

Early Vancouver

Volume Four

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

2011 Edition (Originally Published 1944)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1935-1939.

Supplemental to Volumes One, Two and Three collected in 1931-1934.

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 125th anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

Copyright Statement

© 2011 City of Vancouver. Any or all of *Early Vancouver* may be used without restriction as to the nature or purpose of the use, even if that use is for commercial purposes. You may copy, distribute, adapt and transmit the work. It is required that a link or attribution be made to the City of Vancouver.

Reproductions

High resolution versions of any graphic items in *Early Vancouver* are available. A fee may apply.

Citing Information

When referencing the 2011 edition of *Early Vancouver*, please cite the page number that appears at the bottom of the page in the PDF version only, not the page number indicated by your PDF reader. Here are samples of how to cite this source:

Footnote or Endnote Reference:

Major James Skitt Matthews, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 4 (Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011), 33.

Bibliographic Entry:

Matthews, Major James Skitt. *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 4. Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011.

Contact Information

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



MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH AUGUST JACK KHAHTSAHLANO, WHO CALLED AT CITY ARCHIVES, 31 OCTOBER 1938.

CANNON SHOT. WARSHIPS ON ENGLISH BAY. JERICO.

- August said: (following conversation on necessity of putting "things down" on paper; he is a born historian) "I tell my children. I say, 'You educated; you can read; you can write; if you sit down beside me, I tell you how the Squamish lived,' but you think they will do it? Noooo." (disgustedly) "They more interested in trapping; make two or three dollars."
- Major Matthews: Did you ever see the warships doing any shooting on English Bay? Come over here, and look at these big cannon shot; we find one at Brockton Point, this other on hillside over Jericho.
- August: "The warships used to anchor off Jericho Beach, and used to shoot across to West Vancouver."
- Major Matthews: What sort of ships?
- August: "Old fashioned men-o-war; we called them men-o-war. Sails, and steam, painted black; big ship; big white smoke when gun go off. They shoot up in the trees in West Vancouver; I don't know where the shells land.
- "Then, sometimes, they shoot out towards Texada Island, away out into the gulf, and the shells would strike the water with a big splash, and then the shells would keep on going, splash, splash, splash, until finally they went down."
- Major Matthews: Did they go straight?
- August: "Sometimes, sometimes in straight line; sometimes they go crooked, curve off to one side, but keep on splashing, bounding over the water; two or three splashes before they go down."

CANDLES. JERICO BEACH.

"We used to go out on the warships, and 'bum' candles. The fellow would give us short thick candles, very thick, very short. The candles had been used; they could not give us new ones, but when we were going ashore, they would give us a big bundle of them in a sack as we went ashore, and then at night time, we would put them all along the tops of logs at Jericho Beach and light them, and they looked pretty in the dark, all along the tops of the long logs lying right on the sandy beach."

CHINALSET. "JERICO CHARLIE." INDIAN HOUSES. POTLATCH.

"Jericho Charlie had a potlatch house there before, and the gunboat pulled it down, and put all the cedar shakes—big, thick, long shakes—on the gunboat, and took it to England. The potlatch house was west of Jerry's Cove, not far, because there was trees, but they cut them down; it was east of air station.

"It was a great potlatch house; it was about seven hundred feet long, as long as from the City Hall to Ash Street, and about ten feet high inside along the walls, and about eighteen feet to the ridge; it had ridge; suppose Squamish copied whitemans, and make ridge. There was five men owned it. Chinalset was the head man, and Towhoqwamkee, Quinahten, Chip-Kay-m, and Charlton; it was built all in one room, but each man had his section, and he's got his mark to show where his section is. Part of it fell down, but the rest was good, and you could camp in it. We were there when the warships did their shooting.

"Then, in addition, Chinalset had a cottage on the end of the sand spit at Jerry's Cove; across the cove from the end of the spit was Jerry Rogers' house; it's the same site as the golf house is now. Chinalset's cottage was on the tip of little sand spit, and opposite Rogers' house."

BURNS OF JERICO. INDIAN WIVES OF WHITEMEN.

"Burns, that's the only name I know him by, Burns was a whiteman married to my sister Louisa, and after he died, they 'kick' her out; he had a six-acre orchard there. But that's the way they do with Indian woman who marries whiteman; when their husbands died, they kick the womans out—because she's 'just a squaw.' Burns had two girls; Maggie died, but Addie is living yet out in Kerrisdale; they have a half-brother, Dave Lock; used to be city policeman, but he's half-Indian." (August deeply resents such treatment of Indian wives of whitemen. J.S.M.)

INDIAN MARRIAGES. OLD KIAPILANO.

Major Matthews: I was talking to Mrs. Walker, eldest daughter of Joe Silvey, of Gastown, "Portuguese Joe" No. 1, and she told me that her father married an Indian girl at Musqueam, and that it was done with much ceremony; that Old Kiapilano took "Portuguese Joe" by the arm, and another chief took the Indian girl by the arm, and put them together, and said they were going to be man and wife, and then gave them lot of blankets, and then put all the blankets in a big canoe, and sat Joe and his wife on top, and they set out for Gastown. What do you think of it?

