JAPANESE IMMIGRANTS IN THE NORTH BAY REGION:
THEIR MOVEMENTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND SETTLEMENTS
1870-1930

by
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A thesis submitted to
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in
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ABSTRACT

Purpose of the Study:

At the present time, California is known for its agricultural richness, but people should also know of the efforts and accomplishments of the early Japanese immigrants in the various fields of the state's agricultural development. As Japanese immigrants extended their activities in North America, the San Francisco Bay Area and adjacent regions became the cradle of Japanese achievements during the period from 1860 to 1906. The development of Japanese communities was not any one man's work, but was the result of the effort of numerous pioneers who pushed forward under many difficult situations. This thesis seeks to investigate the activities and accomplishments of the early Japanese immigrants so others can see what these pioneers achieved in the North Bay region.

Procedure:

In order to reconstruct the actual movements of Japanese immigrants into the region and to trace the development of Japanese communities in the region, this writer researched original Japanese sources (books, government documents, newspapers and geographical and geological data) as well as historical records published in English. He also conducted several interviews with Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans. Finally, this writer made field trips which covered almost all the major roads and areas in the North Bay region where Japanese immigrants worked and settled, taking numerous visual notes and photographs.

Findings:

There were many migratory Japanese agricultural laborers in the North Bay region, especially in Sonoma County, from the earliest period of Japanese immigration. Important relationships existed between the Japanese in the North Bay region and their places of origin in Japan, as well as among the groups and associations that were formed here. Japanese settlers developed their
communities in various areas of the region, and these communities showed both similarities and differences. Similarities and differences were also discovered among immigrants settling in the various areas of the region, as well as among those who came from the various prefectures in Japan. Migratory routes and seasonal labor patterns can also be observed in the state of California and its various regions.

Conclusions:

There were numerous early Japanese seasonal laborers who came to the region but later moved on. These pioneers, the hardships they endured and the perseverance they demonstrated should not be forgotten. Other Japanese immigrants, about whom we know much more, developed their communities upon the foundations laid by these early Japanese pioneers. The memory of these early pioneers and their accomplishments has been fading as time passes, but the children and children's children of these early pioneers have extended their achievements in many places and in many ways. They are the best and finest fruit borne of the Japanese immigrants in the North Bay region and elsewhere in America.

Chairperson: 

Signature

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Date: Aug. 24, 1987
Beginning in 1885, the first group of Japanese immigrants\(^1\) arrived in Hawaii to fulfill three-year labor contracts. Some of these immigrants then moved to the mainland in 1888. The number of Japanese immigrating to the mainland and to California then increased rapidly during the 1890s. This continued until 1907, then the United States government prohibited further immigration to the mainland from Hawaii. The number of Japanese immigrating to the mainland then decreased dramatically.

During this period, trans-pacific transportation was limited solely to shipping, so Vancouver, Seattle and San Francisco became the major points of arrival for Japanese immigrants. From the early 1900's, numerous Japanese were married through the arranging of "picture marriages". However, in 1919 the Japanese government and the Japanese Association of America (an organization which served as a liaison between the Japanese government and Japanese immigrants living in the United States) agreed to proclaim an

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\(^1\)This writer will use the term "immigrant" throughout this study to refer to those who migrated from Japan to the United States. The Japanese language uses the term \textit{jimin} (\textit{移民}) to refer to Japanese people who went overseas to work temporarily or to settle permanently.
end to the "picture marriage" practice. Therefore, immigration of Japanese females decreased sharply from that time. Then in 1924, all Japanese immigration was prohibited by the United States government.

In keeping with the major events relating to Japanese immigration outlined above, the number of Japanese immigrants in California and in Sonoma County and adjacent areas also increased from the end of the 19th century to about 1920.

The North Bay region comprises the northwestern area of the San Francisco Bay Area and includes four counties which received Japanese immigrants: Marin, Sonoma, Napa and Mendocino counties. However, only Sonoma County had a large number of Japanese who settled there, has a history which includes several significant developments involving the Japanese, and has been impacted by contributions of Japanese immigrants in many different fields.

This study, therefore, will focus mainly on the Japanese in Sonoma County. Chapter One will describe how they came to the North Bay region and to Sonoma County in particular, how they settled in the area and what they accomplished. Chapter Two will examine how changes in the agricultural industries and in the political climate impacted the Japanese immigrants. It will also examine the contributions made by the Japanese to the agricultural development of the region. Chapter Three will then compare
the Japanese who settled in the North Bay region with those who settled in other parts of the Bay Area.

Most of the first-generation Japanese immigrant pioneers have now passed away and many of the traditional values and strengths characteristic of those early pioneers of the Japanese community are also waning. This study will attempt to explain some of the reasons for the accomplishments of these early pioneers, reasons related to the character, culture and customs of the Japanese people.

This writer drove almost all the major roads in the North Bay region and personally explored the actual setting where these pioneer Japanese immigrants lived, worked and traveled. As the writer studied these early pioneers, the valleys and the hillsides echoed with the voices of hundreds of nameless and forgotten Japanese immigrants who had endured untold hardship and had faithfully performed the difficult tasks so crucial in the development of the various Japanese communities here in America. Some of these pioneers settled permanently in America, others returned to Japan. Some were able to live comfortably and to enjoy the fruit of their labor, others lived out their days knowing only a lonely existence dependent on the meager earnings of a seasonal laborer.

It is this writer's hope that this study will be able to portray to present and future generations the dedication, sacrifice, and effort which so greatly influenced the development of the Japanese community in the North Bay region.

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CHAPTER I

THE DEVELOPMENT OF JAPANESE COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTH BAY REGION

Three mountain ranges that are a part of the Coast range and that traverse the region create many different geographic, geologic and climatic zones within the North Bay region.

The Pacific Ocean defines the western boundary of Marin, Sonoma and Mendocino counties, but the many hills and mountains near the coast keep the salty ocean winds from reaching inland areas.

The eastern portion of Sonoma County is separated from Lake County by the Mayacmas Mountains and from Napa County by many small ridges and hills. Beyond that, the Blue Ridge, Rocky Ridge and Vaca Mountains separate eastern Napa County from the western portion of the Sacramento Valley.

The North Bay region has much less land that is suitable for agricultural uses compared to the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys. The Russian River travels in a southerly direction to the middle of Sonoma county but it then takes a westward turn about ten miles south of Healds-
burg, leaving the Cotati and Petaluma valleys without a good natural irrigation system.

The major focal points for Japanese immigration were the Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Petaluma and Russian River Valley areas. Each of these areas has unique geographical and geological settings that influenced its agricultural development. The Japanese were able to take an active part in the agricultural development of these areas, such as in the vineyards in the Santa Rosa area, in the apple orchards in the Sebastopol area, in the chicken farms in the Petaluma area, and in the hop ranches in the Russian River Valley.

Not many Japanese immigrated to the forested areas of Mendocino and Lake counties, except the Ukiah area in Mendocino County.

The following section traces the movement and the accomplishments of some of the early Japanese immigrants in the North Bay region.
A. EARLY JAPANESE IMMIGRANTS IN SONOMA COUNTY

In 1871, forty-six of the gannenmono who had immigrated to Hawaii and who had completed their three-year labor contracts received permission to come to the United States mainland to pursue studies in various fields. Later, still more of the gannenmono came to the United States to gain an education. It is quite likely that at least one of these gannenmono made his way to Sonoma County in the mid-1870s.

