

MARY HAZEL MOWAT [1893-1974]

Mary Hazel (Mouse) was born in Campbellton in 1893. She was tiny even as a child and started school when she was only 5 years old because of her Nov. 30 birthdate. She was quiet at school and the teacher told her mother that she was quiet as a little mouse. Since she was a chatterbox at home they started calling her 'Mouse' and the name stuck for the rest of her life.

She went to Mount Allison Ladies' College and studied voice – she had a true soprano voice and learned piano as well. After 3 years she obtained her Licentiate of Music.

She married **J. Wesley MacDonald**, (b. April 12, 1893 – d. 1956), a successful lumber broker, in June 1922 and they lived in Campbellton.

They had four children: **Mary Joan, Marie Elizabeth, Margot Rose, & John Wesley Mowat.**



L to R: Top- Hazel & Joan, Lower - Margot, John & Marie

Hazel used to practice piano and did scales to keep her vocal chord muscles strong in the 1930's. She sang in the church choir and for a few years sang solo but only in church. She loved classical music and listened to 'Saturday Afternoon at the Opera' without fail. She was a reader, particularly of archaeological digs going on in Greece, and Turkey and used to entertain us at dinner with what she was learning.

She was an excellent cook and good housekeeper and usually had two maids to help. They were young women from the Gaspé peninsula who spoke no English and Mouse spoke no French so attempts at communication were often very humorous – one maid blurting out "More better you do it yourself Ms MacDonald!"

Hazel was easy to love, she was pretty, dressed well, charming, had a good sense of humour. She was also a Mowat, refined, loved fine things, had Victorian values and standards of decorum and was a bit of a snob. She had a good mind, was a voracious reader and especially enjoyed books about ancient civilizations and the latest archaeological finds. Dinner was formal with fine linen and china and Mouse was a talker often leading conversations about what she was learning in her current book. She loved well illustrated books on the exciting artists who were changing the art field at the beginning of the 20th century. Artists like Van Gogh, Gauguin, Matisse, Cezanne, Degas, & Monet were well represented.

After Joan died things changed. Marie was at University but John, then 9, and Margot, 12 years old, experienced a very saddened household where they had far less supervision and formality.

Unfortunately Mouse had inherited her mother Barbara Anne's, problem with nerves and it worsened in her late 70's. She became very nervous living alone in the apartment in her home that John & Jeanette renovated and lived in with their 5 children. When she was nearing 80 she was not remembering to take her medication properly and she talked of wanting to be in a nursing institution. Her family found a suitable nursing home outside of Moncton and she was happy to go. In less than 3 months there, she had a heart attack and died peacefully on October 4, 1974 with her children at her side.

After Hazel's funeral, family from out of town had to leave and they decided the best thing to do before going was to decide how to divide all her beautiful things, from china, silverware and books to furniture and paintings. We devised a scheme whereby each family member would gather the things they would like to have. The grandchildren took part as well. If two or more wanted the same object, they tossed for it so everything was fair. We laughed and cried and talked of memories and the whole exercise was unforgettable.

Joan (b. Ma. 12, 1923 – d. Jan.12, 1943) from infancy had allergies, asthma and chronic eczema both of which flared from time to time. She was sent to many doctors in Canada and the US and some helped but there were no medications for eczema or asthma. In spite of her health problems she was a disciplined, determined, up-beat person and led a fairly normal life. She showed early talent as a painter – evidence her self-portrait painted when she was just 19. While studying at Mount Allison U. her skin problems flared, she was sent to Montreal for treatment and while there had an asthma attack and as a result died tragically in January 1943 at age 19.



George, Judie, Marie & Lyn

Marie (b. Jan. 23, 1925) BSc from Mt. Allison, BEd and PhD from UNB. She taught Chemistry, mainly at UNB. Married **George B. MacBeath** (b. Jan.1, 1924), PhD, an historian, in London, Eng. on Feb.19 in 1949. They have two daughters: **Lyn Susan** and **Mary Judith**. After retiring Marie's energy, went into popularizing science with a TV series, science camps for children and 15 years of involvement in starting a science centre > www.scienceeast.nb.ca . Marie is the author of this website & of a blog: www.rieson.blogspot.com

Margot (b. Oct. 21, 1930) studied art at Mt. Allison and in Europe. She married **Derek Lovejoy**, PhD, a physicist, England, in Aug1953. They have three children: **Shaun, Kristin** and **Megan**. Margot has had a long and distinguished career as an artist and teacher – for full details see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margot_Lovejoy . Now retired she and Derek live in New York.



Derek, Shaun, Miro[his son], Megan, Vanda[Shaun's daughter], Kristin & Margot



1978: L to R – Top: Rob, Jock & Christopher
Bottom – Margot, Jeanette, Lesley & John

John (b. Sept. 18, 1933–Dec.7,2010) BComm from Queens University, He married **Jeanette Stuart**, BA Queens. They have five children, **Lesley, Margot, Jock, Rob (Keir)** and **Christopher**. John led a full life. After his father died he returned to his home town and made great contributions to his community as Mayor of Campbellton and as founder of Northeast Pine Products Ltd. In his later years, he became an entrepreneur and international importer of wood products while based in Toronto. John had Alzheimer's Disease and other serious health problems and died after a long illness.