

Early Vancouver

Volume Three

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

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Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1933-1934.

Supplemental to Volumes One and Two collected in 1931-1932.

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



STANLEY PARK.

On 7 January 1889, the report of Dr. A.M. Robertson, M.D., City Health officer, recommended to the City Council that the houses at Brockton Point be destroyed, and that no Indians coming from a distance be allowed to camp there in future. This was on account of fear of epidemics of disease (small pox). Stanley Park had been opened on 27 September 1888. Recommendation was carried out, but the report that a lawsuit followed, resulting in the city having to rebuild them, has not been investigated, but this recommendation gives an idea of the date when Indians no longer lived in their ancient home.

PORTUGUESE JOE. GRANVILLE AND STANLEY PARK.

Remark by Jim Franks (Chilaminst), Indian of North Vancouver. (See *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2.)

"Portuguese Joe he first go out Point Grey, out on sandbank, catch dogfish, bring them in Deadman's Island; too rough out there. He get oil. Boil them in great big kettle on Deadman's Island, make oil, sell sawmill; that's what Portuguese Joe first do."

CONVERSATION WITH AUGUST JACK HAATSALANO, 31 MAY 1934.

Query: What does Saasmat mean? The Spaniards who were here before Vancouver say that the Indians called Burrard Inlet Saasmat.

August Jack: "That must be down towards Indian River. Don't know what it means; don't think it has anything to do with Tsa-atlum, that's out Point Grey, means," (shrugging shoulders) "chill place. Tsa-tsa-lum out Point Grey, not Squamish language; don't know what Saasmat means, not same language. We never finished the place names up the Inlet. I give you some more now, all I can think of just now.

"Chul-whah-ulch: Bidwell Bay, same name as Coal Harbour.

"Taa-tum-sun: Don't know exactly where, but up by Port Moody, east of Barnet. Don't know meaning.

"Tum-ta-mayh-tun: Belcarra, means land.

"Spuc-ka-naah: Little White Rock on the point just where you pass mill." (Dollarton.) "Means 'White Rock,' same as whitemans call it." (White Rock Island in middle of channel.)

"Thluk-thluk-way-tun: Barnet Mill. Means 'where the bark gets peeled' in spring.

"Slail-wit-tuth: Indian River."

CONVERSATION WITH QOITCHETAHL (ANDREW PAUL), NORTH VANCOUVER, 12 FEBRUARY 1934.

Query: Can you tell me what Sasaamat means? I understand Galiano and Valdes say that they called Burrard Inlet Floridablanca, and that the natives called it Sasaamat—at least that portion up about Indian River.

Andrew Paul: "I never heard it called Sasaamat, but I'll find out from Haxten. It sounds to me like Tsaa-tsmat. You know Tsa-atlum, the cool place out at Point Grey; well, both names are from the same derivation, and I presume that the North Arm of the Burrard Inlet might be considered a 'cool place,' especially around Indian River."

INDIANS. ARRIVAL OF FIRST C.P.R. TRAIN.

"You know the story of the Qoitchetahl (Serpent). Well, I have always been told that when the train first came down from Port Moody to Vancouver, the Indians along the south shore of the Inlet took fright and ran. A great long black snake of a thing with a big black head came twirling around the curves, blowing long blasts, Hooooooo, Hooooooo, Hooooooo, and the Indians thought it was a Qoitchetahl coming back."