After the arrival of the gannenmono, the first regular and permanent immigration of Japanese to the United States began in the 1880s. In 1885, the first group of permanent Japanese immigrants arrived in Hawaii to fulfill three-year labor contracts arranged by the Hawaiian and Japanese governments. Some of these immigrants then moved to the mainland in 1888. The number of Japanese immigrants increased rapidly during the 1890s. This continued until 1907, when the United States government prohibited further immigration to the mainland from Hawaii. The number of Japanese immigrating to the mainland then decreased dramati-

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1At the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate, Van Read (a representative of the Hawaiian government) contracted to have about 150 Japanese immigrants come to Hawaii to work for a three-year period. These workers left Yokohama for Hawaii in 1868, just prior to the establishment of the Meiji government and the beginning of the Meiji era. They are referred to as the gannenmono (gannen means "the beginning of a new era", mono means "people").
cally and then stopped completely in 1924 when the United States government prohibited all immigration from Japan.

During this period, the major currents of Japanese immigration flowed into the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys and, after the San Francisco earthquake in 1906, into Southern California.

The early immigrants worked in the fruit ranches and vineyards in the region extending from the Vacaville area to the Sacramento area. These early immigrants were attracted to this area because of the job opportunities that were readily available. Later, the cheap but fertile farmland in the Sacramento Valley, the San Joaquin Valley and the delta area between the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers enabled immigrants to buy property and begin their own farms.

Because of these factors, Marin, Sonoma and Napa counties did not attract many of the early Japanese immigrants. Correspondingly, very few immigrants in the area achieved positions of prominence. As a result there are very few written records relating to the Japanese immigrants who first settled in the North Bay region. This makes research into the history of Japanese immigrants in the area a very difficult task.

When looking into the existing historical records relating to the Japanese who settled in the North Bay region, one is able to recognize three significant developments: the establishment and growth of Nagasawa's Fountain Grove winery in Santa Rosa, of the Japanese apple farmers in
Sebastopol and of the Japanese chicken ranchers in Petaluma. Aside from these three important developments, there is not much information to be found relating the Japanese who immigrated to the region.

This writer attempted to gain an overview of the Japanese immigration into Sonoma County and adjacent areas by reconstructing the personal histories of individual immigrants whenever sufficient information was available.

This writer searched through the *Japanese Who’s Who in America*² and was able to reconstruct the personal histories of many individual immigrants and was able to then discern the pattern of Japanese immigration into the North Bay region and how these immigrants contributed to the development of the communities in which they settled. He also researched the records of people who came from the same prefecture,³ records in which the personal history and accomplishments of each person from a prefecture who immigrated to America are noted. However, most of these records were written after 1920 and contain little information of the early immigrants who came to the North Bay region.

The following subsections chronicle the movement and achievements of individuals and of groups of Japanese immigrants who played significant or noteworthy roles in the


³The prefecture in Japan is a geographic subdivision similar to a state in the United States.
establishment and development of the Japanese community in the North Bay region.

1. Ishigro Kumekichi and the Gannenmono

The first Japanese immigrant to settle in Sonoma County was Ishigro Kumekichi⁴, a sailor from Yokosuka, Kanagawa-ken.⁵ He came to Cloverdale in 1874⁶ and worked as a domestic servant at the Prescott home for 32 years.⁷

⁴ For Japanese names, the traditional Japanese practice of listing the last name first, then the first name will be used.

⁵ The suffix "-ken" designates a prefecture. Thus, "Kanagawa-ken" refers to "Kanagawa Prefecture".

⁶ Zaibei Nihonjinkai, Zaibei Nihonjinshi ("History of the Japanese in America") (San Francisco: Zaibei Nihonjinkai, 1940) p. 41. (Hereinafter referred to as Nihonjinshi.)

⁷ Other than the information given about Ishigro in Nihonjinshi, this writer had not been able to corroborate the fact that Ishigro was indeed the first Japanese immigrant to settle in Sonoma County. Then through an amazing coincidence, he came across some additional information that confirmed the details of Ishigro's immigration to Cloverdale as presented in Nihonjinshi.

When this writer was researching the immigration of the Japanese into the East Bay area, he learned about Nabeta Yataro, who was a pioneer carnation grower in the Berkeley and Richmond areas in the early 1890s. He learned from Nabeta's nephew, Honda Hisazo, that Nabeta had once worked at the home of a Union Iron Manufacturing Company vice president in Cloverdale.

So an interview was arranged with (Mrs.) Nabeta Takayo, widow of Yataro's son Torataro. Also interviewed was Honda Hisajiro, another nephew of Yataro, and (Mrs.) Honda Masue.

During the interview, which was held at the Honda home in Richmond, many important questions were asked in order to confirm the writer's findings relating to the Japanese pioneers who immigrated to the East Bay.
One of the questions asked concerned where Nabeta Yataro worked when he lived in Cloverdale. The response was that Nabeta worked at the home of a Mr. "Plascot", who was vice president of the Union Iron Manufacturing Company.

This writer also learned that Nabeta Yataro immigrated to America in 1892. He first worked as a gardener, through which he learned about growing flowers. He subsequently established his own flower growing business in Berkeley in 1900.

During the interview, this writer also learned that Nabeta had traveled regularly from Berkeley to Cloverdale to work at the "Plascot" home. He did this for about five years, from about 1895 to 1900. When Honda Hisajirō was called by Nabeta to join him in America in 1899, Nabeta met Honda at the San Francisco harbor. At that time, Nabeta told Honda that he had just come from Cloverdale and was returning to his home in Berkeley, to which he took Honda.

This writer had once tried to confirm the existence of the Union Iron Manufacturing Company in Cloverdale but was unable to find any mention of the company in any of the historical records of Sonoma County. He was therefore unable to confirm the details of Nabeta's employment in Cloverdale.

On the other hand, this writer had known about Ishigro and that according to Nihonjinshi he had worked at a home belonging to (プラスクート). When transliterated, the English pronunciation would be "Puraskaeto" or "Praskett". However, a search through the telephone book confirmed that there is no such name in English, so this writer decided that the name in English must be "Prescott".

This writer had done his research on the gannenmono who immigrated to Sonoma County and his research on the pioneers to immigrated to the East Bay at different times. He also had not yet completed his research on the Berkeley and Richmond area. Therefore, in spite of the fact that he had noted the reference about Ishigro in Nihonjinshi and had received Nabeta's information about the home in Cloverdale, he did not put the two together.

Later, this writer compared the name (プラスクート), "Prescott", with the name he had written in his interview notes, "Plascot" (which had written down phonetically) and realized they both must surely refer to the same person, named Prescott.

When this writer first researched the Union Iron Manufacturing Company, he assumed that the company was actually located in Cloverdale and that Prescott's principal residence was also located in Cloverdale. But other possibilities also exist.

It is plausible that Prescott's company was located in another part of the country, such as in the East, and that one of its major offices was located in San Francisco. Therefore, Prescott's principal residence would also be located there, while his country home was located in Cloverdale.
It is assumed that Ishigro was a member of the *gannenmono*, a group of Japanese contract laborers who first came to Hawaii in 1868. After completing their three-year contracts, many of these laborers then came to the mainland by working on American whaling ships. The *gannenmono* arrived on West Coast in such ports of entry as Seattle, Portland and San Francisco and in many cases they were the first Japanese pioneers to inhabit various locales in the West.

Before the beginning of the Meiji era in 1868, the common people in Japan did not possess last names. Therefore, the lists of *gannenmono* recorded only first names. Among the *gannenmono* who registered with the Japanese government in 1871 was a sailor named Kumekichi. It is the conclusion of this writer that this is indeed a reference to Ishigro.

When the railroad was completed to Cloverdale in 1872, many advertisements appeared promoting Sonoma County as "the best resort area in the West." If one visits Cloverdale today he will still discover it to be a nice, quiet, tree-covered town situated near the Russian River and nestled in the narrow river valley.

