

## Early Vancouver

### Volume Five

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2011 Edition (Originally Published 1945)

*Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1936-1945.*

*Supplemental to volumes one, two, three and four collected in 1931, 1932 and 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 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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Answer: All I know is what my mother told me. A forest fire caused by the land clearing operations swept the town, and forty minutes after the first house caught fire the entire city was in flames. Mother had to snatch me from my bath, and with my brother and two sisters, fled to the waterfront.

J.S.M.  
May 1940.

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MISS MARGARET FLORENCE McNEIL, WHO, IN COMPANY WITH HER COUSIN, AND MRS. HENRY HAYS MOORE, WIFE, MAJOR MOORE, U.S. ARMY (RETIRED), AND MRS. VINCENT MARINOVICH, A FRIEND, ALL OF PORTLAND, OREGON, LUNCHEDED WITH MAJOR AND MRS. MATTHEWS, 1158 ARBUTUS STREET, ON SUNDAY 28 APRIL 1940, JUST PRIOR TO THEIR RETURN TO PORTLAND, OREGON, AFTER A THREE DAY VISIT TO VANCOUVER AS GUEST OF THE CORPORATION AND CITIZENS OF VANCOUVER.**

**GREAT FIRE, 1886. ALEXANDER AND ANNA McNEIL.**

"Will you please accept these four gold and one stone relics of the 'Fire,'" said Miss McNeil, unwrapping a knotted handkerchief of yellow hue, due to age, and which contained a quantity of similar relics of the "Fire," all of them twisted, shapeless, but of gold or silver. "You see, the heat must have melted them when our house burned; they are molten remains of some jewellery of Mother's, but what I do not know; the smaller one may have been an ear ring. The heat must have been very intense.

"Father was a tall man, six feet four in his stocking feet; Mother was short, and comparatively, quite small.

"Archbishop Duke of the Holy Rosary Cathedral, made me present of this framed photograph of my baptism. You will see that I was baptised by the Rev." (Father) "Patrick Fay, and that the name given me was not Margaret, but Maggie Florence; they always called me Maggie at home. And, you see, Mr. McGuigan, the first City Clerk, was one of my godfathers."

Note: the Baptismal Registry of Holy Rosary Church shows that Miss McNeil was born 27 April 1886, was baptised on 16 May 1886, and there is a notation written in Father Fay's handwriting, "First child born in Vancouver." JSM.

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH AUGUST JACK KHAHTSAHLANO, SON OF KHAY-TULK, I.E., "SUPPLEJACK," AND GRANDSON OF CHIEF KHAHTSAHLANO, IN WHOSE HONOUR KITSILANO IS NAMED, AT CITY ARCHIVES, 29 APRIL 1940.**

Note: much offence has been taken, especially by Indians, to a serial article appearing daily in the Vancouver *Sun*, under the caption "Romance of Vancouver" by Alan Morley, which states in its issues of April 10<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 1940, that Supplejack, or Khaytulk, father of August Jack Khahtsahlano, was suspected of killing thirteen white men in or about Burrard Inlet, and that he died in jail whilst waiting trial for the murder of the fourteenth, and that he was buried "in a tree" at Chaythoos, or Prospect Point, First Narrows.

**KHAY-TULK. "SUPPLEJACK."**

Major Matthews: August. Did your father Supplejack murder about thirteen or fourteen men?

August: "No."

Major Matthews: Did your father die in jail?

August: "No. He died in his own home in Chaythoos."

Major Matthews: How do you know?

August: "How do I know? Why, my mother told me. My mother told me that he, my father, was sick one month and half, and he died; he wasn't sick; he got hit on the head; kicked by a cow. He had twelve cows

and he was milking a cow, and the cow gave him a kick, and he bumped on the wall of the stall; they got stalls where they keep cows.”

Major Matthews: Or that he was waiting a trial for murder?

August: “No. Don’t put down anything like that; that’s not true; that’s all wrong. He was working with the red coats in New Westminster for thirty years; well, he came home, and they gave him a cow, and that’s what gave him a start.”

Major Matthews: But the red coats were only over there for three years.

August: “Well, he was working for somebody with a red coat; he used to take them around in a canoe. He would take them around the Fraser. Sometimes they wanted to go across, and sometimes they wanted to go down the river.”

Major Matthews: Do you remember your father?

August: “No; my father died the same day I was born.”

(At this point I read to August from the *Sun* newspaper, “Romance of Vancouver,” issues of 10 April and 22 April 1940. After I had read about thirteen killings and being in jail for the fourteenth.)

August: (ejaculating) “It’s a lie. Who told them that?”

Major Matthews: That’s what I am trying to find out; would anyone say such things?

August: “I find out that people were saying that my dad was a killer, so I go to find out on Friday, and I go to see my aunt, Polly, Mrs. Chief Harry, and she said, ‘Your dad died at your home, and he was no such a thing as killer.’ She says, ‘Your dad was a good man.’ She was not there when he died, but she says he wasn’t buried in a tree; he was put on a post” (in a canoe inside a wooden mausoleum.) “She say, my aunt say, ‘Your father got nothing to do with that dying in jail; one Indian, his name “Tender Jim,” he died in jail waiting his trial, but your father did not die in jail; he got nothing to do with it.’

“Well, there’s another old man there, the same age as my father, and to make sure, I go and ask him. His name is Dick; one arm. I ask him if you could hide it if my Dad was a bad man, and he say that he go to work at the Hastings Sawmill in the same canoe, that’s how he lost his arm, and he says my father was never a bad man, he was working and doing things right, and sometimes when strange boats coming in, they take my father for pilot, and the old man he says that’s all he knows.”

**TENDER JIM. “ROMANCE OF VANCOUVER,” VANCOUVER SUN, 10 AND 22 APRIL 1940.**

Major Matthews: Why did they call him “Tender Jim.”

August: “Too many Jims, so that call him ‘Tender.’ When I hear” (note: he cannot read or write) “about that in the paper that my father murdered white man, I was good and mad for a while but I’m not so mad now. That man write it” (Alan Morley) “he’s just crazy; that’s all, not much use bother about it.

“I go and see him with Mrs. Moore; just listen; she do the talking. I think the Squamish Indian Council going to have a big meeting soon, and they going to talk about it at the meeting. And I think Mr. Ball, the Indian Agent, I think he look after it, too.”

**“SUPPLEJACK, OR SKAY-TULK, WAS A GOOD INDIAN.” THE VANCOUVER SUN, SATURDAY, 4 MAY 1940, PAGE 19.**

As a result of strong representations made by the Squamish Indians following a meeting held on the evening of 2 or 3 May 1940, and also a visit by them to the *Sun* office, a four column wide contradiction of the objectionable statements concerning Khay-tulk was made by this newspaper.

It states that Khay-tulk died peacefully at the end of a useful life.