



JOSEPH AUSTIN SAYWARD

Joseph was born in Victoria on 17 July 1862 the son of William Parson Sayward and Ann Connor. A family tree created in 1890 traces the Saywards back to 1637 in New Hampshire, Maine, and later Massachusetts. His ancestors included farmers, sea captains, mariners, military men, and lighthouse keepers. One ancestor was involved with the destruction of tea at the Boston Tea Party. The name of Austin was the maiden name of one of his early greatgrandmothers.

1881 census he is 19 years old living in the James Bay Ward with his father and is employed as a clerk at his father's lumberyard.

He married Margaret Livingstone on 12 Mar 1884 in San Bernardino California. She was the adopted daughter of sea captain, J. W. Sayward of Temescal, California and apparently a cousin to Joseph by marriage. They had a son in 1890 who died at 10 mos. of age and a daughter Margaret who became a champion golfer.

In 1906, Joseph is issued a patent for an invention for appliances for loading and unloading lumber trucks.

In 1908, he was a member of the Victoria Automobile Club.

On the 1911 census, the family is living at 1301 Rockland calling the mansion Oakmeade. It is located at the southeast corner of Rockland and Moss. He employed a Chinese cook and gardener and a domestic servant. They work 52 weeks a year, 70 hours a week. The cook is paid \$400/yr and the gardener gets \$600/yr.

The family fortune was amassed by his father William Parsons Sayward who followed the Gold Rush, first from Florida to San Francisco, and then later to Victoria in 1857. He owned a lumber company and several sawmills, one of which was located at 2120 Rock Bay Bridge. When William's health began to fail around 1891, Joseph took over the business. He became probably the richest man in the province.

In addition to the timber limits he held on Vancouver Island and the mainland, he owned several lumber mills, a fleet of sealing vessels, and the Esquimalt Water Works Company which owned over 500 acres around Thetis Lake. The company was incorporated by statute in 1885 and provided water to the Royal Navy station, the Dominion drydock, and the house-holders of Esquimalt and Victoria West from 1892 - 1915. Sayward was president of the company until it was expropriated by the City of Victoria in the 1920s. Sayward was also involved with the British Columbia Cattle Company, which operated a large ranch in the Chilcotin district, and the Colwood Land Company. The latter was formed with fellow magnate, James Dunsmuir, to manage the interests of the Colwood Golf Club. Sayward and Dunsmuir purchased several acres of land to build the Royal Colwood Golf Course. In 1913, he was listed as a founder of that club and provided a lot of the financing for the building and construction of the club. He was also the president from 1913-1933. The website for the Royal Colwood Golf Course describes him as "well known for his brusque, impatient manner but was clearly a determined, committed individual" In addition, Sayward held shares in the Colwood Park Association, the Victoria Park Racing Association, and many other organizations.

The Sayward Building, on the corner of View and Douglas, was built in 1909 at a cost of \$200,000, a fortune in those days. It was described as the first "skyscraper" in Victoria. The Sayward lumberyard and wharf was near the old customs house where the schooners and scows brought lumber from the Mill Bay mill. Sayward is also remembered by Sayward Ave. and the town of Sayward. He was quite possibly the richest man in BC in his day.

Joseph died 30 Jan 1934 in Victoria and is buried with his family in Ross Bay Cemetery.