So it is entirely possible that Prescott built a nice vacation villa in Cloverdale and that it was at this country home that Ishigro worked for thirty-two years.

If these assumptions are correct, it can be stated with confidence that Prescott was a vice president of the Union Iron Manufacturing Company and that Ishigro indeed worked at Prescott's country home in Cloverdale.


9. The Kumekichi recorded in *Dainihon Gaikobunsha* reported that he was from Tokyo while the reference to Ishigro Kumekichi in *Nihonjinshi* states that Ishigro was from Yokosuka, which is near the seaport of Yokohama. It is probable that Ishigro was originally from Tokyo and later
Since Ishigro stated he was twenty-seven years old in 1871 when he registered with the Japanese government, he would have been thirty years old when he first came to Cloverdale and about sixty-two when he died in 1906.

In Sonoma County, the railroad already extended up to Cloverdale by the early 1870s, a time when the sawmill and lumber industry was booming in the Redwood Empire. Even though no records exist, this writer believes that it is likely that there were many more contacts between gannenmono sailors and the coastal settlements in the North Bay region.

2. Nagasawa Kanae

Nagasawa Kanae was one of the first Japanese to permanently settle in the United States. There were others who came to America prior to Nagasawa, but they did not settle here permanently.

One of these early temporary immigrants who came to the United States during Japan’s isolation period was Nakahama Manjiro, a Japanese fisherman from Tosa in Kochi-ken, who was shipwrecked at sea but was picked up by an American whaling ship. He arrived in Massachusetts in 1843 and returned to Japan in 1851.

Hamada Hikozo was also a shipwrecked sailor who was saved by another American ship, the Oakland. He arrived in San Francisco in 1851 and returned to Japan in 1859.

moved to Yokosuka, where he was living at the time he registered as a gannenmono.
Nijima Jo was a famous Christian educator in Japan who secretly left Japan in order to study in the United States. He successfully stole passage on an American ship and arrived in Boston in 1865. He went back to Japan in 1875.

Next to arrive was Nagasawa Kanae. Nagasawa went to England in 1865 and arrived in New York in 1867. He then came to Santa Rosa in 1875. Although the gannenmono were the first Japanese immigrants to Hawaii, they did not immigrate there until 1868. Those who came to the mainland did not arrive until 1871.

Nagasawa grew up in Japan prior to the Meiji Restoration, a time when Japanese society was marked by sharp class distinctions. The samurai, to which Nagasawa belonged, was at the top of the Japanese class system and characteristically demonstrated a complete disdain of the lower classes. The Meiji Restoration, which began in 1868, formally eliminated the class system in Japan, but the deep-seated attitudes and feelings created over the centuries remained strong.

Nagasawa grew up in Kagoshima-ken. He attended a special school for the children of the samurai class. There he learned the values of the samurai, such as the virtues of determination, strength and courage. He also learned the customs of the samurai, as well as judo, karate, and sword. His favorite subject was Chinese literature and he memorized
whole passages of traditional Japanese classic literature as well.\textsuperscript{10}

In 1865 the Lord of Satsuma, Shimazu Tadayoshi, sent nineteen young boys to England to learn about Western culture. Among them was Nagasawa, who was thirteen years old at the time. Nagasawa's real name was Isonaga Hikosuke, but when the group left Japan they took temporary names. Later, when all the other youths returned to Japan, they took back their original names. Nagasawa, however, used his temporary name for the rest of his life. There is no explanation for this, except that, unlike the rest of his companions, Nagasawa did not return to Japan for thirty-two years. Perhaps because of this he had missed his opportunity to regain the use of his real name.

The youths first sailed to Hong Kong. They then sailed to the Isthmus of Suez, crossed it by train, and sailed again to England. They reached Southampton in May of 1865 and Nagasawa was sent to Scotland to attend junior high school.

In 1867, six of the group's members came to America. Rolls Oliphant, while serving in Japan as a British delegation staff member, had come in contact with the Lord of Satsuma. Because of this, the six students were placed under the care of an acquaintance of Oliphant's, Thomas Lake Harris.

\textsuperscript{10}Zaibei Nihonjinkai, \textit{Nihonjinshi}, p. 27. See also Fujioka Shiro, \textit{Ayumi no Ato} ("The Footprints of Achievement") (Los Angeles: Ayumi no Ato Kankokokenkai, 1957).
Harris was born in England in 1822 and in 1835 he came to America with his family. He worked hard, was self-taught, and at about the age of thirty he became a follower of the Protestant mystic Emanuel Swedenborg.\footnote{Swedenborg (1688-1772) was a Protestant mystic who came to the conclusion that behind the physical world of nature was a corresponding spiritual world. He maintained that communication between these two worlds was possible through conversation with heavenly beings. He spiritualized the Bible to correlate it with the "revelations" that this heavenly visitants brought to him. By 1828 the Swedenborgian church was organized in England. See Earle E. Cairns, Christianity Through the Centuries (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1964), p. 412.}

Harris' ideas were radical in nature. He believed, for instance, that God was composed of two parts—one male, the other female. Harris' goals were to prevent the expansion of "contemporary" Christianity, which he believed was corrupting true historic Christianity. He also sought to establish a perfect utopian society. Harris therefore had established a "brotherhood community" (he called it the "Brotherhood of the New Life") where his followers would come to live and to learn his teachings.

It was to this community that the six Japanese youth had come to live. Nagasawa was among the six and they became Harris' followers.

Harris lived on a farm in Amenia, New York, at the time the six youths came to live with him. Nagasawa worked on the farm, grafting grapevines. When Harris moved to Brocton, which is on the southwest shore of Lake Erie, in
1868, Nagasawa worked as a dairyman on Harris' 1500-acre ranch and learned how to feed and milk cows.

When Harris learned of the Meiji Restoration, he sent two of the students, Mori Yurei and Samejima Seizo, back to Japan, paying for their travel expenses, because he thought Japan faced a great national crisis and he was confident that his two students would be able to serve their nation well.

During this period about ten new Japanese students came to study with Harris. These students eventually left one by one until only Nagasawa was left. When Mori returned to Washington as the first Japanese ambassador to the United States, he urged Nagasawa to go back to Japan. But Nagasawa refused, and when Harris moved to California, Nagasawa went with him.

Besides Harris and Nagasawa, the other members of the group that moved to California included Mrs. Ricker and her eleven-year-old son, and Arai Jonosin, who first came to the United States with Ambassador Mori and who was later sent to Harris by him. Harris was fifty-two years old at the time. Nagasawa was twenty-three.

Traveling on the newly-completed transcontinental railroad, the Harris group arrived in San Francisco in the middle of February in 1875. When they arrived, Takagi Saburo, who was the Japanese Consul, took care of them and made arrangements for their every need.
After staying in San Francisco a while to recover from the long journey, the group then traveled to Santa Rosa by train, which ran from Sausalito to Cloverdale. In Santa Rosa they lodged at the Grand Hotel.

Several days later, they heard news that there was an open field for sale in Healdsburg, so Harris and Nagasawa went there to examine the field's condition. They did not like the land, so they returned to the hotel. Later, they found 400 acres of suitable land in Fountain Grove, about three miles from Santa Rosa and bought it for $50 an acre.

At first Nagasawa and Arai commuted to the land from Santa Rosa. They later set up two tents, moved to new property and built a four-room bungalow. They then stated to prepare the land for farming. In July, they stated to build the main house and stable. The lumber was milled in Guerneville\textsuperscript{12} and brought to the property on specially-

\textsuperscript{12}There is some confusion in the literature concerning the source of the lumber that was used at Fountain Grove. Fujioka reported that the lumber had come from (だんわил), which would be transliterated "dan-will". The proper name with the closest spelling to this would be Danville. No street or town in the Santa Rosa area had this name or anything similar to it. The closest locale with this name is the city of Danville in East Contra Costa County. Besides being too far from Santa Rosa, the Danville area did not produce the kind of redwood lumber that was used at Fountain Grove.

