

## *Descendants of Martha Loretta Lawhead and John Winan Dayton*

### *Generation No. 5.2b*

**MARTHA LORETTA<sup>5</sup> LAWHEAD** (*John William<sup>4</sup>, Phebe<sup>3</sup> Hibben, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>*) was born November 26, 1868 in Wilmington, Clinton Co., OH, and died November 30, 1948 in Ottumwa, Wapello Co., IA. She married **JOHN WINAN DAYTON** October 08, 1889, Burlington, Des Moines Co., IA, son of **JOHN LILBURN DAYTON** and **MARY ESTELLE McCAMPELL**. He was born December 28, 1859 in New Orleans, LA, and died October 02, 1937 in Ottumwa, Wapello Co., IA.

Children of **MARTHA LAWHEAD** and **JOHN DAYTON** are:

- i. **EVA INGERSOLL<sup>6</sup> DAYTON**, d. July 06, 1891, Ottumwa, Wapello Co., IA; d. January 28, 1976, St. Croix Falls, WI. She m. (1) **RICHARD H. COATES**, Abt. 1915. She m. (2) **WILLIAM O. ANDERSON**, 1930; b. May 23, 1884, Chicago, Cook Co., IL; d. February 21, 1948, St. Croix Falls, WI.
- ii. **RUBY RENAN DAYTON**, b. March 24, 1893, Ottumwa, Wapello Co., IA; d. May 1954, Huron, Beadle Co., SD. She m. (1) **LEE OLLER**, 1915. She m. (2) **HERMAN HARTUNG**, 1919; d. 1925. She m. (3) **BENTON C. HATCHER**, June 11, 1940; b. August 31, 1891, Henry Co., OH; d. Laramie, Albany Co., WY.
- iii. **DARWIN LAWHEAD DAYTON**, b. December 06, 1895, Ottumwa, Wapello Co., IA; d. January 30, 1978, Ottumwa, Wapello Co., IA. He m. **MARY ALICE DICKERSON**, June 28, 1921, Ottumwa, Wapello Co., IA; b. January 16, 1905, Ottumwa, Wapello Co., IA; d. May 14, 1984, Ottumwa, Wapello Co., IA.
- iv. **URBAN DAYTON**, b. December 27, 1898, IA; d. June 28, 1991, Iowa City, Johnson Co., IA. He m. (1) **MARY MERLE JONES**, October 13, 1922, Ottumwa, Wapello Co., IA; b. March 30, 1900; d. February 10, 1935, Ottumwa, Wapello Co., IA. He m. (2) **IRIS LUCILLE KERSEY ROYCE**, December 18, 1948, Waterloo, DeKalb Co., IA; b. August 28, 1917, Harvey, IA; d. February 09 1981, Chicago, Cook Co., IL.
- v. **NEIL DAYTON**, b. Aft. 1898.
- vi. **MARGARET DAYTON**, b. January 11, 1907, Ottumwa, Wapello Co., IA; d. July 20, 1998, Ottumwa, Wapello Co., IA.

**MARTHA LORETTA LAWHEAD 1868 - 1948**  
**and**  
**JOHN WINAN DAYTON 1859 - 1937**

*Mr. John W. Dayton  
922 North Elm Street  
Ottumwa, Iowa*

*Jan. 3, 1932*

*Dear Mr. Dayton,*

*I was certainly surprised to learn that you have severed your connection with the Ballingall Hotel. I have been a guest of a great many of the best hotels from New York to San Francisco and from Duluth to New Orleans and was never treated with more painstaking courtesy than that accorded me by you while a guest for the month or six weeks when I first came up from St. Louis. It must be a source of great satisfaction when you can feel, as you justly can, that you have faithfully performed your duties—coupled with the courtesy you endeavored to show everyone. I wish you every success in any future position you may accept.*

Hamilton L. McGavic<sup>1</sup>

**Mattie Marries John Dayton And They Settle In Iowa**

Martha Loretta (a.k.a. Mattie) Lawhead, the youngest of John and Susan Lawhead's seven children, was born on November 26, 1868. She was an infant when her family moved by covered wagon from Clinton County, Ohio to Knox County, Illinois. Dorothy Ann Dayton noted: "*Mattie attended public school, though only to the third grade; her youngest daughter [Margaret Dayton] recalls her mother saying that she went to the Presbyterian Church Sunday School because they had the best selection of books in their library.*"<sup>2</sup> It is assumed Mattie remained at home and helped her mother keep house. Three years after her mother died, she married John Winan Dayton on October 8, 1889 in Burlington, Des Moines County, Iowa. John had been born in New Orleans in 1859, and was raised by an elderly lady after his parents died. He attended Washington University in St. Louis and worked for a time in newspaper advertising in Minneapolis, Minnesota, before meeting Mattie. Shortly after their marriage, John and Mattie moved to Ottumwa, Wapello County, Iowa.

