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Lithuanian Displaced  
Person  
Samaria  
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I left Lithuania on June 4th, 1944 with my older brother, his fiance and her family. We ended up in Dresden months later, after many nights of sleeping in fields, barns and occasionally a bed. The German farmers were very good to the refugees and shared what they had. In Dresden we lived in a displaced person camp and eventually moved to Munich where I met my future husband who was also a refugee from Lithuania. There was no future for us in Germany and I was still afraid of more war. We had traumatic experiences of occupation in Lithuania and we were afraid of the Communists. We wanted to be as far away from them as possible.

In Germany they were recruiting young people for all kinds of work in Canada and I signed up as a domestic. I was 25 years old. The Canadian took care of everything. I signed a contract to work for \$35.00 a month for a year.

I boarded the "Samaria" in Bremerhaven. There were 2,000 of us on the ship. The seas were very, very rough and almost everyone was sick. Thank God I wasn't. I had fun. I'd play the accordion which I had brought with me and I'd play cards. There were at least 100 Lithuanians on the ship.

In Halifax we got onto the trains right away to Ajax, Ontario. The train trip was overnight. Then we stayed 3 nights at a university and they fed us like kings. After that we were taken to Toronto's employment office where we met our employers. I was employed by a most wonderful family with 2 daughters and I worked 6 ½ days a week. The adjustment was easier than I ever expected. I learned English quickly because I had no choice. I started reading English too. My first book was "The Mother" by Pearl Buck. It was so hard!

I love being a Canadian. The greatest thing is not having to live in fear. I had no money but I had everything because I had peace. This wasn't so with everyone. Some of my friends cried, cursed, etc., because they were homesick or had hard employers. Some even ran away.

My fiance came a year later and we were married within a week of his coming. We've been married almost 51 years now and have 3 children. All of our children finished university. Our oldest son has a very

successful filming business, our middle daughter is a medical doctor and the youngest has a beautiful family and has given us two wonderful granddaughters and another baby on the way! God has been very good to us. May God bless Canada!