The answer to the puzzling question of where the lumber was milled came unexpectedly as this writer interviewed Mr. & Mrs. Shimizu. During the interview, this writer discovered that Mrs. Shimizu was the daughter of Mr. Furuta, who had worked at the Fountain Grove ranch for many years. So the writer asked her about the name "Danville" and about the source of the redwood used at the ranch. She answered immediately that the redwood surely came from Guerneville, which is located near the Russian River. She pointed out that Guerneville produced very good redwood
lumber in those days and that Nagasawa had used good-grade redwood for his buildings.

Following the interview, this writer questioned how Fujioka could have made this kind of a mistake. He surmised that perhaps the Japanese characters that were used caused the mistake. He reread Fujioka’s Japanese text and found that the name of the location had been printed ( Bridges ). This writer compared this with how the name "Guerneville" should be transliterated into Japanese and discovered the reason for the misnaming of the city.

Fujioka apparently intended to write the Japanese transliteration of "Guerneville", but he either misspelled it or a mistake was made during typesetting at the printing company. The Japanese character ( Gu ) was then printed as ( Da ). The difference between the two characters is only one extra stroke of a pen, but because of this extra stroke "Guerneville" became "Danville". If this small, almost insignificant, mistake had not been discovered, the actual source for the lumber used at Fountain Grove may never have been confirmed.

Following this discovery, this writer read a recent biography of Nagasawa written by Kadoda and Jones, published in Japanese in 1983. From it this writer was able to discover Fujioka’s original source material, which Fujioka neglected to cite in his own work. (See Kadoda Akira and Terry Jones, Karifornia no Shikon, Satsuma Ryugakusei Nagasawa Kanae Shoden ("California Samurai: A Biography of Nagasawa Kanae, Overseas Student of the Lord of Satsuma") (Tokyo: Honpo Shoseki Kabushikigaisha, 1983), pp. 191-226. Hereinafter referred to as Nagasawa.)

In 1924 the Japanese government honored Nagasawa and recognized him for his great achievements. In recognition of this high honor, the Nichibei newspaper prepared a series of articles about Nagasawa. A reporter, Washizu Shakuma, was sent to Fountain Grove to interview Nagasawa. Washizu visited Nagasawa and they discussed Nagasawa’s personal history for four days and two nights. Washizu then wrote Nagasawa’s biography, which was published as a series of eighteen articles in the "Nichibei".

The original printed articles no longer exist. However, Kawakatsu Masayuki, a former laborer for Nagasawa who now lives in Japan, had made handwritten copies of the articles when they first appeared in the newspaper. These handwritten copies were reprinted in Kadoda and Jones’ volume.

In comparing Fujioka’s biography with Washizu’s, this writer discovered that Fujioka had omitted some parts, but the basic arrangement of his work was almost identical to Washizu’s. However, Fujioka’s biography failed to include several important facts that were reported in the last of the newspaper articles. Therefore, this writer concluded that Fujioka had only an incomplete set of newspaper articles at his disposal when he wrote his biography.
designed wagons which were drawn by eight horses. Both of these buildings were completed by November 1875.

After preparing the new field, Nagasawa and Arai, who would work alongside Nagasawa for thirty years, sowed barley and started dairy farming, with which Nagasawa had become familiar in Brocton. Nagasawa sold milk to the other ranches around Santa Rosa and Fountain Grove.

A few years later, when they heard that there was a great disaster in the European vineyards because of disease, Nagasawa and Arai immediately made plans to establish a vineyard and produce their own wine. They hired Chinese laborers, opened new land, planted vines and built a winery. The Fountain Grove ranch grew year by year. Besides the vineyard and winery, they raised pigs, cows and horses.

During this time Harris established a new "brotherhood community" and served the community as a teacher and a writer. Although he financed the operations of the ranch out his considerable wealth, Harris did not directly involve himself in the operation of the ranch. This he left to Nagasawa. In about 1891, Harris went to New York because of an illness which had bothered him for about three years and because of attacks on his integrity which appeared in the newspaper. He never returned.

It was also very interesting to discover that in his biography, Washizu indicated that the lumber used in the buildings at Fountain Grove came from Guerneville (ガンウイル), not Danville (ダンビル). This confirmed that the writer's conclusion was correct and that one small stroke added to one Japanese character had transformed "Guerneville" into a completely different name.
During the sixteen years Harris spent in Santa Rosa, Harris and Nagasawa provided much-needed leadership to the farmers in the region. Their joint accomplishments relating to the agricultural development of the region will remain an important part of the history and growth of the state of California.

After Harris' departure, Nagasawa took over the complete operation of the ranch. In 1895 he added another 1,600 acres of adjoining land, enlarging the ranch to a total of 2,000 acres.

In 1892, the winery was burned to the ground, but Nagasawa soon built a bigger and better one. At first, Nagasawa hired Chinese laborers to work at the ranch. Later he hired Italian and Japanese immigrants as his laborers. In 1896, Nagasawa's nephew, Ichiji Tomoki came to Fountain Grove and worked at the ranch for 40 years.

Nagasawa visited Japan in 1892 and brought back 10,000 mulberry tree saplings and produced silk for a while. He continually attempted to improve his livestock at the ranch, especially horses. At one time he wanted to establish a colony in Mexico, but he failed to do so because of lack of support.

In 1909, the Fountain Grove winery produced 260 tons of wine. Forty laborers usually worked during the year in
farming and in the winery. Of these, two-thirds were American and one-third were Japanese.13

By 1913, 800 acres of the ranch's 2,000 were planted with grapevine and the winery regularly stored 1,500 tons of wine in its cellars. In 1922, Nagasawa's winery produced 890,000 gallons of wine.14 When Nagasawa rebuilt the winery after the fire, he enlarged the capacity of the cellars to 500,000 gallons.15

Nagasawa died in March of 1934 at the age of 84. His long life was not an easy one, but he was able to overcome many hardships and completed a life marked by many great achievements.

Although Nagasawa lived in Santa Rosa for sixty years, his direct influence on the Japanese community was very limited, despite his prominent name, his well-respected reputation and his great achievements. This was due to the fact that he did not have close relationships with other Japanese immigrants. From the 1890s, he became well-known among the upper class of Japanese society in the Bay Area, but he almost never came in contact with the common people of the Japanese community.

13Kashimura Ichisuke, Jichitosa Hokubei ("Factual Reports Concerning the Japanese in North America") (Tokyo: Ryobundo, 1913), p. 136. (Hereinafter referred to as Hokubei.)

14Nichibei, Jinmei Jiten, p. 413.

15Zaibei Nihonjinkai, Nihonjinshi, p. 27.
As mentioned above, Nagasawa was from the samurai class and he kept his samurai mind-set throughout his life. This attitude caused his to separate himself from the "common" people who comprised the majority of Japanese immigrants.

Another factor that contributed to both his isolation from the Japanese community and his achievements in the greater community at large was the fact he immigrated from Japan at such an early age. As stated above, Nagasawa was only thirteen when he left Japan. He lived the majority of his adolescent years and all of his adulthood in Western culture. Therefore, he was not familiar with contemporary Japanese culture nor comfortable with the manners, customs and mind-set of his Japanese contemporaries. This contributed to his inability to establish significant relationships with other Japanese immigrants.

