

**Early Vancouver**

**Volume Three**

**By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.**

**2011 Edition (Originally Published 1935)**

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

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

**About the 2011 Edition**

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## **INDIAN FOOD. ELK.**

Query: When you were a little boy, what did you used to live on? Beef? Pork?

August Jack: "No, no beef. We used ducks, deer, fish, clams, anything that's going around that's good to eat for Squamish people; no beef, no pig."

Query: What about elk?

August Jack: "Well, there's always elk going around here. Where? Oh, out Point Grey, around Eyalmouch" (Jericho); "anywhere where there's swamp; they go around just like horses only they got horns."

## **TRAIL TO NEW WESTMINSTER.**

Query: Did the Indians go by trail to New Westminster, over to Fraser River way?

August Jack: "They go by canoe, winter or summer, not always winter. Westminster not only place they want to visit; if just Westminster then go trail; they got trail from Maxie's" (Hastings) "before the whitemans come. They got trail from Port Moody to Fraser. But in canoe, may be two, three, may be four men, everybody in canoe paddle, it go around quick; visit lot of places, not just Westminster."

He promised to come in again, and we went out to have a cup of coffee and cakes while awaiting his wife, Swanamia, who has never had her photo taken—a very pretty, demure Indian lady, I repeat, Indian lady. (NOTE ADDED LATER: Nor was it ever taken—save by subterfuge. Port P.657, No. 270 was taken with a flash bulb at Kitsilano High School in 1943.)

## **MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH AUGUST JACK HAATSALANO, 27 SEPTEMBER 1934.**

### **SEYMOUR CREEK INDIAN RESERVE.**

J.S.M.: What's this photo, No. Out No.92, Out P.92?

A.J.K.: "That's the old Seymour Reserve, lots canoes. The big house belong to Chief George, chief of Seymour Creek; the next house Policeman Tom. Chief George's Indian name Tho-lah-kun" (spelt as nearly as is possible to do in English), "he old man then," (about 1890 or earlier) "may be 90 or more. He and his wife drowned out of canoe in Seymour Creek; their bodies found next day, about 1891. Him great big man, his feet about that wide" (showing how wide, about six inches, with hands apart.) "In *winter* he go over to Maxie's" (Hastings, B.C.), "go Westminster. He put on moccasins, go about 100 yards" (along Douglas Road), "tear them off, and go barefoot. Never use shoes."

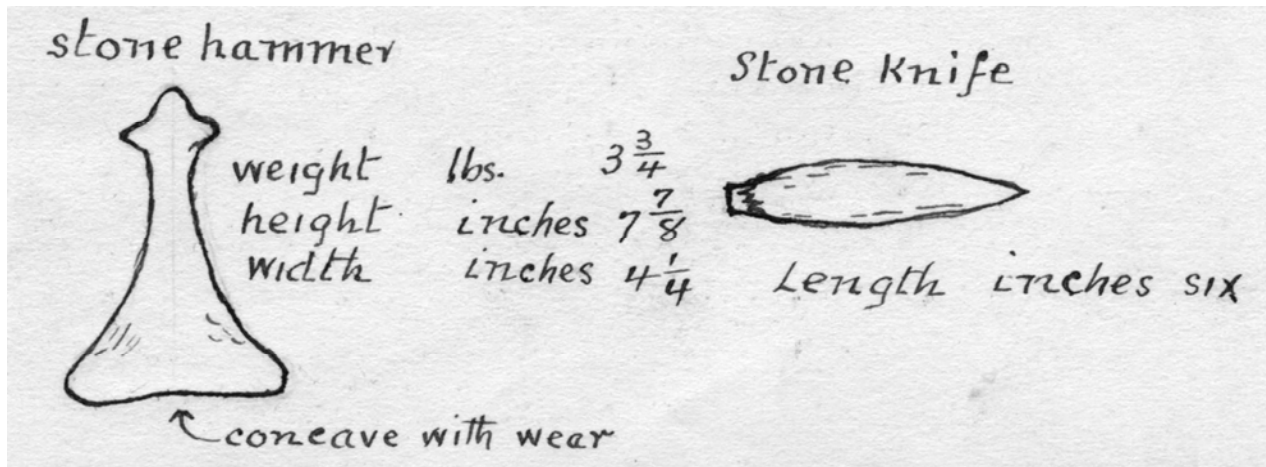
J.S.M.: Why barefoot in winter?

A.J.K.: "Feet slip." (I.e., on wet corduroy road. See also re Capilano Joe, *Early Vancouver*.)

J.S.M.: This (showing heavy stone hammer presented by W.A. Grafton) was found near the corner of Cambie Street and 63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, away from North Arm, Fraser River, a mile or more, and deep down under big cedar tree root, eighteen inches down. (See W.A. Grafton, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 3.) What does it mean?

A.J.K.: "You see this hollow in middle? That's where they make canoe." (See Chilaminst, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2.) "Use it for hammer, pound chisel, make canoe. Indian mans take ten year make that stone hammer, white mans make one hour. Indian mans use kind of rock, strike it, strike it, every day, take ten year" (to shape stone hammer.) "Man makes those stone hammer, rich man; he got ten northern goat skin; peoples give him one canoe, big canoe, for one of these" (stone hammer or pestle.) "Not all mans make them; only one people, one tribe make them, all Squamish; may be one Squamish reserve; one Squamish" (band) "make canoe, one stone hammer, another Squamish do hunting, or trapping; they trade; skin, stone hammer, canoe, meat, berry, all same white man trade he's things."

J.S.M.: This found same place (Cambie Street and 63<sup>rd</sup>.) What for?



Item # EarlyVan\_v3\_004

A.J.K.: "That" (is a) "knife, I think, may be for spear, but I think knife," (wields one end as though cutting meat) "only point sharp" (holding other end in palm under thumb.)

J.S.M.: Did Indian use deer horn for wedge to split cedar? (See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2, Rev. C.M. Tate.)

A.J.K.: "No. Use big wedge yew wood, long sharp wedge, pound with stone hammer, split cedar, great long slab cedar."

**ELK.**

As A.J.K. was leaving the office, he picked up and examined an old, rusty British Army rifle, Brunswick model, about three-quarter inch bore. (Rifle of Thos. Deasy, from Queen Charlotte Island.) Then he handled it, and said, "You know Capilano Joe" (Chief Joe Capilano, who visited King Edward.) "Joe tell me about 1904 or 1905 his father told him that, about forty years back from then, there was a heavy snow, and he shot thirteen elk, all one time, over False Creek; ship them" (carcasses) "Victoria for meat." (See "Elk," *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 1, 2 and 3.)

**KITSILANO INDIAN RESERVE. BURRARD BRIDGE; ANDREW PAULL (QOITCHETAHL.)**

In conversation with Andy Paull, on the subject of the arbitration proceedings in connection with the Kitsilano Indian Reserve and approximately eight acres of land expropriated for the footings of the Burrard Bridge, he remarked upon the extreme length of the arbitration sessions of the three commissioners, who sat for approximately twenty-eight days arriving at a decision as to the value of the land, a matter which had already been considered by expert valuers on several previous occasions. Qoitchetahl (Andrew Paull) concluded his remarks by saying, "The white man is too cheap to conduct a decent deal with an Indian." The figures supplied by Mr. Paull are:

City costs, legal, etc.	\$15,145.65
Indian costs, lawyers, etc. (all charged to Indians)	13,708.85
Balance in cash to Indians	16,134.08
Total	44,988.58

J.S.M.