

Jean Charter
English War Bride
Queen Mary
September 1946



I arrived in Halifax, with my two and a half year old daughter, Lorraine, aboard the "Queen Mary" over Labour day weekend 1946, and my destination was Moncton, New Brunswick to join my husband and my in-laws. Usually there were enough war brides to warrant their own train, but as they were so few of us heading to New Brunswick at that time, it had been arranged for us to travel in a coach attached to the Ocean Ltd. regular between Halifax and Montreal, which necessitated us staying one more night on the ship. At 6:00 am, we were escorted by soldiers who helped us with our luggage and children, to our coach at the far end of the train, this assistance was really appreciated. My first brief glimpse of Halifax, seemed to be of many white buildings, then as we traveled on through the countryside, we were fascinated with the colored roof tops of houses along the way. On our way to the dining room, we had to pass through other coaches and could not help hearing the passengers say "Those are War Brides." (I wonder how they knew!)

I finally arrived at Moncton to a warm welcome from my husband and his parents. The one thing that did go wrong during my voyage was the loss of my luggage, which finally surfaced about three weeks later, fortunately, I was able to borrow some clothes from my sister-in-law, in the meanwhile. With the help of my new family, I quickly adjusted to my new life in Canada. Then in 1951, my husband rejoined the forces in the Air Force, so for almost 20 years, we experienced life in many parts of Canada, which was an adventure. Now my husband and I are enjoying our retirement years in Victoria close to our daughter and family, and feel we are very fortunate.

After coming to Victoria I joined the local branch of the Vancouver Island War Brides, a very strong and active group. I can truly say, I have always thought of myself as being very fortunate to have been one of the many War Brides, immigrating to Canada and learned to love this country, my home.

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