Still another reason for his isolation from the Japanese community and also from the community at large was his association with Harris. Harris' extremism and his views on creating a utopian society isolated him and his associates from the surrounding community. Although Nagasawa respected Harris' religious thought, he himself never fully embraced his teachings. He felt that Harris' ideas were too deep to understand totally. After Harris' departure, Nagasawa did not carry on Harris' vision for a utopian society. He preferred instead to make his mark on society in practical ways.
Nagasawa's accomplishments were also in a completely different category from those of other Japanese immigrants. Because he had established a mutually beneficial relationship with someone who had a great amount of wealth, Nagasawa was able to amass huge property and business holdings using someone else's capital. The average Japanese immigrant, however, endured great hardship and had to build a business from scratch.

While it is true that many other Japanese immigrants became grape growers in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys, Nagasawa's unique status of being both a grape grower and a winery owner was something that could not be achieved by any other Japanese because building a winery required great amounts of capital not available to other immigrants.

Because he was educated in the West from a rather early age, his English language skills, his familiarity with the culture, and his association with Harris gave Nagasawa an advantage that no other Japanese immigrant enjoyed. Because of his background he was able to establish contacts with other area vineyards and wineries and gained the knowledge and expertise necessary to successfully manage his own vineyard and winery. Nagasawa also befriended Luther Burbank (1849-1926) and benefited greatly from his friendship.

Nagasawa's unique background also contributed to his ability to manage an enterprise as large as Fountain Grove
grew to be. Once source indicated that when Nagasawa first came to New York and before he was sent to Harris' farm, he worked in a glass factory and in a winery. Upon arriving at Harris' farm, he studied English in addition to completing his regular farm chores. Therefore, when Nagasawa came to California, he had already learned many practical skills in many different agricultural and animal husbandry fields. Thus he was well-prepared to assume the responsibilities of planning and directing Fountain Grove's operations in farming, livestock, dairy farming, grape growing and wine production.

Perhaps it was due to the unique combination of the samurai training he received as a child and the Western education he received as a youth that enabled Nagasawa to succeed as a pioneer on the Western frontier and in the wine industry.

When this writer interviewed Mr. and Mrs. Shimizu, as mentioned above, Mrs. Shimizu told him that the Prohibition period was a time of great hardship for Nagasawa. For thirteen years, he was not able to sell even one bottle of wine. Nagasawa was forced to sell some of his prized possessions, such as his beloved Japanese swords, in order to raise money to pay the taxes on the winery. This simple anecdote tells us much about Nagasawa's personality and perseverance.

Fujioka shares these thoughts about Nagasawa's accomplishments:

Nagasawa left behind large footsteps (ayumi no ato) on the American continent. He went to study in
England before the dawn of the Meiji Restoration. Then he went to the Eastern United States and moved again to the West and to California, which was still a frontier state. He settled there and worked together with the Americans to establish effective farming methods. These things demonstrate his character as a pioneer and as a leader, for which we respect him indeed.

When we sail into a port we need a pilot, and in the same way, when we travel on a new continent, we need a leader. The Japanese people have prospered across several decades and in many places on the North American continent. Who was the pioneer that led others to such great prosperity? Nagasawa Kanae was the one. He was the true pioneer who opened the way for many other Japanese pioneers in many different fields as they followed the example of his accomplishments and his pioneer spirit. 16

3. Ayugase and Seki

In 1886, Ayugase Gunzaburo and Seki (first name unknown) leased about forty acres of land in Cloverdale and grew tomatoes and watermelons. They were the first Japanese in America to lease land and operate their own farm. They had good crops, but were not able to continue farming because they failed to find a nearby market. Ayugase then went back to Japan in 1888. 17

Ayugase was from Kanagawa-ken, as was Ishigro Kume-kichi, who was in Cloverdale from 1874 to 1906. Although this writer cannot substantiate any relationship between

16Fujioka, Ayumi no Ato, p. 483.

17Washizu Shakuma, Zaibei Nihonjinshikan ("An Historical Overview of the Japanese in America") (Los Angeles: Rafu Shimposha, 1930), Sec. 2, p. 16 (hereinafter referred to as Nihonjinshikan) and Zaibei Nihonjinkai, Nihonjinshi, p. 84.
Ishigro and Ayugase, it is possible that Ayugase heard about Ishigro while in San Francisco and then decided to also settle in Cloverdale. It is also possible that Ayugase received personal advice or help from Ishigro when he had the opportunity to lease the land for farming.

4. Takao and Nishi

In 1887, Takao Taro and Nishi Masuo came to Sonoma County and worked as loggers. They were the first Japanese to be employed in the lumber industry.\(^{18}\)

Although where they went and what type of lumber they cut cannot be pinpointed, it was a booming time in the sawmill and lumber industry in redwood forests near the Sonoma coast. Therefore, it can be assumed that they went to the Sonoma coast Redwood Empire and worked for one of the many sawmill companies thriving at the time.

This type of work was especially good during the winter months, when there were not many jobs available in the agricultural fields. The records show that after a hard day's work, the average logger only had four cents left after paying eighteen cents back to the company for his meals. It was very difficult for even the most skillful woodcutter to earn fifty cents in one day.

It is interesting to note that Takao and Nishi came to Sonoma County immediately after arriving from Japan, without

\(^{18}\)Zaihei Nihonjinkai, *Nihonjinshi*, p. 41.
any previous knowledge about logging. This points out the fact that even though it involved hard work and meager wages, the logging industry provided good job opportunities for an unskilled laborer and the first stepping stone to be made in a strange new country.

Since the Sonoma coast is near San Francisco and the redwood sawmills continued to operate until the early 1900s and logging was a seasonal job available to anyone who was physically strong and in good health, perhaps many Japanese newcomers came to the Sonoma redwood forests in the 1890s to earn a living. However, the jobs were only temporary and involved moving from place to place, so records of these persons were not kept. Thus, we are not able to determine the exact numbers of Japanese laborers in the redwood forests during this time. But it is certain that many Japanese newcomers or Japanese immigrants who already lived near the Sonoma coast had the opportunity to find these types of winter jobs.

5. Tsukamoto Matsunosuke

Tsukamoto Matsunosuke came to California in 1887 along with Inoue Kakugro and others sent by Fukuzawa Yukichi, the great educator of the Meiji era in Japan, to open new fields for agricultural development. They bought twenty acres in Valley Springs in Calaveras County, about 30 miles northeast
of Stockton. However, they were cheated (the "seller" did not actually own the land) and their venture failed.

Tsukamoto sought another chance to earn his fortune, so he went to Fountain Grove and became the first Japanese laborer at Nagasawa’s ranch and the first Japanese agricultural laborer in the North Bay region. Tsukamoto worked at the ranch while he prepared for his next opportunity, which came when he later moved to San Jose.

The date of Tsukamoto’s stay at Fountain Grove was not easy to determine. Some sources indicated that he went there in about 1891 or 1892. But Nihonjinshi indicates that after Tsukamoto failed in Valley Springs, he went first to Nagasawa to seek a temporary job and then went to San Jose in 1889.19 This earlier date best fits the chronology for the later events in Tsukamoto’s life. Therefore, it is the conclusion of this writer that Tsukamoto worked at Nagasawa’s ranch from late 1887 to 1889.

In San Jose, Tsukamoto leased a small parcel of land with two other Japanese immigrants, Sato Kyuzo and Okada Minakichi, and started a nursery business. This was the first Japanese nursery in the San Jose area.

While Tsukamoto and his two friends worked to establish their business, Tsukamoto secured a job as an assistant for Tan Masayuki, a Japanese laundry man who worked at an area hotel, and invested almost all the money he earned into the nursery business.

