

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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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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Memorandum of conversation with August Jack Khahtsahlano, at City Archives, 23 January 1939.

August came carrying an Indian wooden face mask, bored with holes for eyes and nose, a mouth with slantwise opening, and three patches on chin of burned ornamentation—burned strokes.

INDIAN MASKS.

Major Matthews: Where did you get it?

August: "Last week, up at Khaykulhun" (Port Mellon) "Howe Sound. Found it in a deserted shack on that Indian Reserve. Not very old mask."

COINS 1787, 1791, 1812 ON WATCH FOB.

August: (displaying watch fob of four small coins linked together) "I find this watch fob same place, Khaykulhun, in the old graveyard, last week, just inside fence. I was walking along, and it was lying on top of ground; I saw it shining. I give you."

Note: the following is a description of the coins, each one being pierced with two holes, save the lowest which has only one.

Obverse: 1. F.R. (monogram)
 2. C.7. (monogram) DAN. NOR. VAN. GOT. REX. D.G.
 3. FRID IIII. D-
 4. Georgius III. Dei Gratia.

Reverse: 1. 1812. 1 SKILLING DANSK, copper silvered.
 2. 1787. 2 SKILLING DANSK, A.R. Silver.
 3. 17--. 8 S. NOR. VAN. GOT. REX. D.N.A. Silver.
 4. 1791. T.B. et T.A. REX F.D. -AR.S.T.D.S.T.M. S. et C. Alloy silvered.
(See photo No. C.V.P. Misc. 1, N. Misc. 2.)

INDIAN BRAVES. SECRET SOCIETIES.

Major Matthews: August. How did they make a Squamish brave?

August: "Took four days ceremony. Don't let him know you're going to do it, or he might run away.

"Ten men, about, seize him, take him in house, frighten him, make him scared; throw him up in air in blanket, catch him in blanket; make noise, make him think they go to do something terrible to him, frighten him good.

"Then when he's frightened good, and he's tired, he's keep quiet" (exhausted) "he's stiff; lie him on ground, and cover him with blankets; two man sit on blanket what's covering him; don't sit on him, but on edge of blanket he's under, on part what's left over; one man sit on each side, so's keep him warm.

"By and by, in four or five hours, he gets better, and begins to sing.

"Next day, put him in corner of house. Sit him down on low stool in corner, and throw water over him. First throw hot water, then cold water. Eight gallons. Hot water just hot enough to burn him; then cold; then he gets stiff again. Dash the hot water in he's face, then dash cold water; he does not get a chance to breathe; then he gets stiff again, and still" (quiet); "then wrap him in a blanket again, and sit by him, keep him warm.

"Then, by and by, he wake up again. Then they dress him with a 'Crown,' and a big belt around his waist, and they let him out of the house early in the morning, let him go through the bushes, no trail; he runs around in the thick timber. Don't know why they do it that way, but it's the old time way. Four men follow him through the bushes; all the remainder of the men—maybe fifty or sixty men—stay in the house, just waiting 'til they come back.

"Then he stops running, and he looks around and he starts to sing. Then they all come back to the big house, and he goes around inside a few times, and then he's a brave man, all the same as whiteman's soldier; he's fit for war, and he's one of the Indian dancers."

