

**Early Vancouver**

**Volume Five**

**By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.**

**2011 Edition (Originally Published 1945)**

*Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1936-1945.*

*Supplemental to volumes one, two, three and four collected in 1931, 1932 and 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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## **AUGUST JACK KHAHTSAHLANO (KITSILANO) ON EDUCATION.**

Two men, one white, one brown, sat side by side on a cottage verandah one sunny summer's evening at Kitsilano each; old friends, enjoying each other's company and with a tray of tea and iced cake between them, watching the blue sea beyond the sandy beach of Kitsilano shimmering as the golden rays of the setting sun fell upon its wavelets. It was a tranquilly happy scene. One man was August Jack Khahtsahlano, son of Khay-tulk, or "Supplejack"; grandson of Chief Khahtsahlano of Chaythoos, First Narrows, and Snauq, False Creek, Vancouver, Canada. The English speaking people converted the historic Squamish name Khahtsahlano into Kitsilano, and applied it to their suburb of Vancouver. August neither reads nor writes. The other man was Major J.S. Matthews, pioneer, and City Archivist, Vancouver.

The conversation continues:

Major Matthews: (jokingly replies to some remark made by his companion) Oh, you're a *stone age* man, August!

Khahtsahlano: (astonished; ejaculates) "*Me!!! Me!!! Me stone age man? May be, too.*" (A long pause, then smiling) "*You're a relief age man*" (a reference to the thousands of Canadians living "on relief" during the years 1933-1937.)

Khahtsahlano: (continuing) "Long time ago, Indian boy's father just as anxious he's boy have good education as white boy's father like he's boy go university, but he's got no pencil; nobodies know how to write. So he's *tell* him.

"When he's go out in canoe fishing young Indian paddle, old Indian fish; canoe not go fast, canoe go slow past places; lots time talk about things, tell what happened there as canoe go by. Old Indian fish and talk; young Indian paddle and listen; old Indian make young Indian say it back so's he get it right; then old Indian tell him again; that's way teach him about Squamish. Some boy no good; he not listen. Good boy he listen; by 'em by he grow up, be wise man; he know lots. Indian" (who) "knows most 'bout history most educated; he's best man; peoples ask him 'bout things; maybe make him chief."

1158 Arbutus St.,  
Kitsilano Beach,  
Vancouver, Canada.  
6 October 1937.

J.S.

Matthews.