



Daykin Family

In 1915 Calvert Thomas and Annie (née Norman) Daykin and three children, Connie, Florence and Ernest, moved from Armstrong in the Okanagan Valley to settle in Maple Ridge. The couple had married in 1872 and reared six children in Ridley, Derbyshire, England, before deciding to immigrate to London, Ontario, in 1883, where Calvert established a grocery store with his brother William. That partnership was short-lived when William became ill with Bright's disease and had to return to England. In March 1892, now with a family of nine, the Daykin family moved west to Blackfalds (near Lacombe), Alberta, and built a log house with a thatch roof and dirt floor. In 1897 the couple opened a grocery store in Lacombe and were quite successful. When Calvert was approached to run as a candidate for the Northwest Territories Council, his comment was, "First, I am not a millionaire, and second, I do not have the hide of a rhinoceros." In 1905, the family moved again, this time to Armstrong in the Okanagan Valley, where they operated a general store. Here he was appointed a Justice of the Peace.

Then in 1915, the aging couple moved to Maple Ridge with two daughters, Connie and Florence, and the youngest son Ernest to establish a poultry business and then later a dairy herd. Connie, widowed and a registered nurse, often made house calls with Dr. Garnet Morse.

In 1920 son Ernest married Amanda Hampton and established a white Leghorn chicken business with two 250-foot-long chicken barns and a hatchery house for replacement stock and to supply chicks for the community. Coal oil lamps heated the incubators. Although all money transactions were done in cash, Ernest never hesitated to give any Japanese farmers who were getting into the chicken business in the 1930s credit, as he knew that he would be paid.

Ernest Daykin built a home on the west corner of York Street and Dewdney Trunk Road and gave his wife the option of having a bathtub or a fireplace. She took the bathtub. She was later to comment, "I was given the choice between a bathtub and a fireplace, and I took the bathtub. That was a mistake because if I had taken the fireplace, the bathtub would have come later." She never got her fireplace.



Ernest and Amanda (née Hampton) Daykin on their wedding day in 1920.

Opposite
Calvert Thomas and Annie (née Norman) Daykin on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary.