

Interview Essay

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“Canada was the land of opportunity” Is what My Mormor (Grandma) was told right before her family were going to immigrate to Canada. Little did she know this would be one of the best decisions of her life.

My Mormor is originally from Denmark in a city called Aalborg. Before she immigrated to Canada her family had a successful furniture business called “house of Dainish Furniture”. Her family wanted to move to Canada to give their future family a better life with better opportunities. Canada was also “the land of opportunity” like my Mormor was told. My Mormor had a family friend who already immigrated there a year before they did. She told them that she liked it and recommended My Mormor’s family to immigrate Aswell. My Mormors dad then made it official they were going to move to Canada. So, in the year 1957 they immigrated to Vancouver BC, Canada. My Mormor was only 11 when they moved to Canada, which was hard for them because none of them knew how to speak English. My Mormor and her siblings went to a special school that only taught immigrants. This school mainly taught them English and Canadian Heritage.

While arriving to Canada was very interesting and had lots to learn my Mormor knew it wouldn't be easy. Her family made a rule that they would only speak

English outside their house, therefore they would also practice English all the time. Canada was also a different climate than Denmark. For example, Vancouver Island is bigger than all of Denmark. Denmark also has no mountains and very few hills, Denmark and Canada have similar weather in the summer but in the winter, Canada is much colder, however Vancouver and Aalborg are similar in all seasons, Denmark is also very windy because it's surrounded by water. Canada was More developed than Denmark, it had more people, and the economy was bigger and better. Bit by bit my Mormor started to get better at English and got good grades in school. Her family settled down and continued there Furniture business here which did well.

After a while everyone was happy and well and their lifestyle adapted to Canada. FastForward 10 years later my Mormor met my grandpa at a bar. My Mormor was on a date with someone else, my grandpa saw her and approached the guy she was on a date with and said, "would you give me your number" The other guy that my Mormor was on a date with said "Do you wanna go buddy", so my grandpa had it and threw one punch and knocked the guy clean out. Then a couple years after they've been dating, they got married and had 3 kids one of those kids is my dad. She preserves her heritage by visiting her cousins in demark every couple of years and immerses herself in her Danish culture.

Overall, this project helped me learn about my culture and heritage which I found to be quite interesting and eye opening. I'd like to continue my research and expand my knowledge about my ancestors and relatives so that I can have a better understanding of my cultural heritage.