

ROE, Family

By Mrs. Edgar T. Brock

Roe Family Story

[Typed from original hand-written notes, believed to have been written by Edgar Tolman Brock's wife - name unknown (A portion of a family history of Andrew Church and Georgeen Janzen)]

Peter Sherwood Roe (born Montreal, I think) married Emma Walsh Roe (b. Arnprior, Ont.)

Children: Russell Roe(died single) Cliff Roe + Mildred (had 2 boys), Edith Steers (had June) Vera Gertrude (see below)

Vera Gertrude was born in Ottawa October 8 1894. She married Guy Frank Brock March 31, 1915 in Vernon BC and they had five children:

- Edgar Tolman was born Aug 18, 1916 in Naramata
- Lyle Crawford was born in Summerland October 6, 1920
- Bryson Andrew (Bud) was born in Penticton July 14, 1928
- Margaret Joyce was born August 26, 1930
- Mary Estelle was born January 30, 1938

Vera died in Vancouver on March 6, 1979 at age 84

Peter Roe moved west with his wife, Emma, and 4 children in 1911. His brother Gerald, sisters Fanny and Edna, along with their families travelled out by train. They all had private sleeping cars while their belongings came in freight cars. They travelled to Sicamous where they transferred onto the Sicamous/Vernon branch line. From Vernon they travelled by boat to Naramata.

During the First World War, Vera worked in the orchards in Naramata until her father, Peter Roe, moved his family and business across the lake to Summerland at lake level. Vera married Guy Brock in Vernon in 1915. He joined the British Army in 1915 or 1916 as a boat mechanic in the Sappers Engineering Division and went to England. He served in the Far East (there is a snapshot of him in a riverboat on the Tigris-Euphrates River). He got sick and was rehabilitated in a large estate in the Kashmir area of North India. Guy returned home in late 1919. At this time the railroad wasn't built as far as Summerland and Vera drove a McLaughlin sedan as a stage from Summerland to the Penticton Railroad terminal to meet him. When Guy arrived in Penticton he almost refused to ride with Vera and son Edgar in the front seat. The road they used was up on the bluffs as the Lakeside highway wasn't built.

Vera's father Peter and (uncle) Gerald Roe built a hotel in Naramata and started a passenger and freight service on the lake to Vernon. The *Sicamous* may have been one of their sternwheelers, but (I) am not certain. Sometime in the 1920s Guy and Vera moved with Edgar and Lyle down to the USA. They stayed about a year and Ed went to school there. Mildred (Guy's sister) and Harry Hill lived in Hartford City, Indiana where he owned or managed a glass factory there. They came back to Penticton where

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Bryson (Bud) was born in 1928. Vera told me they dressed the two boys in long pant suits to come home. They were quite a sensation as boys of the day usually wore shorts or those baggy below the knee pants (plus fours).

My dad (see below) started work in Prince Rupert shipyard in 1927 where he was the pattern maker who made the models and cast metal engine parts. The *Pentona* was contracted to be built in the CNR shipyard in Prince Rupert. After it was completed, it was taken apart and shipped on flatbed cars by the CNR. It was reassembled in Vernon where it was launched in the late 1920s. It had an active life on the Okanagan Lake and later served as a restaurant in Peachland or Westbank.

Vera's parents, Emma and Peter, lived on Van Horne or Ellis Street (Penticton). Guy and Vera lived a few houses away. Vera did a lot of nursing and caring for her mother at the time. After Vera's mother died of cancer in the 1930s, her father Peter sold out to the CPR. The family always blamed the CPR for catching Peter at a very vulnerable time in their dealings with him. He'd been promised a skipper's job on one of their boats in Vancouver, but found his lake license wasn't of the standard needed on the Pacific Ocean. He left and got a job with a company setting industrial diamonds into machinery and ran a plant in Vancouver until he either died (while still) on the job or retired sometime during World War 2. He is buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Vancouver, not in the family plot in Penticton. When Vera died in Vancouver, she was cremated and her ashes are in the 3rd grave in the Roe plot in Penticton with her mother and brother Russell.

Brock Family

Guy Frank Brock was born March 3, 1893 and died on August 15, 1972 at age 79. He was raised in Jefferson Park and Forest Glen, Chicago. Arch Brock (maybe Guy's father?) Evanson, buried in the Polish cemetery, died of heart and dropsy.

Guy's mother, born Williams, from Lancaster line - Ruth's cousin perhaps, married name Brock who died and then remarried a minister named Sheldon who raised Mildred and Guy but didn't change their last name. The two Lancaster sisters in California remember the second marriage. They said she was so full of fun that no one believed she'd ever marry a minister, but they got along well and the marriage was a great success.

