

# Winifred Maitland-Dougall:

## A Cowichan Valley Pioneer and Red Current Jelly Winner

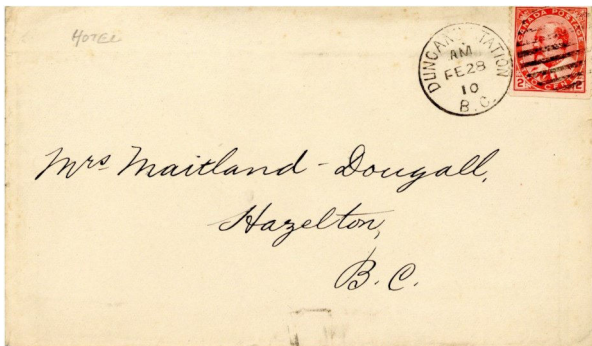


Bruce Pollock. Monograph No.6: The Maitland-Dougall Family of Duncan, BC.  
<https://bnaps.org/hhl/newsletters/bcr/Monograph-06-Jun2022-Pollock-MaitlandDougall.pdf>

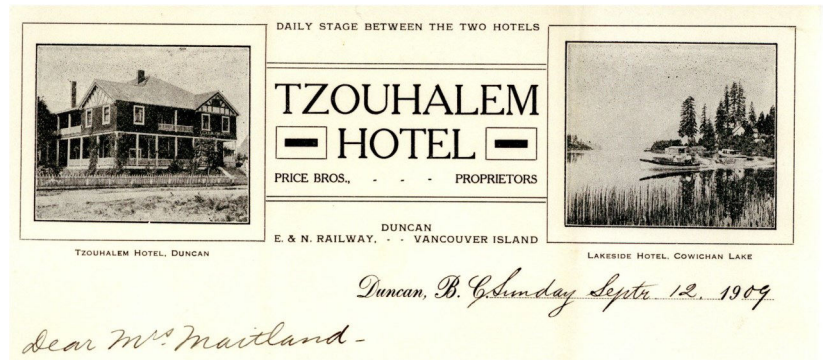
Born on November 26th, 1873, in Thurgoland, Yorkshire, Winifred Maitland-Dougall (née McKinstry Watson) moved to the Cowichan region in 1890 with her family. She married James Maitland-Dougall and had two children with him: William in 1895 and Hamish in 1897.

Tragically, both of her sons were killed in WWI. William graduated from the Royal Navy Collage of Canada (Halifax) with honors. As the captain of the submarine HMS D3, he was mistakenly attacked by a French airship in 1918. Meanwhile, Hamish participated in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force in 1915, and he passed away in the initial Canadian assault on Vimy Ridge in 1917.

The loss of her children depressed Winifred greatly, and she built a memorial plaque for them in St. Peter's Anglican Church in 1921.



Envelope from A. MacLean to Mrs. Maitland-Dougall on February 29th, 1910.  
BCFDC Collection



Letter from A. MacLean to Mrs. Maitland-Dougall on September 12th, 1909.  
BCFDC Collection

Gerald Wellburn, The founder of BC Forest Discovery Centre, collected numerous letters and stamps on Vancouver Island, including several pieces of letters from Alexander MacLean, a lawyer in Duncan, to Winifred between September, 1909 and February, 1910. These letters describe him taking care of her kids and the house in Duncan while Winifred and her husband were in Hazelton for a couple of years, starting in 1909.

For instance, his first letter on September 12th describes how William and Hamish went to school (Quamichan Lake Private School) and joined a "Show" (the Fall Fair, Cowichan Exhibition). He also told Winifred that the kids were staying at Knox's Camp during the week and planning to visit Wallichs on Friday the 17th.

*I saw Willie and Hamish to-day and they both seemed very well.*

"... I saw Willie and Hamish today and they both seemed very well. ..."

Letter from A. MacLean to Mrs. Maitland-Dougall on December 12th, 1909.  
BCFDC Collection

In another letter on December 12th, he said, "They both seemed very well." On February 27th, 1910, Alexander informed her about the state of the house and its equipment, like how "There were three or four plates broken and some jam jars missing."

