

Other story involved her granddaughter Anna. Gertrude let her geese roam freely and they loved to chase people. One day when Anna was three, the geese decided to chase her. She ran, tripped, and the geese ran over top of her. Because her Gran thought it was so funny, Anna, too, had a great laugh about the silly geese. Most days while the girls were young, she would meet the bus to hear about their day. She taught them many skills such as kneading sourdough, knitting, and how to dip a brand new chick's beak in the water to give it a drink after being crowded in the shipping boxes. She often took the girls with her to round up and feed the chickens. They had many "bonding sessions" as they worked in the garden pulling weeds and the ever-present twitch grass. Gertrude loved nature and liked to take the girls for walks in the woods and fields. These were no ordinary walks, but observations of natural habitats. Gertrude could spot a cocoon, bird or bug at twenty paces. Elizabeth recalled one trip to Kingston when she had an upcoming assignment on leaf identification. Her "Grandma" pointed out and named all kinds of trees as they drove along. Perhaps it was her Grandmother's influence that led Elizabeth into the study of biology. She also may have influenced Anna to enter an art field. She and "Gran" would sit and draw, discussing how to make a shape and what colours they would use. Gertrude was very much a part of the life of her grandchildren and enriched their lives in a way a parent is not able to do.

In between "grand-parenting," Gertrude did some traveling. At 74 years of age she went to France for a month to study French. She traveled to England and Florida several times and loved to visit Newfoundland, taking Elizabeth and Anna with her on one occasion. For someone who grew up without automobiles, indoor plumbing and hydro, Gertrude adapted to some new technologies readily. Shortly after she got her first credit card, she went to England. She wasn't able to stay with her daughter one night and needed a hotel that was nearby. The closest one overlooked Windsor castle but was priced much higher than their usual hotels. Gertrude, non-plussed, said, "I'll just put it on my Visa."

In 1988, Gertrude's brother, Casey became ill. She wanted to be with him to keep him company and comfortable. She stayed there for 2 years and really enjoyed getting to know her nieces and nephews and their families so well.