

BERTHA MILDRED MOWAT [Jan.1878– Oct.1945]

Bertha (Bert) married **Frances(Frank) Blackhall** from one of the prominent families in Caraquet and they built and lived in a house at 2 Stanley St. (later occupied by Bert's brother Earl and family). Frank was the General Manager of the biggest lumber, pulp and paper company in Northern New Brunswick. He was a very active member of the forest preservation society on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River and was greatly interested in trees and forests. They had three sons:



1. J. Mowat who married **Louise Brenenstal** and they had two children: **Helen** (who married **Wm. Axaal** and had a son **Eric**) and **Roberta**.

2. Frances Harold who did not marry

3. James who married **Lois McFarlane** and they had three children **Patricia, Jacqualin** and **William**.

In 1933, when Frank was 62 and Bert 55, they bought a fruit farm (mostly peach trees) just outside of St. Catherines, Ont. I can remember the great baskets of peaches they used to send us in the fall. My mother preserved them with almonds and also made her delicious peach conserve, which we ate on toast in the mornings. The recipe copied below is from the hand-written one in her own personal cook book.

*"2 quarts of peaches, 1 can pineapple, both diced fine;
2 lemons and 1 orange, grated rind and juice;
6 cups of sugar, 1 lb. seeded raisins, 1 bottle cherries, diced, almonds.
Bring to boil, add certo to thicken and bottle."*

In 1939 when the Queen Elizabeth Highway was being built, it bisected the Blackhall peach farm but the boys were still running it in the 1950's and 60's. The house was finally taken over by a QEH clover leaf.

Bert was 16 when my mother was born. Mother remembered that Bert and the other older sisters were often left to run the house and bring up the younger children when their mother took to her bed with 'nervous prostration'. According to my mother, the girls were a very strong minded and lively bunch.

Bert died suddenly in Oct. 1945 when she was 67.

Frank lived until he was 85. He died on November 1956 of injuries inflicted when he was struck by a car when he was taking his evening walk.