*Mr. Morten was sorting out the jars of fruit-yours included-to be sent to the Show next day.*

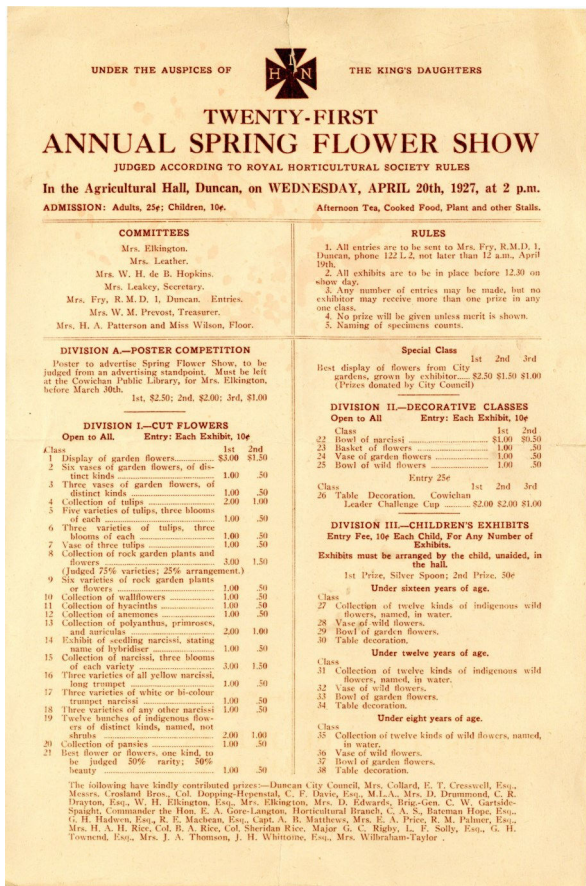
"... Mr. Morten was sorting out the jars of fruit—yours included—to be sent to the Show next day. ..."

Letter from A. MacLean to Mrs. Maitland-Dougall on September 12th, 1909.  
BCFDC Collection

Winifred loved gardening and joined annual festivals with her vegetables and flowers. Alexander wrote, for example, that even though Mr. and Mrs. Maitland-Dougall were absent from the city of Duncan, Winifred handed in her "jar of fruits" to the "Show" with Mr. Morten's help. Even in 1927, after the deaths of her children, she won the first prize of class 23 and second prize of class 16 at the Cowichan Fall Fair with a "Best Red Current Jelly" and a "Coll. [Collection] of Jam, 6 Bottles." The Fall Fair at the Cowichan Exhibit will be held on September 13 to 15 this year.



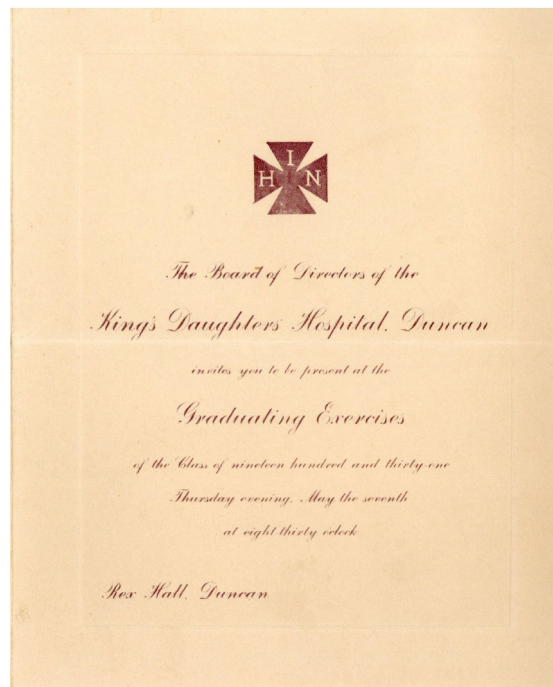
First and Second Prizes to Mrs. Maitland-Dougall at the 1927 Cowichan Fall Fair.  
BCFDC Collection



Poster of Annual Spring Flower Show by the King's Daughter on Wednesday, April 20th, 1927.  
 BCFCDC Collection

Wellburn also collected several items from the King's Daughters Hospital: the Annual Spring Flower Show on April 20th, 1927 and a Graduating Exercises (Cerebration) on Thursday, May 17th, 1931.

The King's Daughters Hospital in Duncan was founded in 1886 by Bessie Maitland-Dougall (Winifred's husband's brother's wife), supported by the philanthropic organization, the International Order of King's Daughters & Sons (New York). Winifred, around 50 years old at that time, might have attended these recreations before she passed away in 1954.



Invitation to "Graduating Exercise" of King's Daughters Hospital, Duncan on Thursday, May 17th, 1931.  
 BCFCDC Collection

by Nobuto Arai, Multicultural Research Co-op Intern.  
 July 10th, 2024