

Early Vancouver

Volume Four

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

2011 Edition (Originally Published 1944)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1935-1939.

Supplemental to Volumes One, Two and Three collected in 1931-1934.

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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Footnote or Endnote Reference:

Major James Skitt Matthews, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 4 (Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011), 33.

Bibliographic Entry:

Matthews, Major James Skitt. *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 4. Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011.

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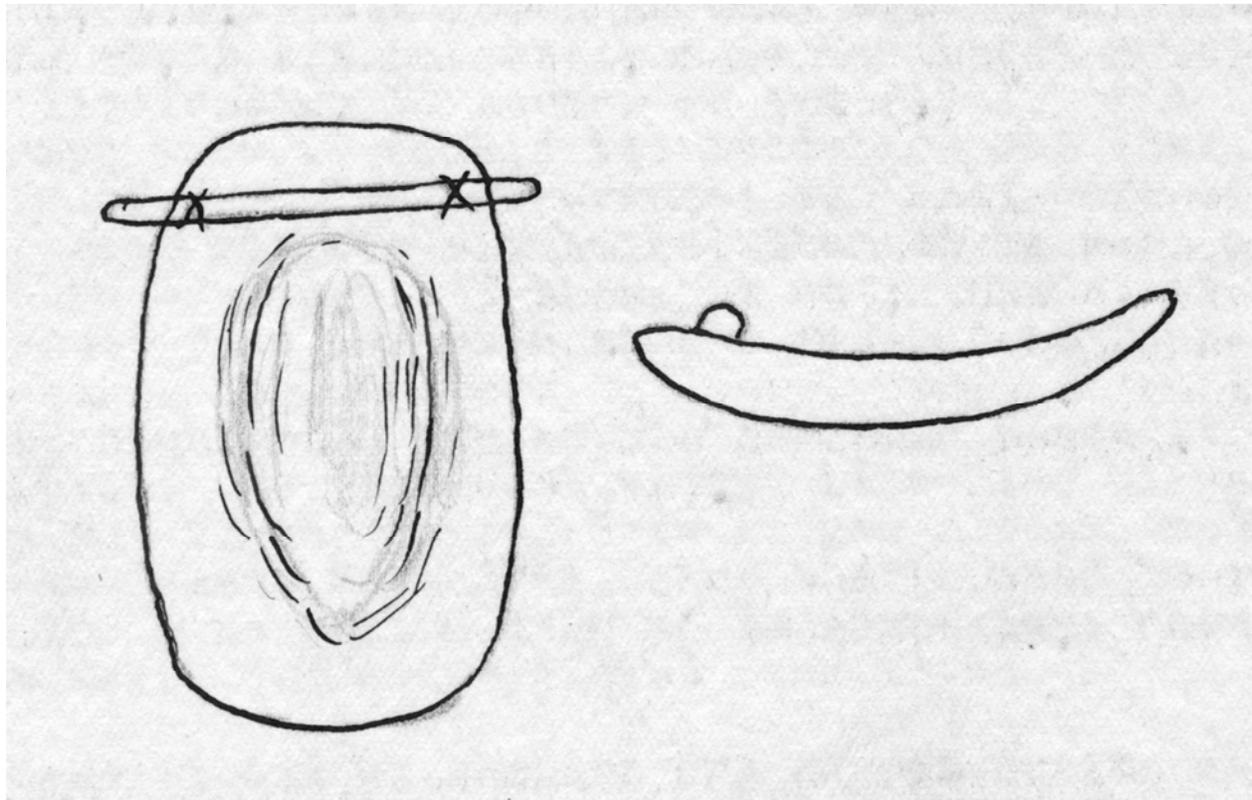
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INDIAN TOBOGGAN, BEFORE THE "WHITEMANS" CAME.

Copy of sketch drawn in my garden by August Jack Haatsalano whilst having tea and cake this Sunday afternoon.

J.S. Matthews, 6 June 1937.



Item # EarlyVan_v4_006

Cedar slab, shaped with stone hammer and stone chisel; twenty-seven to thirty inches long, hollowed or scooped out to fit chest on one side, and rounded on other. (Concave-convex.) Cross bar at one end, lashed in position with cedar rope through holes in one end of slab; handle projecting both sides.

MEMO OF OUR CONVERSATION.

Haatsalano: "No. Indians" (did) "not skate on ice like whitemans do. They slide. They slide down rivers, on slabs of cedar; my stepfather" (Jericho Charlie) "tell me. I never see them do it; no ice suppose, that's why I not see them, but I see cedar slab they do it with. They take it" (cedar slab) "in their hands, hold it in front of them, run hard, then throw themselves down on top of it, and go" (slide) "a long way down the river; river slopes down, and that makes them go a long way; they lie on it; it's same shape as man's body" (torso); "same size, without his head and arms and legs, and it's hollowed out" (to fit his chest) "in the middle; it fits him, and there's a handle bar, a cross bar, in front for his hands to hold on to; it's got two handles, and it's lashed" (with cedar rope) "to the slab. I draw it for you" (which he did, and attached his signature.)

J.S. Matthews.