

## **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**

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

**“SUPPLEJACK.” HAYTULK. KE-OLTS.**

“My father, Haytulk,” said Mr. Haatsalano, “had a brother, Ke-olts, and a sister, Lucy. Ke-olts had a son, Alick; he is living at Musqueam, and my aunt Lucy, who married a half-breed, Miranda, is living at ‘the Mission,’ North Vancouver; Miranda cleared out and left my aunt.”

**DROWNING OF CHIEF LAHWA.**

“Yes, I have seen Chief Lahwa, remember him well. You see, my father and Lahwa were the same age” (contemporary); “not the same number of years old, but, you see, my father, he lived on this side” (Chaythoos in Stanley Park) “and Lahwa lived on the other side” (First Narrows at Capilano) “and they used to talk about things. I have seen Lahwa when I was young. Lahwa was a *real* Indian; got a little bit beard on chin, little mustache, and hair down over his shoulders. We used to go across Narrows, and fishing up Capilano Creek, and Lahwa used to take us up to his house and give us dinner there. I remember when he was drowned at Brockton Point; he was missing that night, and the next day they found him on the beach; in the water; dead on the beach, just inside Brockton Point.”

**NAMING OF AUGUST JACK HAATSALANO. SNAUK. KITSILANO INDIAN RESERVE.**

“I was named Haatsalano; got an old man to do it; that was forty years ago; down on the Kitsilano Reserve. The old man said to the peoples: ‘This boy going to be called Haatsalano, same as his grandfather.’ And I give the blankets. I had lots money then. I work for old Tait” (W.L. Tait, sawmill, at Third Avenue and Granville Street, afterwards Rat Portage Lumber Co. Mill), “work for him nine years, and then for Jenkins, the logger.” (Note: the Tait and Rat Portage sawmills employed many Indians from nearby reserve.)

**POTLATCH.**

“I give away about one hundred blankets. I buy them Hudson’s Bay store on Cordova Street; two dollars each; double blankets. Then besides that I pay for eighty pound sack of flour, thirty pounds tea, and I buy dishes and spoons, give them away; down at False Creek outside C.P.R. bridge, in the big long house which belonged to Jimmy Jimmy’s father, Toe-who-quam-ki.” (Note: big lodge just west of trestle bridge, almost under Burrard Bridge.)

“The christening take place in morning; last all day and part of night. The old man he act as my interpreter” (spokesman.) “He make speech. He say this boy called by whitemans’ name—August—now they going to give him his proper name, Indian name; same name his grandfather, and he put his hand on my shoulder, and I stand still, and look.

“He calls out to all the peoples inside the house to stand up; every man stand up, and the widow womans; nobody else stand up; the married womans and the young peoples they not stand up; just the men and the widow womans. Then they bust the bundle, and go around with the blankets, and give one to each man and widow womans; then give tea, and flour, after. Then, by and by, cook dinner and supper; then all go home.

“Just one day celebration. We not allowed to keep those peoples more than twenty-four hours; one day; on account sickness. You see, if they pow-wow too long, may be dance all night, may be get sick.

“I don’t remember how many peoples come, but lots. Come from Squamish, Musqueam, Nanaimo, not from Sechelt.”

**HAYTULK (SECOND.) WILLIE JACK. MARY CAPILANO.**

“And my brother Willie, he was called” (named) “too. Call him by my father’s name, Haytulk, same time, same old man as name me. I don’t think Mary Capilano more than eighty-four.”

Note: see *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 1, Mrs. J.Z. Hall narrative of hearing noise of potlatch on the Kitsilano Indian Reserve as she walked to her father’s beach, Greer’s Beach, across the C.P.R. trestle bridge.