



## Mrs. Gertrude Edith Whitson

May 28, 1920 - March 22, 2016

WHITSON, Gertrude Edith (nee Hodgkinson) passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at the age of 95 years in Calgary. Predeceased by her husband of 60 years James Whitson and grand-son Spencer R. Noble, she is survived by her daughter Freda (Spencer S. Noble) and grand-daughter Mackenzy. Edith was born in Hyde, England and raised in Manchester. Her teaching career began in 1940 and it took her to Southern Rhodesia where she inspired Kindergarten students for 45 years. In 1989 Edith and Jimmie moved to Calgary. Edith enjoyed spinning, knitting, reading and being active at Knox United Church. There will be a private interment. Donations in lieu of flowers are welcomed to Knox United Church Foundation (Calgary), 506 4th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta T2P 1S7. To send condolences and view Gertrude's Tribute Page please visit <http://www.lylereeves.com> . Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River (403.652.4242).

# Comments

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“ One of my very earliest childhood memories is the receipt every Christmas of a crate of candied fruits from Rhodesia. They were brightly coloured and delicious. We lost contact with the Whitsons when my father Wilfrid, Gertrude's brother, died in 1964. I met my aunt Gertrude just the once, when she visited us briefly in Manchester. I guess that must have been about forty years ago, when the unrest started. I still have a hand-carved wooden snake from Bulawayo that the Whitsons sent us. When I came to Germany in 1986, I used an old wooden suitcase with a Durban sticker on it, that had some how found its way back from South Africa to England. My sister Avis still has a few photos that were taken in Salisbury. So, the Whitsons obviously ended up in Canada. I had another aunt, a certain Mrs Andersen, I think, who emigrated to Canada, Ottawa, I think. We Hodgkinsons are terrible when it comes to keeping in touch, especially because we are so prone to wanderlust, I suppose. Gertrude and I shared the same initials GEH, which is coincidentally German for "Go!" I'm happy to see that my aunt Gertrude had a long, eventful and fulfilled life and so sorry that we did not keep in touch. I have a vague memory of Freda from a photograph of a slim, long-haired blonde girl of about ten years of age. Would that be so? My mother passed away last year. My commiserations, dear Freda.



**Gavin Hodgkinson** - August 30, 2016 at 02:17 PM

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“ For many years, Edith was responsible for the coffee, tea & cookies served after Sunday services at Knox United. Once a month, she would stand in front of the congregation to appeal for helpers to make & serve the refreshments. She always began with, "Good morning, All..." and we would sit a little straighter in our pews. Dear Edith, you were loved.

Susan Wood

**Susan Wood** - April 01, 2016 at 02:00 PM

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“ Although I only knew her for a short time through Knox United Church, I remember her lovely spirit and grateful attitude. My condolences to all her loved ones.

Cynthia Roth

Cynthia Roth - March 29, 2016 at 06:57 PM

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“ Cynthia Roth lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gertrude Edith Whitson



Cynthia Roth - March 29, 2016 at 06:53 PM

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“ Sorry to hear of your Mom's passing -- I was the Office Assistant in Dr. D's office where she & your dad attended. I always enjoyed their visits when they would come for appointments (& the magazines your dad would bring along). May happy memories help ease your loss.

Sharon Watkins

Sharon Watkins - March 29, 2016 at 04:15 PM

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“ I was saddened and surprised to see Edith's obituary in the paper this morning. She was a vital part of Knox United Church for a very long time, and has been missed for the last few months. My sincere condolences to her family.

Elizabeth Campbell

Elizabeth Campbell - March 28, 2016 at 12:37 PM