

GOWARD, OWEN

Henry Goward was my grandfather.

Bernard Goward, my father, married Mary Beale.

Anthony Beale was my great uncle.

Albert T. Goward, my uncle, was Vice-President of the B.C. Electric.

H. Austin Goward, was another uncle who worked for the Colonist.

My aunts were: Lily and Muriel, who married Captain Cole.

My father, Bernard Goward, came over from England somewhere near the turn of the century. He lived in London and was with the Chartered Bank of India in London. The family had a house in Wales and my grandfather was a scholarly old man who had a school for boys in Wales. Henry Goward was my grandfather. Anthony Beale was a great uncle of mine and he was a general in the Indian Army. He was a doctor to the Vice-Reign in India and she loved to paint and taught him to paint also. This was about 1815.

Bernard Goward was a lawyer. He had been in the Bank in London for some years and when he was in there he heard about Victoria B.C. and something must have appealed to him as he came out and like it so much he wrote to his parents about it. They also decided to come and live here. He was a partner of McPhillips, Wootten and Bonar when my father joined them. When he first came to Victoria he went into a bank (Green and Retark) which later became the Imperial Bank at the corner of Government and Yates Streets.

Our house "Woodlands" was built in 1908. My mother, Mary Beale, did most of the planning. It had a long dark hall and the veranda came down another foot and a half from the roof line. George Phillips was the Architect. He was Superintendent of the Dockyard. He had studied architecture and was a great friend of my mother and father and that is how he came to design it. The house had been added to, but the facade is much the same. Two bedrooms were added on the west side because my father had a stroke when we were very small and the addition was made to enable Mrs. Goward to look after him without going upstairs. Mr. Phillips said Mary Beale Goward wanted the house built the way it was and would not change. It probably stemmed from her days in India to keep the house dark and cool.

The oldest Beale was in India and had to find a place to live. They finally settled in Victoria with my grandmother and her sister and built a house just down the road. They also have a Redwood tree which is a heritage tree.

After my father and mother were married, he commuted to Victoria by bicycle. They also had a horse and carriage. I do not know the date my father first came out. His parents came a short time after. In the meantime they bought a house on Rockland and Laurel Lane. They came around the turn of the Century and they had several daughters who also came out. Lily, and Muriel who married Captain Cole. They were great tennis players and won many cups. There were so few people then. The Beales were already established and had built a house overlooking Cadboro Bay. My mother and father bought this property because it was within easy walking distance.

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It was very isolated here. Not many strangers around. We had governesses and they taught us to paint. One of them had been a teacher at St. Margaret's School. The two older girls went one or two terms and decided to change. Miss Armstrong was persuaded to come to live with us and be governess. She was a water colorist and she started me on this. She stayed for quite a few years. One year the whole family, governess and one maid, all went to Harrison Hot Springs for a trip. My uncle always turned up for our holidays.

My uncle was Albert T. Goward who was a Vice-President of the B.C. Electric Company. They had a very nice house on York Place. The house was called "Briarbrae". John Gault lives there now. The parents had a house on Runnymede and Foul Bay. Albert came out after my father died. He got started in the B.C. Electric through some of the higher-ups. Perhaps through my father's lawyer friends. Through the years he was Manager for quite a while and then became Vice-President. There was a younger uncle, H. Austin Goward who worked at the Colonist. Austin died when he was quite young. They lived on Transit Road.

GOWARD RD. & GOWARD SUBSTATION
WERE NAMED AFTER ALBERT T. GOWARD.

I used to row when I was younger and then go into the Cadboro Bay Hotel. I took a picture of my "yacht" in the foreground and the hotel in the background. The Manager of the hotel saw the picture and asked to have the negative and he used the picture in his advertisements. We used to camp at Smugglers' Cove for the summer. My mother was Brown Owl, chief of the Brownies and they all went camping. My father and I once decided to camp on the Island, Flower Island opposite Ten Mile Point and I used to row father into the Yacht Club every morning and then meet him in the evening and row him back. He would catch a street car for town from the Yacht Club.

I went to school here and then got two years of college at Craigdarrick. A friend of my uncle at the B.C. Electric had a very good friend in Portland, Lewis Mills,

who was in the timber business and he said he would see to it that I got a job and I went down on August 24th and he enlisted me in one of his companies. It was a small company (Tidewater) and they had a beautiful tract of timber. Prices were very low and they decided to sell the timber for newsprint, so they logged it off. I started in 1924.

Lewis Mills was an old time Portland family man. He used to go down once a week to brouse around the surveys and stay a couple of days. He took me down the morning I got there and got me started on the survey crew. I stayed with the survey crew and they made me Chief Engineer and I had that job until they ran out of timber (about 15 years). Part of the 15 years was taken up by jobs by the day with the Indian loggers after the company folded up.

I had three sisters and they were all very helpful when my father died. He died in 1932. It was my grandfather who died shortly after I was born. My father had a stroke and that laid him low for quite awhile. He recovered in 1918.

My mother lived in this house after my father died and she left it to us during the war. By that time we were living in Portland and I was doing free-lance work for various companies and was frozen in that position because of the war. We came back here in 1946. We had four children and another was born here and they all grew up here and when we came back we added more rooms - three bedrooms and a bathroom. A gallery was added for my water colours.

I have always painted. Nearly all of my work is water colours. They had two shows for me at the Art Gallery. Mrs. Goward does portraits.

One daughter decided two years ago to come to live with us and they live upstairs. There are two grandchildren. We share the kitchen and dining room. Our other daughter Florence is staying with us at the present time until they find a place to live.

When my family first came, Arbutus Road was not there. Hobbs had started a store and the Edwards lived near Telegraph Bay Road. The Stewarts were here in the house which belonged to the Sampsons, who had gone to the Prairies. Stewart was the Powder Works Superintendent. Sampsons lived in the former Superintendent's house. The Stewarts house was rather hidden away on the shore of Cadboro Bay.

There was another house like Hobbs just above the store where Sinclair Road is and it is still in very good condition. It used to be Evans' and it was called Evans' Corner. When we went into town, Aunt Katie and mother used to drive in a horse and carriage and would meet at Evans' Corner. Hobbs Store was originally across the road from where the store is now, in a house which was later Schofields. He built that house, two storeys, and there was an old house across the road on Sinclair and Cadboro Bay Road across the road from the Chinese Store.

There were five acres with the house in the early years and it stayed that way until my neighbour, who had a house on Haro Road, wanted to sell an acre that he had, so I purchased that, making it six acres. There was a little over six acres when Saanich purchased it. The property goes down to Haro Road and then down to the School, and from Rowley down to Haro.

From an interview with

Mr. Owen Goward by

Jo Anne Morrison on August 11, 1982.