

The Vyse Family

In the year 1873 in Gloucestershire, England, Lilian Smith was born - the daughter of a miller, George Smith.

Lilian married James Vyse in the year 1900. Mr. Vyse, being in ill health, was advised to go to a dryer climate, and in 1913, the family (which now included a daughter, Edna) sailed for Canada, settling in Aldershot. James Vyse rented a house on the Townsend Estate, now owned by J. Cooke. The house was demolished several years ago to make way for the Towers store. Mr. Vyse obtained work with the National Fireproof Company and was head Millwright there for many years.

James and Lilian Vyse joined St. Matthew's Anglican Church. Lilian became a faithful worker, helping with the Ladies Aid, the A.Y.P.A., and the Women's Auxiliary. For many years she was Secretary-Treasurer and Programme Convenor of the latter organization, and was presented with a Life Membership in 1950. Lilian was also a member of the Aldershot Women's Institute, making reports and helping in all phases of their work. She was made a life member of the Institute in 1946 and was "Card Convenor" until two years ago when the branch was disbanded.

Life in 1913 was hard and lonesome for the women, as Aldershot had few families in those days; mostly market gardeners, growing small fruits, melons and tomatoes, with apple orchards here and there. Washing

was done by hand with water pulled or pumped from wells. Houses were heated with wood stoves and coal oil lamps shed a soft glow over the dining-room table, where the family gathered. Bread was home-baked and meat bought from a van-horse-drawn from door to door. Groceries were purchased at Sinclairs' store and life centered around the home and church.

In 1950 James and Lilian Vyse celebrated fifty years of happy married life and three years later, in the year 1953, James Vyse passed away. He was a kindly man and many still remember the kindly words and smiles of "Uncle Jim".

Lilian Vyse still resides in Aldershot with her daughter and is in her ninety-first year. She still writes long letters and knits many beautiful garments.

Edna Vyse, daughter of James and Lilian, attended the small school house situated at the corner of Howard's Road and Plains Road. Edna married Sydney Wickens, son of Minnie and George Wickens of London, England, and later of Campbell's Corners, Aldershot. Sidney Wickens is with the Head Office of the Imperial Oil Company of Hamilton. They have two sons, Gordon, and Stanley.

Gordon married Thelma Lewis in 1951, is an electrician and resides in Carlisle. Gordon and Thelma have two sons, Clyde and Stephen.

Stanley married Ann Penrose while in England. He brought his bride back to Canada and settled in Port

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