*Very little is known now of his life before he met and married Martha (Mattie) Loretta Lawhead in Burlington, Iowa. . . . It is a fact that she came to Ottumwa in October 1889. One of her granddaughters remembers hearing her say that she had been warned against coming to Ottumwa, which at that time had the reputation of being a tough town. Mattie recalled in later life how saloons lined both Church street and Main Street. She did not enjoy having to pass by all the saloons. Six children were born to the couple, three sons and three daughters: Eva Ingessoll, in [July 6] 1890; Ruby Renan, in [March 24] 1893; Darwin*

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Lawhead [December 6] 1895; Urban, in [December 27] 1898; Neil, who died in infancy, at the age of two months. . . and Margaret, in [January 11] 1907.<sup>3</sup>

John Dayton was employed as desk clerk at the Ballingall Hotel in Ottumwa. The Census of 1900 and 1910 record that he held this position for many years.<sup>4</sup> He often worked nights, so the children had to be quiet during the day. His schedule and his inability to bring home enough money to meet his family's financial needs led to marital stress and Mattie's decision to go to work. "*Mattie worked for the Shaw Laundry, on the south side of town for a while, and when the firm moved north and became the Iowa Steam Laundry, she worked at that location; she was working for a dollar a day.*"<sup>2</sup> She also did housework for others. By 1920, John had found it necessary to accept desk clerk positions at hotels in other cities. Perhaps his absence explains why Mattie was listed as the head of the household in the census of that year. Urban, a World War I veteran, had returned from serving in France with the 42nd (Rainbow) Division. He was a wagon driver for a grocery store. Darwin was a laborer in a produce house and Margaret, just twelve years old, completed the household.<sup>5</sup> The older daughters, Eva and Ruby, had married and moved away.

*"In John's later years his hearing began to fail, and the hotel let him out; the management would not even employ him as elevator operator. He did not receive the small pension to which he was entitled. . . .He worked in the kitchen of the Ballingall for a while; he did odd jobs, and worked anywhere he could."*<sup>2</sup> After 1932, John no longer was able to work and was ill for four years before he died on October 2, 1937.

*J. W. Dayton Dies Today At Age 77, John W. Dayton , 77, died at his home, 922 North Elm street, at 2:15 a.m. today. Surviving are his wife, Mattie; three daughters, Mrs. William O. Anderson of Mankato, Minn., Mrs. Ruby Hartung of Pierre, S. D., and Miss Margaret Dayton of Ottumwa; two sons, Darwin and Urban Dayton of Ottumwa, and eight grandchildren. Burial will be made in the Ottumwa Cemetery.*<sup>6</sup>

Mattie gave up doing laundry and housework and lived the remaining years of her life with her daughter Margaret.

*Mattie and her daughter lived on Elm Street until about 1946 when they moved to 230 Freitag Street in east Ottumwa. This was the house in which Mattie spent the rest of her life; she went out very seldom, preferring to stick close to home. She always had a garden, raising lots of vegetables and flowers; she really had a gardener's 'green thumb,' and had great luck in raising things. She always kept a few chickens to help out with the family meals. She was an excellent cook, and one son still remembers some of the dishes he shared at the family table. Mattie died [November 30] in 1948; her funeral was attended by her five children who had grown to maturity; all her grandchildren, except two who were unable to come, were present. She was buried in Ottumwa Cemetery, next to her husband's grave.*<sup>7</sup>

*Mrs. Mattie Dayton, 80, wife of the late John W. Dayton of 230 Freitag avenue, died Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. at her home. She was born November 26, 1868 at Wilmington, Ohio, later moving to the state of Illinois in a covered wagon. She was married to John W. Dayton October 8, 1889 and moved to Ottumwa where she has lived ever since. Her husband and one son preceded her in death. Mrs.*

*Dayton is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Eva Anderson of St. Croix Falls, Wis., Mrs. Ruby Hatcher of Huron, SD., and Miss Margaret Dayton, at home; two sons, Darwin of Ottumwa, and Urban of Waterloo; one brother, Sam C. Lawhead of Amity, Mo.; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Burial will be held in Ottumwa cemetery.*<sup>8</sup>

#### **Additional Information About The Children Of John And Mattie Dayton**

Eva Ingersoll Dayton, the first child, was born and raised in Ottumwa.