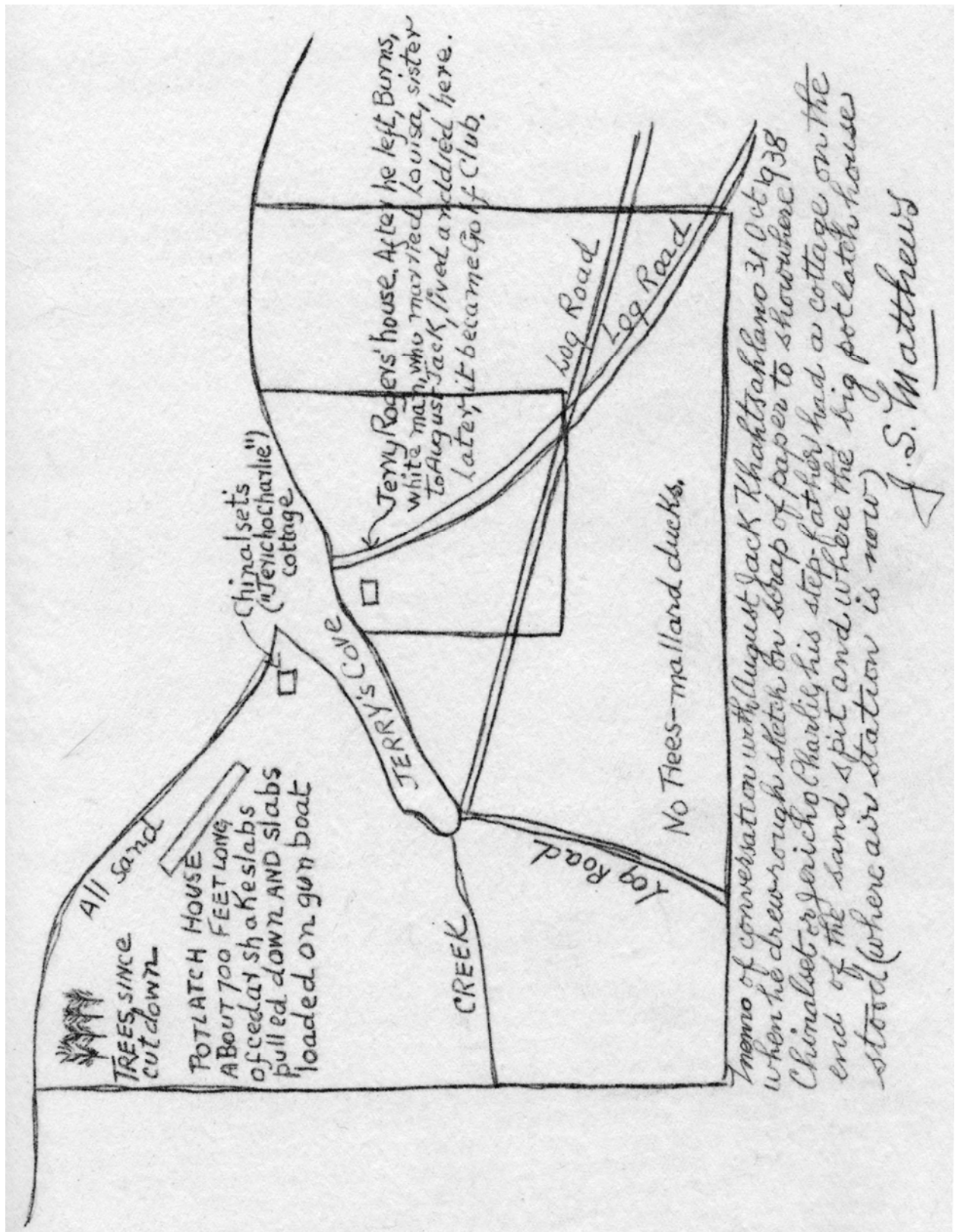
August: "That's the way all Indians marry. S'pose I've got a son, and he wants to marry. I go to you and say, 'My son want to marry your girl.' And he says, 'All right, come on Tuesday,' or someday like that. And they tell all their friends, and each one of them come with his blanket, and the boy come with his blanket, and that's the way the Indian get married."

Major Matthews: But they said it was not the proper way, didn't they?

August: "That's why I had to get married twice. I get married Indian way at Nanaimo. I said, 'I'm an Indian, that's Indian way; I's going to get married Indian way; I'm Indian.' But everybodies kick, and say I'm not married, so I say, 'All right. You's want me to get married whitemans fashion. All right. So I's married twice.'"

OLD KIAPILANO. LAHWA.

"Old Kiapilano was a Musqueam; that's why he was at Musqueam to give the Indian girl to 'Portuguese Joe'; just like me; I have home at Squamish; I have home at Capilano. Old Kiapilano have three wives; one was Musqueam, one was Sechelt, one was Squamish. Lahwa's mother was Squamish."



Item # EarlyVan_v4_019