



Arthur Roy Coleman

1884 - 1932

Arthur Roy Coleman was born in Van Buren Township, Michigan in 1884. His parents were Calvert Coleman and Sarah Westfall. Calvert was born in New York and Sarah was born in Michigan.

Arthur, known as Roy, was the youngest of eight children born to Calvert and Sarah: William (b. 1864), Mary (b. 1866), Samuel (b. 1868), George (b. 1870), Addie (b. 1872), Claud (b. 1875), Jennie (b. 1877). Calvert and Sarah were married December 24, 1863, in the midst of the Civil War era.

The 1900 census shows Roy living with his mother Sarah and his brother William at 888 Greenwood Street in Detroit. He worked as a clerk at Scott Dillon & Co. in Detroit in 1902 and 1903.

Roy must have had an attraction to Chatham, Ontario, Canada since he was married there three times.

The first marriage was to Myrtle Fitzgerald in 1905. Both were 21 years old and both were from Michigan. Roy's occupation was listed as a bookkeeper. There is no record of whether this marriage was terminated or how.

Roy's second marriage was to Florence Knapp in 1909. The marriage was performed in Chatham. The marriage record gave three options as to marital status: bachelor, divorced, widowed. He listed himself as a bachelor. He listed his religious affiliation as Methodist, his occupation as livery keeper, and residence as Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Florence and Roy had two children. Dodd was born in 1910 in Detroit. Ruth was born in 1913. It is reported that Florence died a year or two after Ruth was born, leaving Roy a widower. Roy's sister, Jennie Freer, and her husband, Edgar Freer adopted Ruth. His sister, Addie Skerrett, took care of Dodd for a while and doted on the little boy, according to Addie's son-in-law, Bill Chambers.

Roy married Margaret Paterson in Chatham on May 29, in 1916. Margaret was then residing in Chatham. Roy apparently moved to Chatham and lived there for a few years since his draft registration record shows him as an auto salesman working in Chatham and living there with Margaret Coleman.

The 1920 census shows Roy and Margaret living on Woodward Avenue in Highland Park. With them was Dodd, then 9 years old, daughter Jean, 3 years old, and daughter Betty, 1 ½ years old. Also in the household was Roy's 18 year-old nephew Donald (son of Arthur's brother Samuel) and Margaret's sister, Agnes Murray. The census listed Roy's occupation as auto factory salesman.

In the 1928-29 Detroit city directory, Roy's occupation was listed as manager for Belle Isle Creamery Company. The 1930 census shows Roy and his family living at 16538 Woodward Avenue in Highland Park. This was a

block south of McNichols (6 Mile Road). Living with Roy and Margaret were Dodd (19), Betty (11), and Murray (9). Their daughter Jean had died in an accident in 1923.

In the 1932-33 Detroit city directory, Margaret was listed as a widow. Roy had died in 1932. He was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Detroit.

Murray's children only heard a rare reference to Roy. No mention was made of Roy's siblings other than to Roy's sister Jennie whom Murray occasionally visited at her horse ranch in Orion Township.



Aunt Betty and Gary Coleman at Roy's Grave.