*Eva quit school in the seventh grade, apparently because she did not like her teacher; in fact, according to her youngest sister, she sold her school materials before her mother got home from work. This guaranteed that her school days were over, because the family could not afford to buy back what she had sold. Eva simply stayed at home and helped out around the house until she married at the very early age of fifteen or sixteen. Her husband was Richard H. Coates; Dick was from Fairfield, but was working in Ottumwa at Swift's branch office. . . Eva and her husband moved around quite a bit; they lived in Madrid, [Denver] and Des Moines. When Eva's Aunt Alice and Uncle Rolland Fox were getting older, and hard up, Eva and Dick went over to Knoxville, Illinois, to stay with the couple and help them out.*<sup>9</sup>

Eva and Richard Coates were divorced about 1922. Then in 1930 Eva married William O. Andersen, a salesman whose assignments took them to the Dakotas and Minnesota. They adopted a boy, Allen W. Anderson, who was born in 1930. A job change took them to St. Croix, Wisconsin where they lived for many years. William died in 1948 and Eva survived him by almost thirty years. She died on January 28, 1976 in St. Croix, Wisconsin.

Ruby Renan Dayton was the second child of Mattie and John Dayton. She was born in Ottumwa on March 24, 1893.

*Ruby finished eighth grade, and then as did most children of the time, left school; the family could not afford to buy the textbooks needed for secondary school classes. . . .She went to work at the candy company [Walter T. Hall Candy Co.] and became a very good dipper of chocolates. . . .She had started work at a wage of about \$2.50 a week.*<sup>10</sup>

Several years later, Ruby moved to Des Moines where her sister, Eva, and husband, Dick, were living. There she met and married Lee Oller in about 1915. Ruby and Lee had a son, Dayton Elliott Oller, who died at the age of ten months of spinal meningitis. Their marriage did not last. They were divorced before Lee entered military service in 1917. While working at Davidson's Candy Company in Des Moines, she met Herman Hartung who was from Dickinson, North Dakota. He was a student at the Still College of Osteopathy in Des Moines. Ruby and Herman were married in 1919 and a son, Warren Bruce Hartung, was born in December 1920.

*Herman and Ruby moved to Belgrade, Montana, and the young osteopathic physician set up his practice. He was doing all right, but after several years decided to go into a joint practice with an older doctor in Missoula, Montana. By now the couple had two children; a daughter, Betty, had been born in 1923. . . While Ruby and the children were visiting in Ottumwa. . . .Herman was suddenly*

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*taken ill and died of a cerebral hemorrhage; the year was 1925. He was buried in the family plot in Dickinson, North Dakota.*<sup>11</sup>

The next fifteen years of Ruby's life were filled with heartache and trauma. She had two personal relationships which did not endure; she lost her daughter, Betty, to scarlet fever; and suffered severe injuries when struck by an automobile. In 1940 she married Berton C. Hatcher and moved to Huron, South Dakota. The stability of this later portion of her life ended when she was diagnosed with lung cancer in 1953. She died in May 1954 with Bert and her sister, Eva, at her side.

Darwin Lawhead Dayton was born on December 6, 1895, the third child and first son of John and Mattie Dayton. While working at Swifts Creamery in Ottumwa he met Mary Alice Dickerson. They were married June 28, 1921. They had three children: Robert Darwin Dayton, born June 20, 1922 and died January 9, 2002; James Vernon Dayton, born October 8, 1925 and died November 28, 1984; and Margaret Louise Dayton. After his marriage Darwin was employed at Graham's dairy where he tested cream supplied by local farmers, pasteurized milk and made cottage cheese, butter and ice cream.

*Darwin L. Dayton, 82 years, of 309 W. Division St., Ottumwa, Iowa, a lifetime resident of Ottumwa: died at his home, Monday, Jan. 30, 1978. He was a retired employee of Graham Milk Co. in Ottumwa. Mr. Dayton was born Dec. 6, 1895, at Ottumwa, Iowa; the son of John and Mattie Lawhead Dayton. On June 28, 1921, he was married to Mary A. Dickerson, at Ottumwa, and she survives. Also surviving are: one daughter, Margaret Davis, Ottumwa; two sons Robert Dayton, Richardson, Texas; Jim Dayton, Ottumwa; twelve grandchildren; one brother, Urban Dayton, Chicago, Illinois; one sister, Margaret Dayton, Ottumwa. He was preceded in death by two sisters and one brother. . . .Interment: Shaul Cemetery, Ottumwa, Iowa.*<sup>12</sup>

Mary A. Dayton died six years later on May 14, 1984. She was buried next to her husband in Shaul Cemetery.

Urban Dayton, the second son of John and Mattie Dayton, was born December 27, 1898, in Ottumwa, Iowa.

