

From Peak Online July 12 2007

Tyra Mabel Ingeborg "Jakie" Donnelly

Born July 13, 1909 at Koivukyla Farm, Hietaniemi, Norbotten, Sweden, Jakie lived a long and active life. She was predeceased in 1943 by her son John and in 1993 by her husband John Alexander. She is survived by son James and his wife Sandra, and by grandchildren David and Sara.

Jakie came to Canada in 1912 with her mother, Beda, to join her father, Felix Jakobsson Jarvi, who had come ahead and established a home on the Fraser River at the foot of Byrne Road. Later her father built a new home on 3rd Street in North Vancouver, and she and younger sister Gerda and brother Felix all attended Queen Mary School and North Vancouver High School.

On her graduation from high school, Jakie attended St Paul's School of Nursing, and graduated and attained her RN in the class of 1933. After a post-graduate year of study with Dr. Proud, she was awarded a certificate in roentgenology (X-ray and radium treatment), and joined the staff of St. Paul's Hospital.

Jakie and John were married in 1941, and after the death of their infant son, John, spent the next few years in Butedale, Bella Bella and Namu, where John worked as cannery supervisor and first aid man. Jakie was employed by both BC Packers and Canadian Fish Company as resident nurse. These years called on all her training and skills, helping injured loggers and fishermen and acting as midwife for a good number of local mothers. Her services as a midwife led to a presentation from the Kitimaat Band of a beautiful silver bracelet, which she wore with great pride for the rest of her life.

Son Jim was born in 1945 at St. Paul's, among her friends and colleagues. Jakie maintained close friendships with Sister Francis and Sister Charles, and often over the years returned to work with them. The family settled into a new house on Duchess Avenue in West Vancouver.

In 1959 the family moved to Pender Harbour, John's family home, and Jakie soon went back to nursing as head nurse at the old Columbia Coast Mission Hospital at Garden Bay. She and John worked actively to promote the move of the hospital to Sechelt, and she was proud that under John's chairmanship, the board signed the agreements with Sechelt Indian Band to make the move happen. She always referred to the "new" St. Mary's with great pride.

After her retirement from nursing in 1971, Jakie and John shared active participation in the Order of Eastern Star, and became charter members of the Sunshine Coast Golf Club at Roberts Creek. Jakie was joined in with the Pender Harbour Hospital Auxiliary, and served as president for many years. The births of David and Sara gave her the opportunity to become an enthusiastic and committed grandmother, and brought her great joy.

In 1994, after the passing of her husband, John, she went with Jim, Sandra, and Sara to celebrate her 85th birthday in Sweden. It was a wonderful experience for all, and her Swedish family put on a great party for her in Stockholm, with over 40 travelling in to the city for the event. This was followed by a trip home to her birthplace on the Lassinantti farm in Hietaniemi (Tornedalen), and she was able to show her granddaughter the church records of her family reaching back to the beginning of the book in 1608.

Jakie was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother; a respected member of her chosen profession; and a proud Swedish-Canadian.

Jakie passed peacefully at Evergreen Extended Care in Powell River BC. She received wonderful respect, great kindness and patience from the outstanding staff, and from her doctor, Brad Schweitzer. Her family is very grateful for all the kindness and comfort she received.

There will be no funeral, and by her request the Reverend Cameron Reid conducted a graveside service on Monday, July 9 at Powell River Cemetery in Cranberry.

Fodelsebok							
Ident	Emid	Datum	Date	Efternamn	Name	Father_Mother	Place
11055			1887-4-24	Lassinantti	Lassinantti Beda Josefina Isaksdotter	Littiäinen Isaac Isacsson / Heikkilä Katharina Wilhelmina Isaks	Koivukylä Hietaniemi