

Wasył Makota
Ukrainian Immigrant
Europa
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CANADA'S IMMIGRATION MUSEUM
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The picture was made in
Plymouth England. This
story is excerpted from my daily diary:



I, Wasył Makota, left my home in Ukraine in January 1942 as a 14 year old boy to work in Germany during the war. In 1948 I was employed in the coal mines in both Wales, close to Cardiff and Boulton, and in Manchester, England.

In January 1951 I learned that Canada would lend the money for a ticket to go to Canada with the promise to pay back the fare once I was

established there. So I applied for a passport and the necessary papers. On March 19, 1951 I received a letter from the Candian consulate in Liverpool advising me to report for a Medical to travel to Canada.

On the 10th of May I was back in Liverpool to process the papers but had to come back with a letter of character. The mine welfare officer where I worked wrote one. The papers were ready and I was to sail on June 9th. On June 8 after 12 midnight I left Manchester by train to go to Plymouth and arrived at 10:30 am.

By 4:30 pm we were ready to get transferred to the big ship of Europa and started to sail at 7 pm. We arrived in Halifax on June 16th at 8 am. By 10:30 am I had my train tickets.

I walked downtown in Halifax and by 7 pm we were on our way to Winnipeg. On the 19th we arrived in Winnipeg at 8 am at an Immigration building next to the CPR station. Here I got a room and was free. Saturday I was looking for a job in the Winnipeg Free Press. On

Monday I talked with Nash Taxi about a position as a mechanic, and the next day, on Tuesday the 22nd of June I began my first day of employment in Canada.

I had many jobs, even a stint working at CNR. The profession I had in Germany was a baker. At the consulate in Liverpool they were telling me to go to Saskatchewan. But, I fell in love with Winnipeg and got married to a Winnipeg. girl, Margaret. We have a son and a daughter.

After 25 years of self employment my wife and I retired to Grand Marais, the Grand Beach area on beautiul Lake Winnipeg.