

Early Vancouver

Volume Six

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

2011 Edition (Originally Published 1945)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1940-1945.

Supplemental to volumes one, two, three, four and five collected in 1931, 1932, 1934, 1939 and 1944.

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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Item # EarlyVan_v6_023

To The Right Honourable
Lord Stanley of Preston, G.C.B.
Governor General of Canada

May It Please Your Excellency:

We, the citizens of Vancouver, desire to express the gratification which we feel at the arrival in our midst of the Representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and we beg to tender You and Lady Stanley a hearty welcome.

The first occasion on which a Viceroy of Canada has visited this, the youngest city in the Dominion, we hail the arrival in Vancouver of Your Excellency, as the official recognition of the completion of that great national work, the Canadian Pacific Railway, an undertaking to which Vancouver owes its existence, and of which it is the Western Terminus.

From that circumstance and from the favorable geographical situation which our city occupies, we believe Your Excellency will realise the important part which Vancouver is destined to take in the future commercial development of the Dominion.

It was with the highest feelings of satisfaction that we learned that your Excellency's Government, in conjunction with the Imperial Government, had decided to subsidise a line of mail steamships between our City and the ports of the Orient, whereby the trade of the Dominion will be enlarged, her commercial relations with the teeming population of China and Japan be extended, a new field be opened for Canadian Manufacturers, and the sources of employment for our artisans be widened.

We have heard with much interest that your Excellency's Government, imbued with the patriotic idea that the various parts of the Empire should be drawn closely together by commercial ties, has decided to send one of your most trusty ministers to visit the Governments of our sister colonies of Australia, with the view of making such mutually satisfactory arrangements as shall fulfil the purpose of his mission. We trust that his labors will be crowned with such success that before long we will have direct mail and telegraphic communication with our cousins at the antipodes, so that the Dominion of Canada will form the central position in a great route for travel and trade between the Mother Country and the Greater Britain in the Southern Seas.

Your Excellency's varied official career and the numerous high posts to which it has pleased Her Most Gracious Majesty to call you, will have given you opportunities for learning both the vastness of British Commerce, and the immense responsibilities for its protection, maintenance and expansion which devolve upon those to whose hands is intrusted the direction of Imperial affairs.

As a result of Your Excellency's experience we believe you will readily perceive the important situation which our city must occupy in relation to both British Commerce in this quarter of the globe, and the means adopted for its protection. British Columbia stands as a sentinel over British interests in the North Pacific, and Vancouver as the Terminus of the railway; as the port of arrival and departure of lines of mail steamers, communicating with Hong Kong and in the near future as we hope, with the great commercial ports of Australasia must command the careful attention of both the Dominion and the Imperial Governments as to the means to be adopted for its protection from attack by any hostile power in case of war. Our spacious harbor, and the natural environments of our city, seems to show that this is the proper site not only for a great commercial city but for a naval station and a place of arms worthy of the might and riches of the great British Empire.

During Your Excellency's sojourn in our midst we trust you will be pleased to visit our city and to observe the progress which we as a people have made in building it up. But little more than three years have elapsed since Vancouver was totally destroyed by fire and the public and private buildings which you see today have all been constructed since then, and are but an earnest of what under the prosperity brought about by the wise measures and prudent legislation of your Excellency's Government we hope to accomplish in the future.

We also hope that Your Excellency will be pleased to visit that noble tract of forest, which granted by your Government for the benefit of our people, you were pleased to consent should be called by your illustrious name, and to view the proportions of this noble gift to the people of this city for their use and enjoyment for all time to come.

In conclusion, we would once more express to Your Excellency and to Lady Stanley, the feelings of loyalty and pleasure which are excited within us by your presence in our midst, and we trust that the visit of yourself and family to Vancouver will be a pleasant reminiscence to Your Excellency when you shall have left our coast and be occupied once more with the weighty cares and responsibilities of the Government of this great Dominion.

The original illuminated scroll, presented October 29th, 1889, at 'Supplejack's Grave', Chaythoos, First Narrows, Stanley Park, to His Excellency Lord Stanley of Preston, Governor General of Canada and Lady Stanley, by the Citizens of Vancouver, was preserved at Knowsley, Prescott, Lancashire, England, for fifty years, and then generously re-presented by his son, the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Derby, K.G., who, in 1889, acted as aide-de-camp to his father on that occasion, to the City Archives, City Hall, Vancouver, Canada.

