PETER RABBIT
by Vera Blaine

In order to learn more about Peter Rabbit you will need to know the story about him as told by author Beatrix Potter who was an artist, story-teller and country woman. This famous children's story, Tale of Peter Rabbit, was first published in 1902 and told about the rabbits living in a rabbit hole that is furnished with human furniture and the family is dressed in human clothing. Young Peter Rabbit, ignoring his mother's warnings, sneaked into Mr. McGregor's garden and was caught. As he ran away, he lost his shoes. When he got home, he was ill and his mother put him to bed and gave him chamomile tea.

Now, this is Peter Rabbit's side of the story:

"Yes, I am Peter Rabbit and I lived with my siblings Flopsy, Mopsy and Topsy in a cozy rabbit hole with my family. It is true that I sneaked into Mr. McGregor's garden even though my mother said never to go there. It was so close to our home and there was so much food there it was hard to choose what to eat first. It's true, too, that after I had eaten quite a bit of fresh lettuce, some tender beans and radishes, Mr. McGregor came out and chased me.

What is not true is that I was wearing a jacket and shoes and that I lost my shoes as I ran away from Mr. McGregor. In no way was I wearing clothing and shoes. What an insult to our rabbitfolk. And to top that it's not true that I was ill and my mother gave me a dose of chamomile tea. Imagine

a rabbit drinking tea! The author Beatrix Potter became famous for this story in which she also described our home with a human kitchen and human furniture. I can't think of anything worse in my underground home.

I think she was the first person who put human characterization on animals in her stories. I will admit, with her story, she also made me famous. I am proud of her illustrations of me, especially the one where I am holding a carrot in each hand, but I resent most the shoes on my hind feet.

I will also say that I did her a big favor. Without me as the main character, there would have been no story.