



Catherine Winifred Jack

(1882-1980)

Born on March 3, 1882 in Carp, Ontario, Catherine Winifred Jack was the daughter of Reverend and Mrs. T. Bennett. An exceptional student and a woman very much ahead of her time, Winifred entered McGill University at the age of 15 and graduated with first class honours in 1901. After teaching at Ontario Ladies' College and working as a secretary at the YMCA in Ottawa, Winifred travelled to Hong Kong in 1906 where she married Reverend Milton Jack. She then worked as a missionary teaching in Formosa, where their 4 children were born, and in Korea.

Due to her husband's ill-health, Winifred and her family returned to Canada in 1920 and settled in Hatzic because she thought "it was the most beautiful spot in the Valley". They purchased a large raspberry farm which they gradually developed into a family-owned retail nursery called *Ferncliffe* which still operates today. While raising her four children, she helped to subsidize the family income between 1923 and 1930 by teaching in Vancouver, then Chilliwack and finally Mission. She then did the bookkeeping for the nursery – a position she held until the age of 70.

Passionate about community service, Winifred gave back her entire life serving in leadership roles for many organizations. In 1930, she was first elected to the School Board and eight years later was influential in a campaign that resulted in the construction of a new Junior High School. An avid reader, she was instrumental in the development of the regional library service, serving as a charter member of the board.

A supporter of education for women, she was a founding member of the Mission University Women's Club, and is credited with being the "brainchild" of a historical records project that the club undertook to preserve Anthony Taulbut's extensive collection on local history which subsequently led to the establishment of Mission Museum (1972) and the Community Archives (1989) by the Mission Historical Society.

"Always a strong supporter of the Christian faith," Winifred taught Sunday School, serving for over 20 years as the superintendent of the program at the Hatzic United Church and was president of the Women's Missionary Society for close to 20 years.

Predeceased by her husband in 1964, Winifred died at the age of 98, leaving a legacy of exemplary service to the community. Through her belief "You only know if you try", she was an inspiration to all who knew and worked with her.

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A Program of the Mission Community Archives to Document the Women of Our Community
33215 2nd Avenue P.O. Box 3522 Mission, BC V2V 4L1 TEL. 604.820.2621 mca@missionarchives.com

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