

**Early Vancouver**

**Volume Five**

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

**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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**Contact Information**

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



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