

Doris M. Johnson
nee Hogben
English War Bride
Letitia
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I arrived as a War Bride with only the clothes on my back! The reason for this is that my luggage was lost, and put in the "hold" of the ship. A steward who was kind enough to look for it, found a suitcase, brought it up to me, but it turned out it was full of my husband's underwear! On landing at Halifax, I rushed uptown (disobeying orders!) to quickly buy a blouse, a skirt, and some underwear. I handed the clerk a handful of Canadian money (which was unfamiliar to me) and told them to help themselves! I rushed back to the platform, and there was my chaperone, (a soldier) with the suitcase I had been looking for! Now I was ready for the next adventure.

My husband was waiting for me at Gull Lake, Saskatchewan, and after a few days there, we both boarded the train and headed for Parksville, Vancouver Island, which was beautiful to me, because it was much more like England than Saskatchewan was. The spring flowers were out in bloom, and it was so nice to get to my destination, and find out how nice it was. We remained there for 45 years, raised a family, two girls and one boy. Judy, Heather, and Brian. Among other things, we eventually operated our own campsite and mobile home park. In March 1980, along with another War Bride, I was a co-founder of the Vancouver Island War Brides Association. It has been an overwhelming success, and a great support group. Reunions take place every fall, and a general meeting every spring.