

Joan Smale
English War Bride
Aquitania
June 28, 1946

CANADA'S IMMIGRATION MUSEUM PIER 21



When my Canadian born son was in Halifax recently

he visited Pier 21 and was very impressed. I gather that because I was a



War Bride he was unable to discover any details of my arrival. He was given several leaflets and pamphlets and on reading them I decided to photocopy my landing documents for your archives.

Ben Wicks wrote a book about War Brides Promise me you'll take care of my daughter in

1992 and I was fortunate enough to have two paragraphs written by me included in the text on page 33 and 172.

I well remember my voyage across the Atlantic in June 1946. I didn't find it a particularly rough crossing but many girls suffered from bouts of seasickness. Several times I was the only person at my table in the dining room. I couldn't bear the thought of not being able to partake of white bread or fresh fruit, which I hadn't encountered during the war years.

What a thrill it was to enter Halifax harbour on June 28th, although the dock area didn't really impress me. We disembarked according to eventual destination and those for Toronto were among the last to leave. After two days and nights on the rain I began to realize what a vast country I had chosen to be my future home.

On July 1st I was greeted at Union Station by my husband and in laws but unfortunately I became a deserted wife when my son was a year old.

Nevertheless I have absolutely no regrets about becoming a true Canadian.

One of these days I hope to be able to visit again, and see Pier 21 in it's new role.

(CABIN CLASS)

IMMIGRATION IDENTIFICATION CARD

THIS CARD MUST BE SHOWN TO THE EXAMINING OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL

Name of passenger SMALE Joan M

Name of ship AQUITANIA

Name appears on Return, sheet 25 line 14

Medical Examination Stamp	Civil Examination Stamp
Landed Immigrant	CANADA IMMIGRATION JUN 28 1946 HALIFAX, N.S. 1877

(See back)