At the re-dedication ceremonies at Lumberman's Arch, First Narrows, Stanley Park, 25th August, 1943, under the auspices of the Board of Park Commissioners, the address was again read, in the presence of a great assemblage of citizens, by David Oppenheimer, grand-nephew of His Worship David Oppenheimer, Mayor of Vancouver, 1888-1891, and carried by W. J. McGuigan, nephew of Thos. F. McGuigan, first City Clerk, who had performed the same functions fifty-four years previously.

On the 27th September, 1951, Major the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Derby, M.C., LL.D., great-grandson of His Excellency Lord Stanley, Governor General, and the Countess of Derby, were entertained at luncheon by the Board of Park Commissioners in "The Pavilion", Stanley Park, when the original address was displayed and read again.

With the Compliments of the City Archives, Vancouver 10.

Item # EarlyVan_v6_024



Guerney Cab & Delivery Co Ltd & M.A. Harvey, circa 1890-1. West side Abbott St. north of Water St. Over old beach. At high tide the sea was under it. Wood plank street on Livery Stable, Abbott St. piling. Single track C.P.R. main line on right. Claud Adolphus Ballahoola Corbett and Lord Killahoe Drummond out for a bit of an airing. From Emile de Forest. Presented, May 1938, by Geo. D. Brown, jr, Box 64, Kamloops, through Ald. A.G. Harvey. City Archives.

Item # EarlyVan_v6_025

[photo annotation:]

Guerney Cab & Delivery Co Ltd Livery Stable. Abbott St. Vancouver Transfer Co. Ltd. & M.A. Harvey, circa 1890-1. West side Abbott St, north of Water St. Over old beach. At high tide the sea was under it. Wood plank street on piles. Single track C.P.R. main line on right. Claud Adolphus Ballahoola Corbett and Lord Killahoe Drummond out for a bit of an airing. "From Emile de Forest." Presented, May 1938, by Geo. D. Brown, jr, Box 64, Kamloops, through Ald. A.G. Harvey. City Archives.

CONVERSATION WITH AUGUST JACK KHAHTSAHLANO (OF KITSILANO), WHO KINDLY CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, 8 MAY 1944.

PLACE OF BIRTH CHAYTHOOS, NOT SNAUQ.

August came carrying with him his framed copy of his declaration of, I think 1938, anyway, before the "Change of Name Act" came into force, in which he renounces the name of August Jack, and assumes for himself and his descendants the name of August Jack Khahtsahlano, which name was formally sworn to under oath before a notary public, and lodged with the Vital Statistic branch, Victoria. It states that he declares that he was born at Snauc, an Indian village at the False Creek Indian Reserve. He now wishes to retract this, as he says, "Everybody tells me I was born at Chaythoos," Stanley Park (an Indian clearing where his father lives, also known as "Supplejack's Grave"; where Lord Stanley dedicated the park.)

I explained to August that he had sworn to a place of birth under oath, and it would take another oath to alter that, and that copies would have to be lodged at the record office in Victoria, and that our frames would have to be undone and fixed up again, and that I was not pleased with the prospect of proving that a man who was, in fact if not in name, Chief Kitsilano, was born in Stanley Park; it would be more in keeping if he was born in Kitsilano. Whether August caught that point or not I do not know, but finally he said, "Too much bother." He decided not to have any change made.

INDIAN MEDICINES.

Then I asked him to tell me about Indian medicines before the white man came. So he said:

August: "It depends upon the kind of sickness you have go as to what medicines the Indians took before the whitemen came.

"If it's rheumatism, you use nettles' roots, nice and clean. Get a hammer and smash them up, and boil them; don't boil them too much; and wash your aching leg with the water and roots" (he indicated rubbing both hands up and down his thigh, as though rolling a poultice of hot roots and water.) "Wash the legs with the roots and water before you go to bed; hot, not cold. Rub them up and down, good rubbing, and rub, too, all over body, shoulders, sides, all over. It's good for rheumatism.