19 Zaibei Nihonjinkai, Nihonjinshi, p. 42.
In 1891, Tsukamoto sold the nursery to Oishi Tokutaro and bought a laundry in Tiburon, which he continued to operate there until he moved and opened a new laundry in San Francisco in 1899. While in Tiburon, Tsukamoto was the first Japanese laundry operator to use a steam press.\textsuperscript{20}

6. Enomoto

Enomoto (first name unknown) immigrated from Kagoshima-ken and started a laundry business in Tiburon in Marin County in 1888. This was the first Japanese laundry in America. He later sold his laundry to Tsukamoto in 1891, who continued to operate the laundry until he opened his new laundry in San Francisco in 1899.\textsuperscript{21}

These were the pioneers among the early Japanese immigrants who came to the North Bay region. Because of the lack of records chronicling the movements and accomplish-


ments of the Japanese who came to the region, this writer could not trace the history of all of the early Japanese immigrants who pioneered this area. Perhaps there were other gannenmono who reached the West Coast between 1870 and 1885. Zaibei Nihonjinshi hints that many Japanese sailors left the whaling ships in 1883 and 1884 because of hardships and unfair contracts. Perhaps among them were some gannenmono.

The next subsection describes the immigration of the Japanese into the North Bay region according the geographical area in which they settled.
B. JAPANESE IMMIGRATION INTO THE VARIOUS AREAS OF THE NORTH BAY REGION

There were different kinds of immigrants who came to America from Japan. In the early years, the majority of newcomers were students who lived in the homes of American families while attending school.

Then about 1890 there were changes in Japanese immigration patterns. The numbers of immigrants increased rapidly during the 1890s and the majority of those coming were now laborers instead of students.

One of the reasons for this change was that Japanese contract laborers who had immigrated to Hawaii beginning in 1885 were now beginning to come to the mainland after completing their three-year labor contracts. Hawaii thus became the best stepping stone to reach the American mainland. This continued to be true until 1907, when the United States government prohibited further immigration of the Japanese from Hawaii.

Another reason for the increase in Japanese immigration was the 1897 anti-Chinese immigration law which prohibited further Chinese immigration.22 This caused a shortage of laborers on the railroads and in the agricultural fields. Therefore, during the late 1890s and early 1900s, growing numbers of Japanese immigrants arrived in San

Francisco and Seattle and then spread out over most of the area west of the Rocky Mountains, especially in California.

Because of these developments, the North Bay region also received increasing numbers of Japanese immigrants. During this period, many Japanese laborers came to the Santa Rosa valley as seasonal workers in the hop ranches. However, these immigrants did not settle in the area permanently. Instead, they moved to many different places during the year, seeking the best jobs in order to earn the most money possible in a shortest amount of time possible.

Later some of these workers settled down and became foremen on some of the larger farms or orchards in the area. By about 1910, some of the Japanese immigrants had leased their own hop ranches and others had started their own farms. Others established their own labor camps for hop-picking workers.

In the Sebastopol area, Japanese worked first as seasonal workers, but later some leased apple orchards or established their own orchards.

At the turn of the century, a few Japanese came to the Petaluma area and attempted to get started in the poultry business. The earliest pioneers in this field were not successful, but their experiences helped later Japanese immigrants to succeed.

When California land laws became more strict in the 1910s, many of the immigrants ventured into other occupations such as fruit drying and chicken farming.
The history of the region is filled with many amazing stories of Japanese immigrants who came to America with nothing, found jobs, and supported their poor families in Japan with their meager earnings. At the same time they developed skills in many different fields, especially in agriculture. Later, these same immigrants would settle down, marry, bear children, and then raise them to be among the best educated and most successful of American citizens.

When examining the immigration of the Japanese into the region, some rather strong tendencies can be observed. One tendency was that immigrants often gathered together according to their place of origin in Japan. It was common to find several immigrants from the same prefecture, county, town or village living together in the same area. Also, in many cases, once someone was successful in a certain field, many other newcomers immigrating from the same place of origin in Japan would start the same type of business once they arrived here in America. They learned quickly from the one who had pioneered and who now provided the model.

A second tendency was that the immigrants moved from place to place many times, simply to find the best-paying job and the place most suitable for living.

A third tendency characteristic of the successful immigrants was that they generally belonged to some Japanese organization or group in which the members had something in common, whether it be occupation, type of business or place
of origin in Japan. Members of these organizations or groups would help each other in many ways.

Besides these general tendencies characteristic of Japanese immigrants, we can discern many individual settlement patterns unique to Sonoma County. Also, compared to other areas, Sonoma County had a greater percentage of stable Japanese settlements.

As mentioned previously, very few records were kept of the activities of the Japanese who immigrated to the North Bay region. Thus, this writer had to examine the personal histories of thousands of individuals. These histories were not arranged according to the regions in California where the Japanese immigrated to, but were arranged according the immigrants' place of origin in Japan. Examples of these works are the Kenjinshi (the collections of personal histories of people who immigrated from the same prefecture) and the Japanese Who's Who in America. Information gleaned from these types of sources was used to reconstruct the major events and developments that had a bearing on the establishment of the Japanese communities in the region as well as to chronicle the personal achievements of those immigrating to the area.

The subsections that follow describe the establishment of the Japanese communities in the various areas in the North Bay region.
1. The Santa Rosa Area

Except for Nagasawa's activities at Fountain Grove, it is difficult to find specific information about other Japanese immigrants to the area. Most of the early immigrants were seasonal agricultural workers. Even though many of these workers came to the area, few settled here.

When the records of those immigrating from Kumamoto-ken were examined, it was discovered that the early beginnings of many of those who immigrated to Sonoma County were as seasonal laborers in the hop fields. These immigrants used the jobs on hop ranches as the first step toward getting established in various agricultural or business enterprises of their own. In much the same way, those who immigrated from Wakayama-ken used the jobs they were able to secure in the San Francisco Bay salt manufacturing fields as stepping stones to the establishing of their own businesses.

As reported earlier, Tsukamoto Matsunosuke, who failed in his early effort to farm in Valley Springs near Stockton, worked at Nagasawa's ranch from about 1887 to 1889. This was the stepping stone he needed. With the money he earned at Fountain Grove, he was able to start his own business in San Jose in 1889.

When Kashimura reported on the Japanese living in Santa Rosa in 1913, he counted about 100 Japanese men (not including those who lived at the Nagasawa ranch). Six were engaged in businesses in town. Six men leased a total of
155 acres. Approximately thirteen others were farmers who cultivated a total of about 600 acres.²³

Only a few of the hundred men identified by Kashimura were listed in the Japanese Who's Who in America. Therefore it is not possible to compile a comprehensive summary of all the activities of these individuals, but it is possible to get an overview of the immigration of the Japanese into the area by examining the activities of those who were listed.

Immigrants to the Santa Rosa area came principally from three prefectures in Japan: Kumamoto-ken, Okayama-ken and Yamaguchi-ken; the largest group coming from Kumamoto-ken.

a. Immigrants from Kumamoto-ken

Shimada Gonzo was one who immigrated from Kumamoto-ken.²⁴ He arrived in San Francisco in 1896 via Victoria, Canada, and soon thereafter went to the Sacramento area. He worked in many different fields as a seasonal agricultural

²³Kashimura, Hokubei, pp. 136, 137.

