

Gloria Betty Brock  
English War Bride  
Letitia  
June 27, 1946



On entering Canada my  
first encounter with

kindness was a Porter on the Railway Train: he took time to buy fresh fruit for us and did all he could to help us love our new country. I feel this Black Porter will always be my First Canadian Friend and I wonder just how many more new Canadians these dear Porters helped.

I was lucky and was received well; it really eased me into Canada, as I was expecting our first child. My husband couldn't be there to meet me as he was in England due to go to Burma. It was a real culture shock coming from the big city of Leeds, England to Abernethy, Sask., a village of perhaps 400 people and living a farm life. It took a lot of getting used to. Things like "flour" no one thought to say that you needed baking powder to bake with. In England we used all purpose flour with the raising agent in it. But in the 10ft by 10ft room I called our home for 5 1/2 years I stayed with it and together John, my husband and I raised 3 lovely children, 2 daughters and a son, all well educated and good Canadians.

I am pleased to say after all our children left home I dreamed of how great it would be to have all War Brides keep in touch, so in 1975 I decided to found the Saskatchewan War Brides Association, In doing so during registering some, we were informed we were the first to register with the Canadian Gov. in the whole of Canada. This being so we pushed on until today, we are Canada wide, each Province adopting the same rules and regulations yet only changing where their particular Province demands it. The first war bride gathering after being in Canada after 30 years was held in Regina with 53 war brides attending. We were invited to the Sask. Legislative Opening and noted in their minutes, this is April of 1975. This was just a days outing, the organizing meeting took place in June of the same year and the charter given in July of 1975. In charge of the day in Regina 30 year event were, Mrs. Betty Frans of N. Battleford, Gloria B. Brock of Abernethy and Helen Smith of Glaslyn, Sask. The founding of the War Brides Association officers were as follows:

Gloria B. Brock - Abernethy Sask - President  
Kay Garside - Regina Sask - Secretary Treasurer  
Helen Smith - Glaslyn Sask - Vice President

Dorothy Wastrodowski - Waldon Sask - Committee  
Ray Ferris - Yellow Grass Sask - Committee  
Mary Dament - Yellow Grass Sask - Committee

Being a Canadian:

I feel after filling in all the papers I did and the medical I went through to be accepted into Canada is the right way for people to enter. I also feel if we are going to be true Canadians we should be proud to have a Citizenship Card, that is an easy to carry statement of same, in fact why not give all the graduates of high school one instead of fancy presents that are often not much good, in our of country problems if we train our young to be proud of their country, then we would not have to worry about tomorrow, in short, if you say you are a Canadian prove it.

I feel proud to have entered Canada a scared young girl and grew to be proud of all the work I did to bring war brides together and help keep in mind they came from 16 countries. We are able to help new Canadians in many ways because we did it.