



Source: RBCM/BCA Photo #A09132

This well known photograph of the village of Ba'as at Blunden Harbour was taken in 1901 by Charles F. Newcombe. [Photo Insert #A09132]

According to Newcombe's notes, one of the figures in the photograph represents "Tukoo Schannah" who is depicted with upraised hand that probably held a club or hammer to show his superiority. The other is his friend "Stlichoot Schnochway" who with raised finger is proclaiming the superior strength of Tukoo Schannah.

### **Legend of Tukoo Schannah and Stlichoot Schnochway**

A very long time ago there was a very strong man - the strongest man that ever existed, named Tukoo-Schannah. He could pull up trees with their roots, take a whale by the tail and rip it in two; he was such a strong man.

He was also a very great diver; he could dive from the shore and proceed under the water as far as ever he wanted to without coming to the surface.

And there was another very strong man named Stlichoot Schnochway who lived on the other side of the water.

And Tukoo Schannah determined to try his strength with Stlichoot Schnochway.

So one day he goes down to the beach and dives under the water. He travels a long long way till he comes to a large rock which bars his progress. He put out his hand and gave it a push to get it out of the way, but he splits the rock open and gets inside the rock and the rock closes on him.

The rock continues the journey till they come to where Stlichoot Schnochway lived; and Stlichoot Schnochway was very glad Tukoo Schannah had come; and Tukoo Schannah told him how he had heard what a wonderfully strong man Stlichoot Schnochway was and that he had come to test their strengths.

And he told Stlichoot Schnochway to break open the rock and liberate him and Stlichoot Schnochway tried and tried and tried but could not. Then Tukoo Schannah spread his hands out gently and the rock falls asunder.

Tukoo Schannah then takes Stlichoot Schnochway by the hand and forces him to lie down prone on the ground.

Tukoo Schannah then takes a rope made of the Sea-Lion and ties it to a large tree and tells Stlichoot Schnochway to pull up the tree out of the ground, and he pulls and pulls and pulls but the tree does not move. Then Tukoo Schannah took the sea-lion rope and with an easy pull out comes the tree by the roots.

Then Stlichoot Schnochway turns to the people and proclaims Tukoo Schannah the strongest man.

Sources:

BCA, Add MSS. 1077. Newcombe Family Papers, Vol. 58, Folder 39

### **What happened to the carved figures on the Boardwalk?**

The figures were sold to Frederick Landsberg who owned a "Curio Shop" in Victoria. In 1905 Newcombe purchased the two Ba'as figures from Landsberg and sold them to the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. They are not longer held by the Field Museum and their present whereabouts are unknown.



Source: RBCM AA-00037

or

Savard, Dan 2010 *Images from the Likeness House*. Victoria: Royal British Columbia Museum, page 121