

Georgina Robertson
Skeet
by Son Harry Skeet
Scottish Immigrant
Corinthia
January of 1920



It was the year 1920, the month of January that my mother, Georgina Robertson Skeet arrived in Halifax aboard the Corinthia along with her two children, Ruby and Harry. My father, John Angus MacIsaac was in Halifax to meet them. The first night they spent in Halifax at the Elmwood Hotel.

The next day they set out by train for Antigonish, Ruby and Harry dressed in the Kilt. They were supposed to change trains at Truro, but found themselves continuing on to Moncton. They had to get off the train at Londonderry Station, and spent a cold night in January around a pot-bellied stove at the train station. Ruby and Harry had been students of Highland Dancing in Scotland, but they soon found out that the Canadian winter was not suitable for their Highland dress!! Mother had previously been a Highland Dancer in her youth.

They settled on Main Street, first in the residence of the late Dr. W.F. MacKinnon's mother (formerly Janet Boyd, and I believe she originally came from the Lakevale area). She had a candy store. Her sister Sarah Boyd was my father's mother. I believe my great Aunt Janet's husband came from Merigomish, and as far as I know she had two children, Dr. W.F. MacKinnon and Margaret who married J.P.Gorman. When Aunt Janet gave up her shop, my mother rented the place on Main Street, and started her own confectionery, later moving across the street and buying a property there just West of where CIBC building now stands (it is now a parking lot). The property had belonged to the Helyers', who ran a Jewelry Store, and there had been a Music Store which was run by an elderly lady by the name of MacDonald. My father started his Barber Shop there and he played a very good Old Time Fiddle, and he and my mother and Harry were much in demand for the Country dances of the day, being picked up in the winter by horse and sleigh. Mother played the piano and Harry the snare drums. He played what I call the mainland style similar to that of Don Messer.

The Highland Society was anxious to get started with Scottish Dancing classes, so mother, Harry and Ruby were asked to commence teaching the art. The classes began in the old Celtic Hall, and in time my mother went on to be a Judge wherever the events happened to be held. I can

remember two other people who came up from Cape Breton and stayed with us to give a hand wit instruction whenever my mother became too busy to continue. One was Launder Smith and the other was Cathy Griffiths.

My father died on December 4, 1928 of Angina Pectoris, very suddenly. Mother and Dad had two children by that marriage - Frances Pellerin and Sarah Catherine (Kaye) Shaw, both living in Halifax.

My father was fist married to Cassie Boyd, a daughter of Angus (Collins) Boyd, School Master, and also ran the post office not far from Dunmore. They had one daughter Violet, R.N. who trained in Boston at the Massachusetts Hospital, graduating in 1929. She married Charles Dannenberg and they went on to live in Milford, Connecticut for the remainder of their lives. They had two children, Jeanette and Charles, still living there.

My mother remarried in 1933 and became Mrs. Samuel Allicon, and being quite the entrepreneur, she started up Seaview Cabins in Tracadie, and was well know for operating a dining room, as well as being very active in St. Peter's Church, and headed the Committee for catering to the Eucharistic Congress held there in the early 40s, and also together with others helped to convene the annual picnics for the Augustinian Monks, when they came to restore the old Trappist Monastery back in 1938.