



## Chapter 5

# THE END

Sol's wife Margaret passed away on November 13, 1931 at her home in Windber. She had broken her leg in a fall and spent 8 weeks in the hospital and 3 weeks at home prior to her death. Although she had been in declining health, her newspaper obituary states that it was felt the injury received in the fall precipitated her rapid decline.



Margaret with grandson John S. Roach in 1928. Margaret with grandsons Harry and John Ferrier in 1926. Margaret with Dorothy and Betty Jane Roach 1929.

## ***MRS. SOL E. ROACH, INJURED IN FALL, DIES AT WINDBER***

### ***Death of Well-Known Woman of Complications; Leg Broken***

#### ***FUNERAL ON MONDAY***

*Windber. Nov. 14- Mrs. Margaret (Trumble) Roach, aged 73, wife of Sol E. Roach, of 1101 Graham Avenue, died yesterday afternoon at her home here, following an illness of 11 weeks of a complication of diseases, superinduced by a fall at her home, Mrs. Roach suffered a fracture of the leg and was a hospital patient for eight weeks, being removed to her home three weeks ago. Since the time of her injury, however, her health had been failing.*

*Mrs. Roach is a native of Scotland, being a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Trumble, both deceased. She came to America with her parents when she was seven years of age.*

*The deceased was one of the best-known residents of this section. She was a noted huntswoman, having spent much of her time in the woods in search of game. Among Mrs. Roach's trophies of the hunt were several wild turkeys, pheasants and numerous other game. She also was an ardent devotee of fishing and until two years ago, when her health began to fail, she spent much of her time in angling for trout.*

*She was the mother of Wilbur, C. ("Roxey") Roach, of Tawas City, Mich., a former well-known baseball player and sportsman of Windber.*

*Mrs. Roach was a charter member of the Windber Presbyterian Church. She also was a member of the Home Department, the Missionary Society and the Ladies Congregational Society.*

*Surviving are her husband and the following children: Mrs. W.H. Morgan, of 233 Vine Street, Johnstown; Wilbur C. Roach, mentioned above; Mrs. Harry E. Ferrier, of Salix; Mrs. James H. Lewis, of Philipsburg, and Mrs. John Jarve Jr, of Detroit, Mich. A son George Roach, preceded his mother to the grave.*

*She also leaves 18 grandchildren and these brothers and sisters: George Trumble, William Trumble, Mrs. Charles E. White, Robert and John Trumble, all of Morrisdale, and Mrs. Ambrose Davis, of Bilger, PA.*

*Funeral services will be conducted Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the Roach home, in charge of the Rev. J. Harold Gwynne, pastor of the Presbyterian Church. Interment will be in the Richland Cemetery.*





## ***S. E. Roach, Windber Gun Expert, 74, Ends Life in Despondency***

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***Pioneer and Friend Of 'Buffalo Bill' Fires Shot Into Head***

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***KNOWN IN STATE AS SPORTSMAN***

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***Constructed Rare Violins In Moments Devoted To His Hobbies***

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*“Windber, Jan 1. –Selman E. (“Sol”) Roach, 74, noted sportsman, friend of Buffalo Bill Cody and one of the first residents of Windber, took his life about 11 o’clock this morning by firing a bullet from a high-powered rifle through his head. Friends found the body in the Roach gunsmith shop at Graham avenue and Eleventh Street.*

*“Despondency, growing out of failing health is believed to have prompted the act of the man who*

*spent the greater part of his life in the rugged outdoors of Pennsylvania’s hills. A coroner’s jury this afternoon returned a verdict of suicide.*

*“ Selman E. Roach was born at Snowshoe May 30, 1858, the son of Robert and Sarah Singer Roach. He was one of the first to settle here upon the opening of Windber shortly before the turn of the century.*

*“ Many years ago “Sol” Roach, as he was best known, owned a hotel at Morrisdale, Pa. On another occasion the famed hunter and trapper operated a shooting gallery along the Atlantic City boardwalk and it was there that he and Buffalo Bill (William E. Cody) engaged in a series of expert shooting matches.*

### ***Was Skilled Repairman***

*“ Since coming here about 1899, Mr. Roach conducted a gun repair shop. In addition to his activities in the outdoors, “Sol” Roach also was a maker of fine violins fashioned after the renowned Stradivarius violin. He studied the art of violin making for ten years before turning out his first instrument and since coming here made about 50 rare violins, about 15 of which he disposed of. The Roach collection of stringed instruments contains many masterpieces.*

*“ Men high in the councils of Pennsylvania politics were friends of “Sol” Roach, as were many men prominent in business and the professions. During his many years spent in hunting and trapping, Mr. Roach acted as guide to many distinguished personages. Last month “Sol” Roach bagged a deer and altogether had shot nearly 300 deer in the woods of Pennsylvania. More than 40 bears fell before the fire of this hunter and for many years the furs of wild animals brought good prices.*

*“ At one time Mr. Roach held the state marksmanship title for rifle shooting. He was an expert gunsmith and annually for many years numerous men prominent in big game circles forwarded their hunting equipment to Windber for personal inspection and adjustment by “Sol” Roach.”*

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The above obituary appeared in one of the Johnstown newspapers and like many things prepared with little notice and a deadline, contains many factual errors. Sol’s age was 76 not 74. He was born in 1856 in Monroe County and not 1858 in Snowshoe. “William E. Cody” should read William F. Cody. The obituary also gave information about his children.

Sol passed away on January 1, 1933 as the result of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. Is it not coincidental that he was married on January 1, 1876. The time of death on his death certificate is 11:05am. January 1, 1876 was a Saturday and perhaps 11am was the time of the wedding. He is buried in the Richland Cemetery (located off Rt. 56 and 219 between Johnstown and Windber) along with his wife Margaret and daughters Gertrude and Georgiana and their husbands.





1101 & 1103 Graham Ave., Windber, Pa. 1969





1101 & 1103 Graham Ave. Windber, Pa. 1980





**Back yard of 1101 Graham Ave. in 1980**