"If you got cold, use vine maple and soft maple roots; the roots which go east are the biggest; maybe four inches thick, and use the bark; vine maple and soft maple bark off the roots, not off the tree. Boil them, strain them good. Put them in something to hold the liquid, and drink it. Drink it whenever you want; every four hours; any time you want a drink, drink it.

"If you got stomach ache, use devil club. Take the bark and boil him; you got to beat him all the time; keep the liquid. Throw away the devil club and keep the water. Then drink it. Lots of people, when they eat, everything too sweet. Cannot eat. Then they use that too, devil club."

(Note: see Dr. Carter's remarks.)

"If you got headache, and are too hot, jump in the cold water in the creek; that's what the Indians do. If you go to a creek and get in, you get cold slow and easy, not fast like a shower bath. Jump in the creek, get in and get out again, put your clothes on, and go for a fast walk.

"Lumbago. I don't know, but they's got stuff in the mountains, hard to get, high up, it grows like corn, the leaves are just like corn leaves, but there's no corn on the stem. Away up in the mountains.

"Dry it and use saw to cut it up, and it comes out sawdust from teeth of saw. One spoonful of that stuff. It has big roots bigger than your thumb, and they dry it. Don't use the leaves, just the roots. Use a saw, have paper underneath to catch the sawdust, save the sawdust, and then put it in hot water; you don't have to boil him. It's poison; you cannot drink it; just rub it. I got it at home; my wife use it all the time for lumbago; use it for bruises. You remember, long time ago, they play lacrosse in Stanley Park" (Brockton Point Grounds.) "Well, you get hit. Rub him on; do good."

FISH OILS. OILS AS MEDICINE.

Major Matthews: Did the Indians use fish oils as medicine before the whitemans come?

August: "Never use fish oil; never in my tribe, the Squamish; never use fish livers. Up north the Indians use lots oolichan oil, but not down here with the Squamish. I cannot think of any part of a fish they use as medicine."

Note: at this point I 'phoned Dr. Neal M. Carter of the Dominion Fisheries Experimental Station and reminded him that some time ago—about a year—he asked me to find out something about Indian notions of the efficacy of fish oils as food. After some discussion, he asked me to ask August two questions.

1. Did the Indians consider that fish oil had any efficacy in the prevention of colds; did they take oolichan oil with the idea of preventing colds?

Answer by August: "No."

2. Did he know what a rat fish was, and could he say if the Indians, before the whitemen came, used to rub it on their limbs, and so on, to relieve stiffness or bruises. (After some discussion as to whether Dr. Carter meant catfish, and August demonstrating with his hands a fish about twelve inches long, which he said was "pearly" outside, and Dr. Carter replying that it was "pearly" and had a little white bulb on its nose, which August said he did not recall on a catfish, and some uncertainty as to what Dr. Carter mean by rat fish.)

Answer by August: "No."

Major Matthews: Then what do you put on when you get hurt, and when you're stiff after long time paddle in canoe?

August: "I just told you; that stuff we get up in the mountains; that corn stuff."

Note: years ago, August told me that when the first whitemen came they gave the Indians molasses, and the Indians, not knowing that it was good to eat, rubbed it on their legs to relieve the stiffness after long time paddle in the canoe. Which proves that August is like other men, and makes mistakes, forgets, and has all the weakness of Indians and whites alike and common, regardless of colour of skin. The Indians undoubtedly mistook the molasses for oolichan oil.

At this point, Dr. Carter asked me to ask him about devil's club. So, as August has just been speaking of devil's club, and I had typed what he said as he said it, I read the forepart of this where devil's club is mentioned.

Dr. Carter replied: "Just exactly what I wanted, and with this advantage, that he has made the statement before my question was asked. You see, that condition of sweetness to the taste is a condition of diabetes; things taste too sweet, and here your Indian friend confirms something I'll tell you about which may interest you. Do you happen to remember that some years ago two Prince Rupert doctors claimed that devil's club was a good treatment for diabetes. That, apparently, is what the Indians asserted long ago; anyway, that, in effect, is what your Indian friend says by inference."



Item # EarlyVan_v6_026