

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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LAST INDIAN BURIAL. KITSILANO BEACH.

In 1931, Mrs. H.A. Benbow of Vancouver told me that they then (in 1907) lived in the 1600 block, 1st Avenue West, and she witnessed an Indian burial. She had just arrived from England. The cortege came out of the bush in front of her house carrying the body. The Rat Portage Mill closed down for half an hour. This is supposed to have been the last Indian burial. (J.S.M., 1931.)

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH AUGUST JACK HAATSALANO.

(Kitsilano, son of Khay-tulk and grandson of Chief Haatsa-lah-nough of Chaythoos) at City Hall, 12 January 1934.)

August Jack (son of Supplejack, or Khay-tulk) was born under the present Burrard Street Bridge, the then Indian village of Snauc, and says he is now 59. (See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2, Matthews.)

WHOI-WHOI. STANLEY PARK.

Query: How many families were living at Whoi-Whoi in Stanley Park when you were a boy? (About 1881-1886.)

August Jack: (after reflecting) "There was eleven families. That's a long time ago. There was old 'Chunth' in one house, then there was Ce-yowqlwa-lia in the next house, and Ahtsulk was in the next; then there were eight families more; there must have been more than 100 Indians all told living in the four houses. These men's names have no meaning; just names. I forget all the family names; it's such a long time ago."

(A potlatch was held at Whoi-Whoi in 1885. There is a minute in the City Council proceedings about 1887 where the medical health officer recommends the destruction of the houses on account of small pox. Rev. Tate says the houses were removed when the Park Driveway was cut. See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2, Matthews.)

INDIAN HOUSES.

Query: How old were those Indian houses?

August Jack: "Oh, very old, there long before me. You know the Lumberman's Arch in Stanley Park. Well, the big house was about 200 feet long, and sixty feet wide, and it stood right square in front of Lumberman's Arch at the foot of the trail from the Japanese Monument. That was the 'real' pow-wow house. The name of it was Tah-hay—no meaning, just name—and six families lived in it.

"Then to the west of it was a smaller house, about thirty feet front and sixteen feet deep with a sort of little kitchen at the back; I think two families lived in that.

"Then to the west again was a smaller house, about twenty-four by sixteen feet deep; one family lived in that, and ...

"On the extreme west was another pow-wow house—it was measured once, and I think the measurement was ninety-four feet front by about forty feet deep; the front was about twenty feet high; the back about twelve feet. Here two families lived.

"All these houses stood in a row above the beach, facing the water; all were of cedar slabs and big posts; all built by the Indians long ago."

(The picture "Before the Pale Face Came"—illustrated by John Innes, prepared by J.S. Matthews—was hanging on the wall as we conversed. It records the Indian place names of Burrard Inlet and English Bay.)

"That's not right," said August Jack, pointing to the hut. "That roof got two slopes, Squamish Indian hut only one slope, from front to back, and the posts are always outside, and," (pointing to roof beams) "the top part stick out; see the ends of the timbers, so" (drawing with pencil on piece of paper.) "The door always in the end, one at each end of house, right in corner under highest part of roof, not in the middle of end. Hole for smoke? No hole for smoke; just poke up with stick and slide boards off hole in roof, not like northern Indian house. Light? No windows, but holes in side along front of house; not very big holes, not