

Ewoud Hakker
by Daughter Shari
Schwartz
Dutch Immigrant
Tabinta
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My father left Rotterdam and immigrated through Halifax. His given name was Ewoud Hakker. Going through immigration, the officer felt Ewoud a strange name so he "christened" him Ed upon his arrival. And forever after he was known as this. The only time Ewoud was used was when he was doing any legal papers like passports or the such. Dad always felt Ed was a good Canadian name anyway, "When in Rome."

My father grew flowers near Leiden in The Netherlands. He felt he wouldn't have the opportunity to purchase his own and he knew he would have to immigrate to another country. When he returned from forced labour in Germany he had narrowed his decision down to either Australia or Canada. He had only enough money for passage to Canada. So, he left all the flowers in his rented property for his brother to tend, hopped on the TABINTA and off to Canada he went.

He related the story numerous times of his train ride from Halifax and walking seeing the rocky countryside of Quebec and thinking to himself what he had gotten into. The land did not look so good to grow! But he arrived in Maple, Ontario to work on a small hobby farm of a Toronto banker. He did not stay long. The banker felt that Dad had much more to offer anyone than his small acreage.

My father traveled to southwestern Ontario, and established his home in Wallaceburg, Onatrio. He built up his landscaping and flower shop business. He married a gal that got a free ride to Canada, my grandmother was pregnant on their journey to immigrate.

Three years later his brother and his brother's wife and child immigrated to Canada after receiving news of the available prosperity. Uncle John arrived on the Groote Beer with his family and established his greenhouse business in Chatham, Ontario. He of course arrived in Halifax.

I do hope very soon to get to Halifax. My father passed away last July and seeing his port of entry to Canada would be something I know he would like me to see.

I enjoy visiting your web site and have referred many to view it as well. Keep up the fine work. I am quite sure that you find it very rewarding.