## **GORMAN, Clarence Hardie**

Clarence Hardie Gorman was born in 1873, Sydney, the son of Henry & Eliza Mary (nee Kingsborough) Gorman.

He married Ada Jessie Bennett in 1900, Victoria.

In 1901 their first child, Rowan H. K. Gorman was born at Bourke, N.S.W.**1**

On 26th July 1906 his mother, Eliza Mary, wife of Henry Gorman, of Messrs. Hardie & Gorman, Sydney, died.**2**

In August 1909 it was announced that Clarence Gorman would be coming to Beecroft to reside at Mr. Grant’s cottage in Malton-road. He moved there in late September.**3**

In mid-September 1909 Clarence’s sister, Mrs. Beale, wife of the Rev. W. H. Beale, died suddenly in her late residence, Darling-street, Balmain.**4**

In early October 1909 appeared an advertisement ‘WANTED, GENERAL SERVANT; small family, light duties. Apply to Mrs. C. H. GORMAN, “Roslyn,'' Malton-rd., Beecroft.’**5**

In March 1911 Clarence was elected Vice-president of the Beecroft Progress Association. He also became a member of the Beecroft Tennis Club sub-committee.**6**

In June 1912 he was ‘asking permission to plant shade trees on the Beecroft-road and The Boulevard, facing his property at Cheltenham. He proposed to plant lophostemons [a native myrtle] and wished to know what distance apart the trees should be planted. He also asked the council to make up the footpath along his boundary facing Beecroft-road. The request was granted, trees to be planted 110ft. apart, in guards 3ft. apart. The engineer was instructed to have the footpath fixed up as soon as men were available for the purpose. Seeds were also planted.’**7**

In July 1913 Clarence was on the Board of Directors for the Cheltenham Bowls and Recreation Club had recently been registered. The club proposed to construct a bowling green and several croquet lawns to start with. The following year he was Chairman of Directors for the club.**8**

In November 1914 C. H. Gorman, of Cheltenham, was granted a general auctioneers’ license at the Ryde Licensing Court.**9**

In July 1915 his wife advertised ‘WANTED, GENERAL; small family. - Apply Saturday and Monday, Mrs. C. H. GORMAN, “Boambee,” Cheltenham.’**10**

In October 1916 he ‘again wrote to Hornsby Council drawing attention to the necessity for doing something to the water-table at the intersection of Beecroft-road and The Boulevarde at Cheltenham. The crossing at the intersection of the streets named is a quagmire, and it would appear necessary to put in pipes. He also called attention to some bad spots in Cheltenham-crescent. The request was supported by Councillor Chapman, who offered to assist the engineer by taking levels of the locality. The matter was referred to the engineer for report.’**11**

In November 1916 his wife again advertised ‘WANTED, WOMAN by the day, Washing and Cleaning. Apply at once. - Mrs. C. H. GORMAN, 'Boambee,' The Boulevard, Cheltenham. Tel. Epping 52.’**12**

By November 1921 the Gorman family had moved from Cheltenham to Stanton-road, Mosman, their son Rowan then getting engaged to Mollie Green, of Warren.**13**

On 23rd May 1923 Clarence’s father Henry Gorman, died at his residence, *Merley*, Albert-road, Homebush, aged 74 years. He was governing director of Hardie and Gorman Proprietary, Limited, and president of the "Daily Telegraph" Newspaper Co., Limited.

**Henry Gorman**



‘Mr. Gorman was a prominent figure in the business life of the community, and he was actively associated also with several public institutions. He was a trustee of the National Gallery, and a life member of the Zoological Society. He was also associated with the Royal Philharmonic Society, and the Sydney Musical Union. Mr. Gorman was a member of the City of Sydney Improvement Board, and was the first governor of the Real Estate Institute. The now defunct Athenaeum Club, of which he was one of the foundation members, had in Mr. Gorman an enthusiastic supporter. He was also hon. treasurer of the Australian section of the Empire Press Union.’

‘Born at Castlereagh, on the Nepean River, on September 23, 1849, Mr. Gorman was the youngest son of Mr. Henry Gorman, who was a native of Bristol. His mother was a daughter of John Lees, who built, at Castlereagh, the first Wesleyan Church in Australia. Mr. Gorman was educated at Newington College, at that time situated on the Parramatta, and held the honour of dux of the school.’

‘On the completion of his education, Mr. Gorman became associated with the firm of Farmer and Company, Ltd., forerunners of the existing company, and was rapidly promoted to the position of accountant. It was in 1872 that the firm now known as Hardie and Gorman Proprietary, Ltd., was formed by Mr. Gorman in partnership with Messrs. George Hardie and Robert William Hardie. About 30 years ago Mr. George Hardie retired and Mr. John Francis King was admitted as a partner in his place. This partnership lasted until Mr. Robert Hardie retired, and later the existing firm was formed, with Mr. Gorman as governing director.’

