

## **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 125<sup>th</sup> 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 KHAHTSAHLANO AT CITY ARCHIVES, 30 JUNE 1939.**

**HYAS JOE. CHIEF CAPILANO JOE. CHIEF LAHWA. SAHP-LUCK.**

August said: "Lahwa died in 1895. The whitemans call 'Capilano Joe' Joe, but he's got Indian name too; he's Indian name Sahn-luk; that's what the Indians call him; he was Chief Matthias' father."

Note by J.S.M. Originally, he appears to have been "Hyas Joe," (hyas, i.e. important, fine); then pioneers knew him as "Capilano Joe"; he was given the title "Capilano" at an Indian ceremony on Cambie Street grounds before his departure to see King Edward VII. After his return from Buckingham Palace, he was known as "Chief Joe Capilano."

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH AUGUST JACK KHAHTSAHLANO, AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, 24 AUGUST 1939.**

**CHIEF CAPILANO JOE. HYAS JOE. SAHP-LUK. CHIEF KI-AP-A-LA-NO.**

Major Matthews: August, why do the Musqueam Indians object to other Indians using the name Capilano?

August: "It's this way. The priests told Hyas Joe, 'You must go to Capilano Creek as post'; not Chief, but post—you know what post is; you put it in the ground, to mark a place by; a 'post,' he go to look after the people, not to be chief. After a while Sahn-luk—that's what the Indians call him—he want to be chief; he went to see the" (Indian) "agent at New Westminster. Agent ask him, 'You got a flag?' Hyas Joe says, 'No.' Hyas Joe he come back and borrow the Indian flag from my aunt Khah-my." (See conversation, 2 June 1939.) "It was the Khahtsahlano flag; it was afterwards burned when Chief Matthias house burn down, but it was Khahtsahlano flag. Hyas Joe says, 'When I am through with it' (the flag) "I bring it back,' but he never did; it was burned when Chief Matthias Joe's house burn. The flag I have now is another one. I tell you all about it before."

**INDIAN FLAG.**

Major Matthews: What has the flag to do with the name Capilano.

August: "Hyas Joe borrowed the name Capilano because he was living at the creek where 'Old Man' Chief Kiap-a-lano used to live, long time ago, but the creek's name not Capilano; that's Homulcheson, and Hyas Joe's real name was Sahn-luk; that's what the Indians call him. Whitemans call him Capilano Joe."

**CHIEF KI-AP-A-LA-NO. YOUNG KI-AP-A-LA-NO. AYATAK (FRANK CHARLIE.)**

Major Matthews: What sort of a man was "Old Man" Chief Ki-ap-a-lano?

August: "I never see him, but they tell me great big man, black hair down to his shoulders; straight hair, no curls."

Major Matthews: Who was Ayatak's (Frank Charlie) father?

August: "'Old Man' Chief Ki-ap-a-lano's son, Young Ki-ap-a-la-no. Young Ki-ap-a-la-no of Musqueam have four children: Ayatak, or Frank Charlie; James, now dead; Mrs. Seymour Grant; and Andrew; all children of Young Ki-ap-a-la-no; only James dead."

**LUMTINAHT. KHAALTINAHT.**

Major Matthews: What does Lumtinat and Khaltinat mean?

August: "They were sisters, Khaal-tin-aht, not Khaltinat; it mans 'white'; Lom-tin-aht, not Lumtinat, I don't know what it means." (Note: Khaaltinaht was Indian wife of Joseph Silvey; Lomtinaht—see photo No. — P.Port. 391.)

**KWE-AH-KULTU. WHEE-WHY-LUK. SUM-QUAHT.**

“Kwe-ah-kultu; that’s the way to say it; he was at Whoi-Whoi. Johnny Whee-why-luk, Chief at Musqueam; don’t know who Sumquaht was, but say ‘Sum-kwa-ht.’” (See conversation, Mrs. James Walker, 17 July 1939.)

**CARIBOO TRACTOR. JERRY ROGERS’ STEAM TRACTOR. LACROSSE BALL.**

(After looking at photograph received from Provincial Archives, of photo marked “Steam to Cariboo, the British Columbia,” photographed from illustration in *Colonist*.)

Major Matthews: That’s not like the drawing you made for me of the tractor Jerry Rogers had in the woods out Kitsilano and up Little Mountain.

August: (puzzled) “They’s fixed it. They must taken the front wheel off, and put two wheels on. But the rubber here is cleats; it was solid rubber tire all around the wheels, not cleats, on the one Jerry Rogers had. I think they must have fixed it down Hastings Sawmill, but don’t know. I took the rubber for the lacrosse ball I gave you from old junk as was lying on the beach at foot Macdonald Street” (English Bay.) “They put the engine on a scow, and took it away; they were through logging. After that, oxen were used, and mules and the skid road—it was cheaper. They took the engine to the Hastings Mill. I don’t know what they did with it.”

(Note by J.S.M. If Ayatak is grandson to “Old Man” Chief Ki-ap-a-la-no, and “Old Man” told Ayatak he saw first white man come down Fraser River when he was a boy, about four feet high, how could he be the chief who welcomed Capt. Vancouver as is frequently asserted by Matthias Joe.)

**EXCERPT, *PROVINCE*, 7 OCTOBER 1938.**

**MAN WHO CAME HERE SIXTY YEARS AGO DIES**

**WHILE THE SHIP WAS IN VANCOUVER HE EXPERIMENTED WITH  
RUNNING AN ELECTRIC LIGHT WIRE FROM VESSEL TO SHORE**

James Willcox, 82, a resident of Vancouver for fifty-nine years, and believed to be one of the first men to experiment with electric light here, died today, at his home, 367 East Broadway. Mr. Willcox first came to British Columbia in 1879 as a member of the crew of H.M.S. *Triumph*. Survived by three daughters; all in Vancouver.

**LETTER, JOHN C. ANDERSON.**

Novato, Marin Co.,  
California, U.S.A.  
Saturday, Oct. 15, 1938.

Mr. J.S. Matthews.

My dear sir:

**H.M.S. TRIUMPH. ELECTRIC LIGHT. FIRST SEARCHLIGHT.**

Your letter I received today Oct. 14, 1938, and I was very glad, sir, to hear from you, to me it was like a voice from the deep. Now in regard to your question about landing electric lights ashore at Vancouver. It fairly gets me, Mr. Matthews, as to how that could have possibly been done? I do know the “Triumph’s” first commission was about that time of 1879. And the second commission of the “Triumph” was from New Year’s day 1885, till Dec. 1887, making three years when we left Esquimalt for home. The “Swiftsure” was the ship to relieve the “Triumph” on both occasions. Now, sir, I fully understand that when we commissioned the “Triumph” in January 1885, that she had just installed a 28,000 candle power search light on the superstructure deck, and we were told that we were the first ship in the service to have one. We were not wired at all for lights in the ship; only wired from the dynamo, to the light on deck. We burned candles all