

Early Vancouver

Volume Four

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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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**GENEALOGY
OF
THE SQUAMISH INDIAN FAMILY OF KHAHTSAHLANO
FROM WHICH NAME
“KITSILANO” IS DERIVED.**

Khahtsahlanogh of Lillooet

“Old” Khahtsahlanogh of Took-tah-kah-mic

Chief Khahtsahlanogh of Chaythoos

Khay-tulk (Supplejack) of Chaythoos

August Jack Khahtsahlano, born, Snauq

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH AUGUST JACK KHAHTSAHLANO, WHO CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, 11 JULY 1938, AFTER AN INTERVAL OF SEVEN MONTHS SINCE HIS LAST VISIT.

THE NAME KITSILANO. CHIEF KHAHTSAHLANO.

Major Matthews: (to August Jack) Gracious, where have you been all this time?

A.J. Khahtsahlano: “Been in St. Paul’s Hospital, thirty-nine days; stomach sick; six times X-ray; didn’t tell me what’s matter; better now; no pain; no meat, just vegetables; not very strong; feel weak.”

Major Matthews: What about that declaration we made that you want to change your name from August Jack to August Jack Khahtsahlano? You got paper we made?

A.J. Khahtsahlano: “No. I take it Squamish; not bring it back yet, but I talk to Chief and he says it’s got a ‘K’; he says it’s Khahtsalano, not Haatsalano, so we better change it.”

Major Matthews: You sign this paper now; it’s a copy; it won’t be official, but it will do to remember by; if it’s official, you’ve got to make swear.

A.J. Khahtsahlano: “All right.” (Signs in presence of Miss Margaret Giles, who witnessed his signature, name “August Jack Khahtsahlano,” after the words had been written for him to copy.)

INDIAN CUSTOMS AND GAMES. TCK-QUALLA. LACROSSE.

Major Matthews: Come over here to the glass case. See that black stone ball? It’s four inches through, twelve and a half inches ‘round it; weighs three pounds, six and a half ounces. (Presented C.R. Brusberg, see Acquisition Book, page 10.) Whitemans tell me he dig it out of ground near corner of Cedar Street and Fourth Avenue when he’s making road; long time ago; give it to me. What’s it for?

A.J. Khahtsahlano: “Well. If it’s Indian it’s Tck-kwal-lah; just like lacrosse, only they uses their hands; no stick, no net; that’s where lacrosse comes from” (originated.) “Eastern Indians use stick; Squamish use hand. Say ‘Tchuck’ fast, ‘kwal’ slow; Tchuck-kwal-la, Tck-qualla.”

Major Matthews: How did they play the game?

A.J. Khahtsahlano: “I never see it played; not enough young men my time. But my father” (Hay-tulk or “Supplejack”), “he’s tell me about it; my father tell me if man’s a good runner he always gets to the goal.

“Your partner throws it to you. No, they don’t play on beach; play between houses, in front houses, any place what’s good where they can play; any place

where there good clear grounds in front of houses. They've got little base, like lacrosse; only two poles, no net, 'bout five feet apart; 'bout six feet high poles; they's got goalkeeper. You got" (stone) "ball, just like football, only you use your hands; you get round stone, you throw it to you partner; about six men on each side; six men make team for chuck-quala; your partner run, you run too; man in goal try stop it. You can run through with it in your hand, or, maybe, throw it with your hand. Goalkeeper try stop you, try catch stone; he's got to take it from you. Good runner get in goal.

"You see, there's different places all the way up Squamish river from Stamish; Stamish is below Squamish; and those fellows up river come down to Stamish to play; long way up; ups far Yukits" (Yook-witz), "and they place against each other, and find out what's the strongest team; just same whitemans."

Major Matthews: Well, it's heavy; it's stone; maybe it hit you, maybe hurt you?

A.J. Khahtsahlano: (laughing) "Oh, take chance."

Major Matthews: Where did they get black stone to make it? No black stone here. (Black pebbles are in profusion on Sechelt seashore.)

A.J. Khahtsahlano: "I don't know; up mountains, I s'pose."

Major Matthews: Well, how did they make it so smooth and round and polished?

A.J. Khahtsahlano: (impatient at such ignorance) "Well. They can chip it, can't they? Make it smooth with another stone, can't they? So's not to hurt his hand when he catch it; so's it roll. Same's they do other stones when they make things."

Major Matthews: Well, how did whitemans come to find it at corner Fourth Avenue and Cedar Street in the ground?

A.J. Khahtsahlano: "Maybe they had a good place to play there; maybe they lose it down old root, or hole in ground; maybe just leave it there 'til next game."

(Note: all the area to the west and north was originally swamp; all to the south, hillside; the old Indian village of Snauc lay due north, a short distance from Cedar and Fourth, where it was found. In early days of white settlement, there were still traces of what appeared to have been a clear space in the woods at that point; a little creek ran through it, and there was a small pond surrounded by solid ground; it may have been an Indian "playground." J.S.M.)

Major Matthews: I show that (stone) ball to Dr. Raley, and he tells me Indians have game with ball, same size about, but soft; cedar bark, rolled tight, covered with skin, and a little tail about eighteen inches long fastened fast, and they (Indians) pick it up with stick—by the tail—and throw it with stick. But he says ball's soft.

A.J. Khahtsahlano: "That's 'nother game; that's not Tck-qualla; that's light ball with tail on it; I forget the name; whitemans plays that game; they's calls it 'Nobby'; two little bits of sticks with little bit of string between; pick it up with stick, throw it.

"Tck-qualla's different; like lacrosse, only no sticks, no net in goal; just throw it with hands. That" (stone) "ball's heavy; they make it heavy so's they can play. My father tells me if man's good runner he always get to the goal."