

Linda Ann Wilkins
Parker
English Immigrant
Empress of Canada
December 16, 1947

CANADA'S IMMIGRATION MUSEUM PIER 21



After losing my father Bill Wilkins in WWII and both of her parents all within two years, my spunky 24-year old mother, Ivy Emery Wilkins, decided to start a new life in Canada.

Her sister Susan had been a war bride but things did not work out well for her so she eagerly awaited Mom's arrival in Toronto. With just \$40 in her pocket, a small trunk, her five-year-old daughter (me) and mixed emotions, she boarded the Empress of Canada. Seasick throughout the 10-day voyage in December of 1947, she told me I found it great fun to pull the bell cord, wait for the porter to bring a

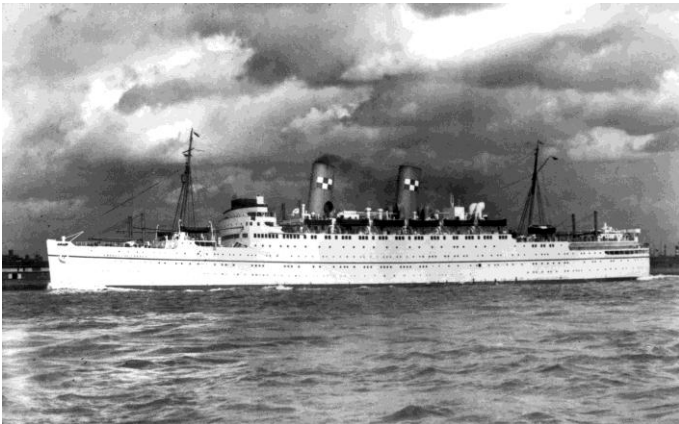
plate and eat the sandwiches made with bread so white I thought it was cake.

We landed December 16 at Pier 21 and took the train through snow-covered forests to Toronto's Union Station and the first Christmas tree I had ever seen. I remember Mom holding me tight as we looked up at that glorious tree. I remember touching her face, wet with tears. I remember waking up in my Aunt Susan's flat on Christmas morning to find a new doll at the bottom of the bed. It wasn't my Rosie, left behind in England but it was mine...just as this big new country was mine. It wasn't easy adjusting, Mom trying to find work, me being teased for my accent, Aunt Susan marrying and moving to Montreal but we survived. Mom eventually



married Canadian veteran George L. Miller and we moved to Northern Ontario.

They are both gone now but I will always be thankful for my life in Canada.



(CABIN CLASS)
IMMIGRATION IDENTIFICATION CARD
THIS CARD MUST BE SHOWN TO THE EXAMINING OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL

Name of passenger WILKINS, Linda
Name of ship EMPERESS OF CANADA
Name appears on Return sheet 26line 29

Medical Examination Stamp LANDED IMMIGRANT Civil Examination Stamp

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION
DEC 16 1947
HALIFAX, N.S.

(See back)