²⁴Kanai Shigeo and Ito Bansho, Hokubei no Nihonjin ("Japanese in North America") (San Francisco: Kanai Tsuyaku Jimusho, 1909), pp. 492-494 (hereinafter referred to as Hokubei); Nakamura Masatoshi and Mukaeda Katsumi, Zaibei no Higojin ("Higo, Kumamoto-ken Immigrants in America") (Los Angeles: Nanka Kumamoto Kaigaikyokai, 1931), pp. 330, 331 (hereinafter referred to as Higojin); Nichibei, Jinmei Jiten, p. 553. The information reported in these three sources was supplied in different years by Shimada himself. The reports contained several inconsistencies (different chronologies, geographical names, dates, acreage figures). Therefore, this writer compared and combined the different accounts to reconstruct the best chronology possible.
worker. He later became a labor contractor, arranging contracts between the Japanese workers and the ranches. At one time he himself led a group of about 60 Japanese laborers to a mine company. Still later, he moved to Castroville and contracted laborers for the cultivating of sugar beets, potatoes and peaches.

In 1900\textsuperscript{25}, Shimada came to Sonoma and worked for one year without pay as an apprentice on the Chin Morris ranch in order to study dairy farming. He learned how to milk and feed cows and how to take care of horses, pigs and chickens. Then he worked for the Singh Winery for nearly a year.

In November 1901, Shimada went to Sebastopol and worked in an orchard for two years. He then moved to Napa and worked on a chicken farm. Around 1904, he came to the Santa Rosa area and leased 180 acres of vineyard and 700 acres of woodland. His aim was to be a big success. However, he failed completely. So he returned to Napa and opened a western-style restaurant, but again he could not make a go of it.

Shimada then returned to Santa Rosa and started a hog and chicken farm and later added 40 acres of hop fields as well. This was about 1906 and everything went well until the beginning of the post-World War I depression and the passing of the Prohibition Act in 1920. Again, his resources dwindled to nothing. He then found the place in

\textsuperscript{25} This date is given as 1899 by Kanai and Ito but the other sources indicate a more probable date of 1900.
Sonoma where he had once learned to dairy farm. He leased the land in 1925 and planted twenty acres of asparagus.26

His experience and his ambition, as well as his hard work, encouraged many later-comers and caused many others from Kumamoto-ken to immigrate to Sonoma County.

Nakamura and Mukaeda recognized Shimada’s efforts in helping these newer Japanese immigrants to establish themselves financially and in helping to establish good, friendly relations between Japan and America. He was the first president of the Sonoma Japanese Association and the Sonoma Kumamoto Kaigaikiyokai (Association of Immigrants from Kumamoto Prefecture in Sonoma).27

Another immigrant from Kumamoto-ken was Furuta Gonzo, who immigrated to Hawaii in 1902. The next year he arrived in San Francisco and went immediately to Santa Rosa. He started raising hogs and cows. His brother Ichizo followed him and arrived in Santa Rosa in 1905. Even though they worked hard, their hog farm failed because of disease.

The Furutas then moved into town and opened a grocery store that had lodging facilities as well. At first their business was a great success (Kanai and Ito insisted that their store was the best in the county). But prosperity did not continue for long. Their business would eventually fail, because many Japanese hop-pickers left town without paying their debts at the Furutas.

26Bichibei, Jinmei Jiten, p. 553.
In about 1915, Gonzo went back to Japan. Ichizo then started a strawberry farm and was so successful that he added 40 acres of tomatoes. In 1928 he started an apple-drying business.\textsuperscript{28}

In 1904, about the same time as the arrival of the Furuta brothers, Furusho Toraki also immigrated from Kumamoto-ken (but from a different county). He came to Santa Rosa after having worked in Hawaii for about five years. He soon arranged labor contracts with farmers who owned hop ranches and apple orchards and worked for five years. Then in 1917, he leased 130 acres of land and grew vegetables, strawberries and apples. He later served as the manager of the 600-acre Grace Brothers Ranch for six years, after which he started an apple-drying business.\textsuperscript{29}

In 1905, Kikuchi Rintaro came to Santa Rosa from Kumamoto-ken.\textsuperscript{30} In 1906, Ogata Yonesaku followed his fellow immigrants from Kumamoto-ken and settled in the same area.\textsuperscript{31} Furusho, Kikuchi and Ogata were all from the same county in Kumamoto-ken. Together with Shimada and the Furutas, they were the pioneers who led the way for the many others from Kumamoto-ken who would settle in the Santa Rosa area.

\textsuperscript{29}Nakamura and Mukaeda, \textit{Higojin}, p. 692.  
\textsuperscript{30}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 294.  
\textsuperscript{31}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 746.
b. Immigrants from Okayama-ken

Kodama Zenzabro immigrated from Okayama-ken and moved to Forestville in 1897. He cultivated hops for many years, but in 1919 he moved to Penngrove and began a chicken farm. 32

Nagata Mitsuo also immigrated to Sonoma County from Okayama-ken. He came in 1898, settled in Santa Rosa and later owned his own farm.

The next person to immigrate from Okayama-ken was Kodama Zenzo, who arrived in Forestville in May 1900. Kodama Zenzo and Kodama Zenzabro not only had the same last name, they also came from the same village, so we can assume that they were related to each other. Therefore, it is likely that Zenzo came to Forestville immediately after he arrived in San Francisco.

Zenzo picked hops for one year, and discovered that he needed to learn English. So, returning to San Francisco with the $200 he had earned, he studied English for two years. He then returned to Santa Rosa and started a business that provided laborers to the hop ranches and vineyards of the area. Later he managed 450 acres of hop ranches and 1,000 acres of vineyards. At the peak of the harvest season, he employed 500 laborers. 33 The number of Japanese laborers used cannot be accurately determined, but it can be

32 Nichibei, Jinmei Jiten, p. 314.
33 Kanai and Ito, Hobubei, pp. 495, 496.
assumed that they comprised a significant percentage of the available labor force.

These three persons, Kodama Zenzaburo, Nakata Mitsuo and Kodama Zenzo not only came from the same prefecture, they came from the same county, two of them coming from the same village.

c. Immigrants from Other Prefectures

Yamazaki Kiichiro came to Lytton in 1904 from Hiroshima-ken. He grew vegetables and later had an apple orchard and an apply-drying business. He eventually settled in Healdsburg.34 There were three Japanese families in Healdsburg in 1922, all of whom came from Hiroshima-ken.35

Iwaoka Kosuke arrived in San Francisco in 1902 from Yamaguchi-ken. He then came to Santa Rosa and opened a laundry in 1917, along with his brother Naozo.36

In 1913, one Japanese immigrant leased eighty-three acres in Fulton, which was a good hop-producing area at the time. Five others contracted to farm a total of 521 acres. At that time, there was one Japanese store in Healdsburg and


35Yamazaki Seitsu (1907) and Yokoyama Rokuzaemon (1916) were listed in Nichibei, Jinmei Jiten, pp. 706 and 716, respectively.

36Ibid., p. 241.
nine farmers in the area had contracted to farm a total of 862 acres.

An interesting incident occurred in Santa Rosa in the aftermath of the 1906 earthquake. Nakajima Tamizo arrived in San Francisco from Oita-ken. He then came to Sonoma County because a friend from Oita-ken had already immigrated there. Nakajima worked in the hop ranches for about five years. In November 1905, he found out that a popular restaurant was for sale so he decided to start his own restaurant business. He paid a great amount of money for the restaurant. He began his own business and six months later Santa Rosa was shaken by the great earthquake.

Almost all of the buildings on the street were destroyed. Nakajima's restaurant was one of the few buildings that remained standing. Because Nakajima felt sorry for his neighbors and did not want to take advantage of their misfortune, he decided not to reopen his restaurant until the other neighboring business were also able to do so. So he kept his restaurant closed. However, there was only one other restaurant in town and it was not large enough to meet the demands of the many people who had no place else to eat. So the police came to Nakajima and ordered him to open his restaurant. He served huge crowds of customers and made a large profit because of the earthquake disaster.

