

Early Vancouver

Volume Four

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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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**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH AUGUST JACK HAATSALANO, AT CITY ARCHIVES, 23
DECEMBER 1936.**

TIM MOODY, YAHMAS INDIAN. LAST FLATHEAD INDIAN.

August Jack: "Just called to tell you Yahmas" (Tim Moody) "is dead." (Note: see *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2, the last surviving "flathead" Indian, i.e. whose forehead was made flat artificially by pressure, and whose bust, showing the flat forehead, was made by Charles Marega, Vancouver sculptor.)

INDIAN HOUSES IN STANLEY PARK. WHOI-WHOI. TAYHAY.

"No mats over entire floor; just little mats in corner where you eat; inside house just hard floor" (earth) "hard, like cement. Indians womans sweep up every morning. What with? Oh, cedar bough, anything, maybe hemlock" (bough.) (See his conversation on Indian houses.)

"All old houses rotten before Gastown was; nails in house" (whitemans' iron nails) "and peak roof."

City Archivist: (astonished) Peak roof? Iron nails?

August Jack: "Yes. You see when whitemans come, all old houses rotten. All cedar slabs" (in sides) "lie flat" (horizontal.) "They" (Indians) "take and cut lumber" (out of sides of old houses), "and cut the lumber where it's rotten, and then stand them up" (build with the cedar slabs perpendicular); "before crossways" (horizontal), "after whitemans come, sides up and down, and peak roof, and nails. They use iron nails; whitemans give them nails; all old houses rotten."

City Archivist: Well, could you make me a model of the very old houses, the old houses before the whitemans come? You never see them; you too young?

August Jack: "Yes, I make you model. All old Indian houses in Stanley Park gone before I born, but I see old ones up Squamish; them up there yet, only all rotten and sunk down."

This remarkable conversation explains the wash paintings in the Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa, which shows peak roofs, and perpendicular slab sides, paintings made by Lieut. Willis of H.M.S. *Ganges* in 1861. The Squamish hut roof was lean-to roof; afterwards, they adopted the peak roof, but they must have done so prior to 1861 when Mr. Willis made the paintings of Indian huts on what is now Kitsilano Beach.