*Urban Dayton, 92, formerly a resident of Ecumenical Towers, died Friday at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Knoxville, Iowa. . . .Mr. Dayton was born Dec. 27, 1898, in Knoxville, Illinois, son of John and Martha "Mattie" Lawhead Dayton. He married Mary Merle "Pearl" Jones October 13, 1922 in Ottumwa. She died Feb. 10, 1935. He married Iris Kersey Royce Dec. 18, 1948, in Waterloo. She died Feb. 9, 1981. He was a veteran of World War I, serving in France with Co. G, 168th Infantry, of the 42nd (Rainbow) Division. He was active in the Rainbow veterans organization and in the American Legion. He was a charter member of the O. B. Nelson No. 3 in Ottumwa and a Legion member for more than 70 years. He lived in Ottumwa and was a postal worker there for 13 years. He lived in Waterloo, then in Chicago for more than 30 years. He worked for the Talk-a-Phone Co. in Chicago before retiring in 1970. He moved to Iowa City in 1981. Survivors include two daughters, Mary Alice (Mrs. Donald) Yoakam of Fort Myers, Fla., and Dorothy Dayton of Iowa City, one son, Donald of Palatine, Illinois; one sister, Margaret Dayton of Ottumwa; four*

*grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and step-relatives. His parents, two sisters and two brothers died earlier.*<sup>13</sup>

Urban and Pearl's children were: Mary Alice Dayton, born 1926; Donald Urban Dayton, born October 18, 1926 and died February 11, 2000; and Dorothy Ann Dayton.

Margaret Dayton was the sixth and youngest child of John and Mattie Dayton. She was born January 11, 1907 in Ottumwa and died there on July 20, 1998. Miss Margaret Dayton was the owner (proprietor) of the Dayton lot in the Ottumwa Cemetery and paid for a perpetual care trust for the John W. Lawhead lot in the Knoxville Cemetery on December 30, 1973.

*MARGARET DAYTON, Ottumwa - Margaret Dayton, 91, 117 Mistletoe died July 20, 1998, at Ottumwa Regional Health Center. She was born Jan. 11, 1907, in Ottumwa to John and Mattie Lawhead Dayton. She worked for John Morrell & Company for 31 years and also the Hall Candy Factory: a graduate of Ottumwa High School and member of the Y.W.C.A. for many years. She is survived by several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Urban and Darwin; and two sisters, Ruby Hatcher and Eva Anderson. Graveside service will be 10 a. m. Wednesday at Ottumwa Cemetery.*<sup>14</sup>

**Generation 5.2b End Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Letter in possession of Robert Darwin<sup>7</sup> Dayton (*Darwin Lawhead*<sup>6</sup> Dayton, *Martha Loretta*<sup>5</sup> Lawhead, *John William*<sup>4</sup>, *Phebe*<sup>3</sup> Hibben, *Thomas*<sup>2</sup>, *John*<sup>1</sup>).

<sup>2</sup> Anecdotal records of Dorothy Ann<sup>7</sup> Dayton (*Urban*<sup>6</sup> Dayton, *Martha Loretta*<sup>5</sup> Lawhead, *John William*<sup>4</sup>, *Phebe*<sup>3</sup> Hibben, *Thomas*<sup>2</sup>, *John*<sup>1</sup>).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.; Birth dates for Darwin, Urban and Margaret from Social Security Death Index #481-05-1615, #479-18-6396, and #481-05-1150, respectively.

<sup>4</sup> US Census 1900, T623-462, enumeration 117, sheet 5, line 68, 505 Main Street, Ottumwa, Center Township, Wapello County, Iowa; US Census 1910, T624-426, enumeration 134, sheet 6, line 93, Center Township, Ottumwa, Wapello County, Iowa.

<sup>5</sup> US Census 1920, T625-516, enumeration 149, sheet 5, line 20, 922 N. Elm Street, Ottumwa City, Wapello County, Iowa.

<sup>6</sup> *Ottumwa Courier*, Ottumwa, Wapello County, Iowa, obituary, October 2, 1937.

<sup>7</sup> Anecdotal records of Dorothy Ann Dayton, [Note 2].

<sup>8</sup> *Ottumwa Courier*, [Note 6], obituary, December 1, 1948.

<sup>9</sup> Anecdotal records of Dorothy Ann Dayton, [Note 2].

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Funeral program, Johnson Funeral Chapel, Ottumwa, Wapello County, Iowa.

<sup>13</sup> *Press-Citizen*, Iowa City, Johnson County, Iowa, obituary, June 29, 1991.

<sup>14</sup> *Ottumwa Courier*, [Note 6], obituary, July 22, 1998.