

## **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 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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# Before the Pale-Face Came Indian Names for Familiar Places



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## **INDIAN VILLAGES AND LANDMARKS. BURRARD INLET AND HOWE SOUND, BEFORE THE WHITEMAN CAME TO ULKSEN (POINT GREY).**

The populous Indian communities of the Musqueam and Squamish tribes, resident before the advent of the whitemans upon the shores of English Bay and Burrard Inlet and adjacent waters, had numerous appellations in their own tongue for localities within their territories, a practice no less necessitous to residents in a land clothed with forest as are the names of streets in a city to us.

These Indian place names, once so numerous, have fallen into almost complete disuse; one only, the Indian village of Musqueam on the North Arm of the Fraser River, first mentioned by Simon Fraser in his Journal of the exploratory expedition down the Fraser in August 1808, as "Misquame," survives to be used by English speaking people as the designation of a place within the limits of the city of Vancouver. The names Kitsilano and Capilano are creations, founded on Indian names.

Excepting the more elderly Indians, survivors of pre-railway days, now numbering probably ten or a dozen only, together with two or three white pioneers, all knowledge of the sixty or more place names in and about Vancouver Harbour, appears to have been lost. A few of the younger Indians are aware of one or two names; even among the older Indians none can give a complete list. The following list was prepared by the City Archivist, Major J.S. Matthews, after diligent enquiry among a large number of Indians over a period of months. The proper spelling was not known by any person, Indian or white, and as recorded here, was adopted after many conferences with the more elderly Indians in company with Andrew Paull (Qoitchetahl), secretary of the Squamish Indian Council of Chiefs. Professor Chas. Hill-Tout and Rev. C.M. Tate also lent their aid. Acknowledgements are also made to F.J.C. Ball, Esq., Indian Agent, Vancouver; August Kitsilano, Chief Matthias Capilano, Haxten, Yahmas, Queyahchulk, Ayatak and Chillahminst.

In commenting upon the effort, Chief Matthias Joe Capilano said, "That was a part of our history which had been lost; we have it now." A resolution of thanks to Major Matthews was passed by the Squamish Indian Council.

The preservation of these Indian names is largely due to a suggestion that the archivist be requested to furnish a list of pioneers of very early days to be guests of the city at the opening of the Burrard Bridge. The archivist included the name of August Jack—otherwise August Kitsilano—born under the bridge about 1878, and in conversations with this Indian, a man of splendid character and commanding stature but not of chief's rank, was told one or two of the old Indian names, and this led to the completion of the list at the end of nine months endeavour.

J.S. Matthews  
Kitsilano Beach  
17 March 1933

## **LOCATION AND SPELLING, INDIAN VILLAGES AND LANDMARKS, BURRARD INLET AND ENGLISH BAY, BEFORE THE WHITEMAN CAME.**

As adopted by the Chiefs of the Squamish Indian Council.

### **COPY OF RESOLUTION.**

Meeting of the Squamish Indian Council held at office of Indian Agent, 206-6 Rogers Bldg., Vancouver, B.C. on Friday, January 13, 1933, Present F.J.C. Ball, President of the Council, Secretary, Andrew Paull, Councillors Matthias Joe, George William, Gus Band, Moses Joseph, Jimmie Jimmie, Henry Jack.

Absentees: Edward Joseph, Denny Paull, Frank Baker.

### **RESOLUTION.**

Moved by Councillor Gus Band

Seconded by Councillor Matthias Joe