

MY LIFE IN CANADA

I am Mrs. George Brown. I married a Canadian soldier in England. (my native home). The first world war over, I crossed with the last of the troops in May, 1919. We crossed on the steamship (*Himmindosa*) making the record trip in 7 days. We landed in Winnipeg, from there we took the trains for Edmonton from thereto Athabasca, my husband's native home. We had no house to go to, till we could get one, so we stayed in the Grande Union Hotel for a few weeks ^{then X} over Charlie Parker's Store, who then had a store opposite the Grande Union. The above part of Parker's Store was built for an hotel - sixteen rooms. It belonged to a George ^(e) Lang, an old timer of Athabasca. Well from there I really started working. Dr. Myers was the doctor for Athabasca, the old Hospital then. The doctor came one day to see if I would do him a little job of nursing I told him I was not a nurse. "Oh", he said, "You can do it. It is an isolation case of the mumps. I am getting a room in the ^(e) Lang Block for him, if you will nurse him for me". I agreed. He brought a young German Lad about 19 years of age - bad case of the mumps. He said, "You will get \$3.00 a day". I nursed him for 3 weeks and he got quite well. His father told me to have him dressed warm and he would bring the team. He told me to make up my bill and he would pay me. He looked so hard when I handed him the bill I thought something must be wrong. He said, "I was wishing I would get the mumps so you could nurse me." (Joke eh?)

After that the doctor wanted me to help out again. He said he had brought his two sisters out from Germany and took them home to his wife

and family and they did not know how to do anything, and his wife was sick. He asked me to go and fix breakfast for eleven of them, wash the dishes, ~~wash the dishes~~, and leave the dinner for them. Then I had to walk home to do my husband's dinner, the dishes, etc., and then back to the doctor's to fix supper, dishes again and so on, but I did not go after supper. I kept that up for some weeks until the relatives all went away.

Next, my husband's brother-in-law wanted something done. His wife, Louisa Barker, and my husband's sister, who was very sick, and while in the hospital she used a leg rest to ease her legs when they became fixed up under her chin. Her husband asked me if I would have her home, as she wanted to be with her two kids, one four years, the other three years. I said I would take her and try to get her better. We then lived in Grombo's house, top of Athabasca. Six months went by before I got one leg straightened out, and in eleven months the other one. I had her on crutches and today she can get over the ground better than I can, as I am somewhat crippled myself.

We then were able to go into our New House, which was way back in the bushes - quite lonesome but nice. There I had quite an experience.

One afternoon Man came to my door, knockt but walket inright in, sat down & made himself at home, He was poorly dressed ragget breeches, torn shirt, & bright pink jankie tied around his neck, He started to ask me questions "Did I have anyone belonging to me & how long had I been in Canada, Did I like it, etc etc etc I said I had been out here eleven month

He said too bad "if you have a mother why dont you write to her,

I said while I stade in Grënd Union Hotel, I wrote every day as the letter then were three weeks going over, Well he said, " they thought you had gone to the bottom of the ocean as they never heard from you since you left.

He said you are Mrs George Brown are you not, He said) Ill bet you dont know who I am, eh?, " I am one of the North West Mounties, Your father has send me a cable, to inform him, if I found you.

So now you write a letter & I will postthat one myself. And send cable to your folks. Thanks to the Mounties in Edmonton, My people knew that I was alright.

Mr, Mills) a member of Parliament, Owned small ranch 75 miles from Athabasca , He wanted my husband to teke cere of seme , I had two hired mento cook for, My husband looked after all the cattle etc. I stayd 3 years. We had 14 people up for moose hunting, I cooked for all of them. They would go early , I had to get up threeClock in the morning to cook the breakfest. The bass sold out , We then went to Smith & hubby worked on the railroad , I was 45 years in Smith- no holidays. I am a widow now 75 yearsold taking things easynow.

If aver you are feeling sick , getto the Athabasca hospital , Both Dr,^wRight and Dr, Miller will give you the best attention , The nurses are kind and good You will leave feeling fine, I have been there many times , Feel like new women when I leave Good by to all.

Yours Sincerely
Geo George Brown.