



THE KOYAMA FAMILY HISTORY

1889: Eijiro Koyama eldest of three children, came to Canada at the age of 18 years from Shigaken Japan, on the Empress of Japan. Travelling in those days was only by boat and it took approximately three weeks to cross the Pacific Ocean.

1900-1902: He went commercial fishing up the Skeena River for salmon, and also during this time he worked for the C.P.R. on a section gang.

1903: The latter part of 1903 he came to the Coldstream Ranch near Vernon, and as a foreman, he was in charge of 40-50 men. The ranch operated a fair sized nursery, so a lot of the early plantings in the Vernon area were started with trees from the ranch.

1908: He decided to become a Canadian citizen and took out his naturalization paper.

1913: He returned to Japan to marry Fumi Fujioka, and on his return to Vancouver the manager of the Coldstream Ranch at that time, picked them up in Vancouver and brought them back to the ranch. Imagine travelling in a 1913 car all the way from Vancouver to Vernon. Roads in those days were all gravel and narrow, steep and crooked, nothing like it is today all paved.

1914: Their first child Kimie was born April 14th and she still lives on the farm today.

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1915: Seichi, their second child was born December 16th. Seich at present is in the ministry in Japan.

1916: The spring of 1916 he and a few others got together and purchased 20 acres of land on the flats next door to Mr.W.R. Powley. This land was purchased from Mr. Sid Edwards who later retired to New Zealand. To move from the Coldstream Ranch to the newly purchased land, he borrowed a team of horses named Nip & Tuck from Mr. Powley. It took two days to travel one way. One stop was at what is now known as the Commonage. The land was all in bush, so the first year some clearing was done, and all by hand.

1917: The small portion that was cleared was planted into strawberries. As more land was cleared, he went into dairy farming, which kept up until 1948.

1930: He was left with ten children when his wife passed away on February 7th, 1930. During the hungry 30's it was no easy task to bring up a big family. He had to take on the responsibility of both mother and father so he had to cook, mend clothes, and even learned to knit sweaters, socks, mits etc. for his children. With a lot of hard work and patience, he was able to pull through.

1948: In the fall of 1948 he retired to Mayne Island and lived there until 1956 when he passed away in Vancouver. Those left surviving are Kimie (Takenaka) still living

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Motoy Koyama Quesnel B.C.--Mary (Itami) Hawaii--Kadi  
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1997.000.143 Winfield Elementary students, 1929 Ralph Berry, Saide Rutt, Margery McDonagh, Grace Lawley, Molly Beasley; teacher George Elliot; Middle:: Ted Koyama, Busert Barnett, Archie Cook, Geroge Berry, George Arnold, Bill Cook, Sax Koyama; Front: Hatch Koyama, Vera Edmunds, Edie Gunn, May Petrie, Misae Kitamura