

Ronald Peel by Wife  
Margaret Peel  
English Immigrant  
1923



The wording of article in our  
legion magazine : "Passage  
through Pier 21", brought up memories in this family.

My husband reached Canada when he was 18 months old. His parents, Wilfred and Evelyn Peel, came on the steamship, S.S. Canada, into Halifax. They, with Marjorie and Jim Garner and Joe and Alice Day along with their baby girl Miriam, 18 months old. Ron (my husband) thinks it was 1923 or early 1924, more likely 1923.

They were transferred to a colonist train which brought them to Toronto. The recollections are of wooden slat seats and back, which flattened out for a bed. There was no upholstery on these train seats.

The three families were being sent by Smith and Butlers to help establish a wall paper factory, Stauntons in Toronto, from Leeds, England.

Wilfred Peel was a colour mixer, Joe Day a block cutter and Jim Sarner a printer. These men worked together and became friends, playing bridge with another printer, an Alec Fraser and wives socializing too - piano and sing song for instance.

The original plant was a dingy and smelly place on Yonge Street in Toronto, but became successful and a new plant built in Leaside. The men became hard working Canadians and their son, Ronald Peel fought in Bomber Command in RCAF in World War II and daughter Miriam Day became a radio officer in RCAF.

I wanted to thank you for the article which stirred up memories.

