charlie; his Indian name is Kwanatan; he died at Musqueam yesterday; he is the only man who would wear that dress" (the figure on the extreme left of the four figures, wearing a white fan-like headdress.) "Kwanatan is just a name as far as I know; has no meaning which I know of. It must be some sort of 'religious' ceremony in Stanley Park, I suppose about forty or more years ago. The dress they are wearing is called Swhoi Swhoi" (masks.) (See Whoi Whoi in *Early Vancouver*, 1932; also companion photo numbered "Just Dressed.")

August Jack Khaatsalano, 11 January 1934: "This," ("Just Dressed" photo) "must be in Stanley Park; they are Musqueam Indians, I think; I am judging by the other photo marked 'Kwanatan.' They are performing some sort of dance. The clothes they are wearing have no especial significance; they are 'just dressed' for the dance.

"This is not Swhoi Swhoi; they are just dressed, that's all."

OPENING OF STANLEY PARK. (KITSILANO) SUPPLEJACK'S GRAVE.

Lord Stanley was not present. It was opened on Thursday, 27 September 1888 by Mayor Oppenheimer. The procession formed on Powell Street, went up Cordova to Granville, up to Hotel Vancouver, down Georgia Street, across the new bridge, around lovely drive past Brockton Point, and then on to a grassy spot where Supplejack's grave used to be, close to the landing place of the Capilano Water Works, where a halt was made. Here a temporary platform had been erected. (See photo No. . . . , showing flagpole.)