

Tove Gahr nee
Andersen
Danish Immigrant
Stockholm
March 21, 1959



My family, husband Knud Degn Andersen, myself, Tove Andersen, and daughter Karin Degn Andersen, 1 ½ years old at the time, arrived in Halifax 21 March, 1959, on the ship Stockholm from Denmark, the journey took 10 days, a few days the waves were as high as a house, and a lot of people were seasick.

One night people were sliding from one side of the dance floor to the other, which was fun until somebody hit the drum and broke it, that ended the dance that night.

My daughter, Karin, was a favoured of the stewards, so if she didn't like the food on the table, they would take her to the kitchen, so she could point to the food she liked.

When we landed in Halifax, we went through the immigration with no trouble, we then went to the train station to wait for our train, the train station was very dirty, so I couldn't put my daughter on the floor. We were on that train to Montreal where we changed train. We waited 8 hours at the train station, we tried to go outside, but it was bitterly cold, so we soon went inside again. We had no milk on the train for Karin, so when we stopped at a town I went to the nearest store and bought canned milk(condensed milk) , I didn't know ant better, naturally she didn't want that: when the conductor saw this, he gave her his milk form his lunch, first kind gesture in Canada.

We went as far as Marysfield, Saskatchewan, arrived in the middle of the night, so the restrooms were locked. 8AM the train arrived, we asked the conductor if there were any place we could get food, as there were none, he went back home and had his wife make some sandwiches for us and invited us to the caboose for coffee, second kind gesture in our new homeland. The train's passenger wagon was from the 1800, velvet seats, gas lamps, and the toilet a stove pipe to the tracks. At noon we arrived in Lampman, where my cousin and her husband picked us up, they were our sponsors as we had no trades, only office works.---

My husband did casual labour and I did house cleaning and babysitting, our first 2 houses had no running water and outdoor toilets, not what we had expected. Naturally things got better and today I would not trade my homeland for Canada.