‘He sold land in the city, for instance, from £50 to £60 a foot which later realised from £500 to £1500 a foot. Of the many big transactions with which he was associated, there may be mentioned the Centennial Park subdivisions, which he personally conducted, and which ran into a quarter of a million pounds; the Darling Harbour resumptions during the epidemic of plague, and, in conjunction with others, the negotiations for the acquisition of Darling Island by the Government.

Mr. Gorman married Miss Kingsborough, of Randwick, who predeceased him, and he has left three sons, Messrs. Harold, Clarence, and Alwyn Gorman, and two daughters, Miss Gorman and Mrs. C. Colyer. He is also survived by a widow, the sister of his former wife, and by his sister, Mrs. J. St. L. Whyte, of Concord.’

His remains were interred in the Methodist Cemetery, Rookwood.**14**

In August 1925 The Canberra Tennis Association was deeply indebted to Mr. C. H. Gorman (member of Federal Capital Commission) for his valued donation of the Gorman Cup.**15**

On 24th January 1927 Clarence Hardie Gorman died at his home in Strathfield. He was chairman of directors of Hardie and Gorman Pty., Ltd. Death was due to peritonitis, following an appendicitis operation.

**Clarence Hardie Gorman**



‘Born at Sydney in 1873, the late Mr. Gorman was educated at Dr. D. J. Sly’s “Hurstville College,” Goulburn, and later at the Sydney Grammar School.

For some time after leaving school he was engaged in irrigation work with Messrs. Chaffey Bros., at Mildura, and for many years he was associated with the New South Wales Department of Agriculture in experimental and developmental work. Mr. Gorman was known in the Lismore district. Twenty-three years ago [1903] he was manager of the Government Experiment Farm at Woollongbar, coming here from Terabore Experiment Farm near Bourke. He then joined the firm of Hardie and Gorman, of which his father, Mr. Henry Gorman, was the founder. Subsequently he was appointed one of the directors of Hardie and Gorman Proprietary, Ltd. Since the death of his father he occupied the position of chairman of directors of the company.

Mr. Gorman's knowledge and wide experience of land matters led to his appointment by the Federal Government in 1924 as one of the members of the Federal Capital Commission, and since then he was actively engaged with the other members on the work of building the Federal capital. Mr. Gorman was a member of the board of management of the Real Estate Institute, and a member of the council of the Royal Agricultural Society.

He married the youngest daughter of the late Mr. T. K. Bennett, of Melbourne. She and his son, Mr. Rowan Gorman, of Turlings station, Moree, survive him.’**16**

In October 1929 new directors for Hardie and Gorman were appointed.

‘Mr. Charles B. Byrne, chairman of directors of the real estate firm of Hardie and Gorman Pty, Ltd, announced yesterday that three members of the staff, Messrs. Charles Collins, Nathaniel Billett, and Brian Byrne, had been appointed directors of the company.

Mr. Collins, who has been in the firm's employ for 28 years, was for 13 years manager of the eastern suburbs branch. Mr. Billett, now in charge of lettings, has been 20 years with the firm, and was secretary of the company for seven years. Mr. Brian Byrne, a son of Mr. O. B. Byrne, has spent all his business career with the firm. It is of interest to note that each of the present directors began his business life in a junior position in the proprietary.

Constituted over 60 years ago as Hardie and Gorman, the firm has long occupied a prominent and honourable position in city business circles. For more than 50 years business was carried on at Bell's Chambers, 133 Pitt-street. In 1918 the removal to the present offices in Martin-place occurred. The original partners were Messrs. George Hardie, Robert William Hardie, and Henry Gorman. Mr. George Hardie handled the mining interests of the firm, the real estate business being looked after by the other two partners. Mr. George Hardie retired over 40 years ago, and went to London to live, and Mr. John Francis King was subsequently admitted as partner. This personnel lasted until the retirement of Mr. Robert Hardie, when Messrs. Charles B. Byrne, F. H. G. Chambers, and **Clarence Hardie Gorman** were admitted as partners. Subsequently the present style of Hardie and Gorman Proprietary, Ltd., was adopted.

On the death of Mr. Henry Gorman, and the retirement of Mr. J. F. King, Messrs. Bernard Burgess and Alwyn Gorman were appointed directors. Upon the death of Mr. Clarence Gorman two and a half years ago, no appointment was made, but when Mr. Burgess died a few weeks ago it was decided to increase the number of directors to six, and, following precedents, the choice was made from the Firm's staff.’**17**

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