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My earliest recollection of my “Gram,” Grandma Somerville (nee Norma Giffen Swanston) was when she and Grandpa came to Kamloops in 1949. I was three then and the memory is pretty fuzzy.

One thing that really does stand out is the overalls that Grandpa Somerville bought me. I was very proud of them and wore them always!

Later, after Grandpa Somerville died in 1951, Gram came to live near us. She left the farm in Endiang, Alberta in the capable hands of her son, my Uncle Bob, and moved to Kamloops in 1954 to live with a man as his housekeeper. Andy Mcclughan lived in a tiny house at the corner of 5th Avenue and Battle Street, and Gram cooked his meals, cleaned his house, and generally looked after him.

It was always a treat to go see Gram on our way to the park for a swim, for she would make inch-thick peanut brittle, or cookies, or brown-sugar fudge for us. We seldom failed to stop by for a bit of sweet stuff!

Mr. Mcclughan was a bit of an irascible old character, so Gram moved in with Mr. Forsyth, a gentleman who lived not far away in a house on the 700 block Nicola Street. He offered Gram a better arrangement, so moving wasn't a hard decision to make. Mr Forsyth had been a Bengal Lancer in the British Army in India. He told us stories of how he was performing the Musical Ride (the same as the RCMP ride), where two rows of mounted riders charge at each other. Mr Forsyth took a lance tip right through his thigh when another rider erred slightly in where he was pointing the weapon. Ouch!

Mr. Forsyth died in 1960 and Gram was offered the house from his sons at a very reasonable price, fully furnished. His boys were both RCAF pilots and didn't really want or need the house, so, on the advice of my dad, she bought it.

Gram was rarely alone as she took in nurses as boarders. They liked living with her and she liked their company. They were good people, and the friendships that developed lasted for as long as Gram lived.

Gram was a stately old girl, tall and erect. She had a great network of close friends among her neighbours and the United Church women, and she was always ready to take in strays.

She lived on Nicola Street until 1977 or so, when she briefly moved into the Ponderosa Home in Kamloops, then on to Overlander Extended Care facility in Brocklehurst, where she lived out her days until she died in 1981 August 6.

Gram is buried beside H.P. in the cemetery at Halkirk, Alberta.