

Early Vancouver

Volume Two

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

2011 Edition (Originally Published 1933)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1932.

Supplemental to volume one collected in 1931.

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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Contact Information

City of Vancouver Archives
1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3J9
604.736.8561
archives@vancouver.ca
vancouver.ca/archives



AUTHORITIES – INDIAN NOMENCLATURE.

Professor Chas. Hill-Tout, F.R.S.C., F.R.A.I., director, Vancouver City Museum. Report on the *Ethnological Survey of Canada*, British Association for the Advancement of Science, Bradford Meeting, 1900, Belfast Meeting, 1902, etc.

Rev. Charles Montgomery Tate, Methodist Indian Missionary, arrived B.C. 1870, first saw Granville 1873, assisted dedication first (Indian) church at Granville 1876; translator of Gospel of Mark into Indian tongue; author *Dictionary of Chinook Jargon*, 1914; also book of hymns in Indian tongue; probably the foremost living authority on the practical speaking of Indian languages.

F.J.C. Ball, Indian Agent, Department of Indian Affairs, Vancouver.

Major J.S. Matthews, V.D., Archivist, City of Vancouver. Compiler of map "Indian Villages and Landmarks, Burrard Inlet and English Bay, Before the Whitemans Came," adopted as official by Squamish Indian Chiefs, 13 January 1933. Author of *Early Vancouver*, 1931, *The First Settlers of Burrard's Inlet*, etc.

INDIANS.

Andrew Paull (Qoitchetahl), North Vancouver Indian Reserve, secretary, Squamish Indian Council of Chiefs, secretary, Progressive Native Tribes of British Columbia, director, Squamish Indian Band and Orchestra; a prominent well-known Indian, educated and speaks, writes and types English fluently; a clever man and a leader among Indians. Indian name Qoitchetahl.

August Kitsilano (or August Jack) of Capilano Indian Reserve, grandson of Chief Haatsalahnough, hand logger on own account, speaks good English, but cannot read or write. An outstanding Indian of above average intelligence; not a chief. Born at Snauq, False Creek, about 1878. [NOTE ADDED LATER: Actually in 1877.]

Dick Isaacs, Indian name Queyahchulk, North Vancouver Indian reserve, aged "about 70," one arm. Constantly consulted by Andrew Paull, speaks good English but cannot read or write.

Tim Moody, Indian name Yahmas, flathead Indian, aged "about 60 or 70 or more." Speaks good English, cannot read or write. The Vancouver sculptor Charles Marega has made a bust of "Old Timothy" which shows flattened forehead; probably the last of his kind.

Jim Franks, Indian name Chillahminst, North Vancouver Indian Reserve, aged "about 65 or 70." Born at Skwayoos (Kitsilano Beach). Speaks very good English, but cannot read or write. Fine, intelligent Indian.

Frank Charlie, Indian name Ayatak, Musqueam Indian, Musqueam Indian Reserve, aged "about 70 or 80." Says "Old Chief" Capilano his grandfather, and that the "Old Chief" told him he saw first white man, Fraser, come down Fraser River. Nephew of Chief Lah-wa. Speaks good English but cannot read or write.

HANDBOOK OF INDIANS OF CANADA.

This book states that it is "Reprinted by permission from Handbook of American Indians north of Mexico, published as Bulletin 30, Bureau of American Ethnology," and is issued by the Geographic Board of Canada, tenth report, printed 1913.

Extract, page 438:

Squamish

The SPELLING IS FAULTY, so far as it refers to places frequented by the Squamish tribe. THE INFORMATION IS ALSO FAULTY.

Professor Hill-Tout's comment of spelling and details of information: "This is dreadful."

Instances:

Suntz: a Squawmish village, actually a barren rock, page 442.

Chants: a Squawmish village, actually a rock and cave, page 87.

Chalkunts: a Squamish village, no such place, page 87.

Koalcha: should be Kwahulcha, not "Coal."

and many others.

"Hill-Tout in Rep. Brit. A.A.S. 1900" is quoted as authority, and appears to have been so used by someone who could not understand Prof. Hill-Tout's phonetics. See Prof. Hill-Tout's Report on the *Ethnological Survey of Canada*, British Association for the Advancement of Science, Bradford Meeting, 1900, pages 472-3.

ALEXANDER McLEAN, OLDEST LIVING PIONEER.

First saw Burrard Inlet, 1858. Died 26 August 1932, 14 days after he gave this story.

As narrated by this venerable gentleman of 81, in the presence of Mrs. McLean, whom he married in 1876, grandchildren and others, at 205 15th Avenue West, 12 August 1932. A jovial, happy pioneer with white hair, beard, ruddy complexion, and stocky, sturdy frame of medium height, he must have been a powerful man once; "not very well" last winter.

"It must have been 1853, perhaps 1854, that Father, who had been the first wood, water and ?" (with a laugh) "whisky too, merchant in San Francisco, decided that he had got money enough, and set sail in the three master schooner *Rob Roy*—she was a good, big boat which could carry 250 cattle—for the north. Port Townshend was already a port; Seattle was just starting. We stopped at Seattle, oh, perhaps two weeks; it was a little bit of a place; they were clearing the forest off—a company had it, and had 250 men there clearing off the forest. The town was down near the flats; they avoided the big hill on the north.

"Well, after we had stayed there a while, we set sail for Whatcom, and stayed there a year or so, built a fine house on the shore and—no, I don't know what nationality Father was, British or American, I imagine American. Anyway, we stayed there a year and then went to Point Roberts where we remained a year or more. Father built a fine hotel and a private house. One day we found seven men dead on the beach, murdered. We buried them, and then set off for Seattle to let the consul know. We slipped off in the dark, father and myself. I was not very big, but big enough to hold a rope. We rowed all the way; it took us two and one half days."

Note: refer "Indian Villages and Landmarks," comment by Chief Matthias Capilano re murders. Haxten, aged Indian woman states one "bad Squamish man" killed "forty whitemans"; the Indians shot him themselves as an outlaw for he was killing both whites and Indians.

"Then our hotel at Point Roberts was burned down; one of my brothers was burned in the fire; the other brother, Duncan, escaped. Then Father decided on the move which brought us to British Columbia.

"He took the *Rob Roy*, and we started to collect cattle. We got some one place and some another, great fine beasts they were, and then made for the Fraser River with about 250 head on board. As we sailed up the Fraser, I never saw so many Indians in my life; both sides—shores—were lined with them.

"When we were above New Westminster, at a place they call Port Coquitlam now, it was, as I first saw it, a great big prairie, but now it is all covered with trees, some perhaps four or five feet thick. There we put the cattle ashore, but the Indians shot a couple of them, and father decided that that was enough, so we got the remainder which had been put ashore back on board. We had no knowledge that the tide went so far up the river, and had calculated without it, and it was with much difficulty that the shore cattle were got back, through the mud, on board again.

"Just then, Governor Douglas came along in the old Hudson Bay steamer *Beaver*, and he boarded us. He told Father to go to Pitt River, and thither we went. It looked a nice flat prairie country, and the cattle were turned loose.