Later, when anti-Japanese sentiments rose in Santa Rosa, Nakajima sold his restaurant and started farming on
the outskirts of town. Kanai and Ito praised Nakajima for making the right decision in each difficult situation.37

Because of the events chronicled above, several Japanese communities were established in the Santa Rosa area from the late 1890s to about 1920. By 1924, when all further Japanese immigration ended, these Japanese communities were beginning to enjoy an increasing degree of stability and permanence.

2. The Sebastopol Area

The relationship between the settlement patterns of Japanese immigrants and their places of origin in Japan has already been noted in the previous subsection. This factor is especially evident in the Sebastopol area, with significant numbers of immigrants coming from Hiroshima-ken and, to a lesser degree, from Kumamoto-ken.

a. Immigrants from Hiroshima-ken

Yamamoto Jintaro was the first settler from Hiroshima-ken. He came to Sebastopol in 1898 and established an apple-drying business. By 1922 he produced about 60 tons of dried apples a year.38 The records do not indicate who

37 Kanai and Ito, Hokubei, pp. 488-490.
38 Nakamura and Mukaeda, Higojin, p. 142 and Nichibei, Jinmei Jiten, p. 381.
started the first apple-drying business, but this industry gave many Japanese immigrants the opportunity to establish their own businesses without the necessity of owning land. This became an important factor during the period when a swarm of anti-Japanese land laws were enacted (as in 1913 and 1921). These land laws caused many Japanese farmers to lose their farmlands and change their occupations. Therefore, the apple-drying industry provided the now landless farmer an opportunity to take up new jobs, to establish new businesses and to recapture a new sense of hope.

Fujihara Saikichi came to Sonoma County in 1902 and cultivated 60 acres of apple orchards. Hagihara Tomouemon came to Sonoma County in 1903 and established an apple-drying business besides owning his own farm. During the next three years, eight other immigrants established dual businesses in which they either grew apples and also dried them, or grew both apples and vegetables, or dried apples and worked as apple brokers.

Matsumoto Sugitaro arrived in Sebastopol in 1906 and opened an inn, besides working as both an apple dryer and an apple broker. He also served a very important function in this apple-oriented community by working as a labor contractor for seasonal workers.

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39 Nichibei, Jinmei Jiten, p. 139.
40 Ibid., p. 154.
41 Ibid., p. 351.
Iwamoto Junichi arrived in San Francisco in 1905 and went to Sebastopol the following year. He is reported to have owned a 50-acre apple ranch. He produced 10,000 boxes of apples and about 35 tons of dried apples per year. He produced apples both to sell as fresh produce and to dry. Thus he was able to use his crops in a way that best suited each year’s varied market conditions.

The records indicate that seven other persons immigrated to Sebastopol between 1910 and 1920. They were involved in the same types of activities as those who had preceded them. Most of the them came to America in about 1905 but came to the Sebastopol area later on. An new inn was also opened in 1920 by an Japanese immigrant named Hagihara Torazo, indicating that more Japanese workers had come to the area.

One report indicated that a second generation of Japanese living in America had already begun by 1922. Yamamoto Eiichi was born in Japan in 1897. His father called him to Sebastopol in 1917. After his father returned to Japan in 1921, he carried on his father’s enterprises, which consisted of an 80-acre apple orchard and an apple-

42 Ibid., p. 240.

43 Besides those listed above, seven other men immigrated from Hirsohima-ken in the early years: Ikekami Toyomatsu (1904), Tanabe Suekichi (1904), Yamano Shintaro (1904), Mihara Suekichi (1905), Kubochi Chikajiro (1905) and Hiura Sakamatsu (1906). Their personal histories are included in Nichibei, Jinmei Jiten.

44 Ibid., p. 154.
drying business.\textsuperscript{45} Although Eiichi's report does not give his father's name, it is probable that his father was Yamamoto Shintaro, who was listed in Kaihara's \textit{Hiroshima Kenjin} in 1916.

Very dramatic changes are noted when comparing Kaihara's brief record written in 1916 with Nichibei's \textit{Jinmei Jiten} published in 1922. In his report, Kaihara lists seven immigrants from Hiroshima-ken who settled in Sebastopol. Among them was Yamamoto Shintaro and Oda Tomoharu, who operated a 190-acre apple ranch. Other farmers were also listed, but each of them farmed less than 20 acres and grew strawberries or various types of vegetables.\textsuperscript{46}

It is interesting to note that none of the people listed by Kaihara in 1918 were listed in the \textit{Jinmei Jiten} (published in 1922). It can be assumed, therefore, that all of these men returned to Japan after earning the amount of money they had set out to gain by coming to America.

b. Immigrants from Kumamoto-ken

Takeshita Kametaro arrived from Kumamoto-ken in 1906. He had an apple orchard of 60 acres and was the first Japanese to establish himself in the apple industry in Sebastopol. He later returned to Japan, but his son Toraki

\textsuperscript{45}Ibid., p. 691.

\textsuperscript{46}Kaihara, \textit{Hiroshima Kenjin}, p. 82.
took over his father's business.\textsuperscript{47} It can be assumed that Kametaro's brother immigrated with him. An immigrant named Takeshita Kamejiro is listed as immigrating from the same locale in Japan the same year as Kametaro. Also, in Japanese, Taro is the name given to the first son, while Jiro is the name given to the second son.

In 1922, Kamejiro had a 35-acre apple orchard.\textsuperscript{48} However, since his name does not appear in the \textit{Higojin} published in 1931, it can be assumed that Kamejiro also returned to Japan sometime during the intervening years.

Yasutake Kanetaro came to Sebastopol from Kumamoto-ken in 1908. He worked as an agricultural laborer for three years before starting an apple orchard. He started by growing vegetables for about two years, then he got into the apple business. He increased his holdings to 135 acres and raised livestock in addition to farming.\textsuperscript{49}

Miyamoto Tomotaro arrived in San Francisco in 1902 via Hawaii and opened a restaurant there. He remained in San Francisco until the great earthquake. He then moved to Santa Rosa and operated a hotel there for five years. Then he moved to Sebastopol, where he worked as an apple broker and apple dryer for the 20 years prior to Nakamura's and Mukaeda's report in 1931.

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{47} Nakamura and Mukaeda, \textit{Higojin}, p. 456.
\item \textsuperscript{48} Nichibei, \textit{Jinmei Jiten}, p. 619.
\item \textsuperscript{49} \textit{Ibid.}, p. 920.
\end{itemize}
Because of the firm foundation established by these early settlers, many other immigrants from Kumamoto-ken followed in their footsteps. The records published in 1922 and 1931 list eight other men living in Sebastopol who had immigrated from Kumamoto-ken.

c. Immigrants from Other Prefectures

Immigrants came from other prefectures in Japan as well. There were two early settlers from Okayama-ken in the Sebastopol area. Kurozumi Kishisaburo came to Sonoma County in 1902. He lived here for 20 years and established a business that produced soybean cake. He also grew vegetables. Toguni Sakuzo came to Sonoma County in 1904 and farmed here for 18 years. Although these two pioneers arrived in the early years of immigration, no other immigrants from Okayama-ken followed them to the Sebastopol area. Only three other men from Okayama-ken would come to farm in the region, but they arrived much later during the immigration period.

Tanaka Morizo came from Yamaguchi-ken in 1906 and settled in Sebastopol, where he owned his own farm. Yoshiki Kikushiro also came from Yamaguchi-ken in 1907 and

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50 Ibid., p. 329.
51 Ibid., p. 635.
52 Ibid., p. 598.
worked as an apple broker and apple dryer.\textsuperscript{53} Both Tanaka and Yoshiki came from the same county. Later three other men from the county joined them in Sebastopol. But no others immigrated from Yamaguchi-ken, so their numbers in Sebastopol did not increase.

Aburano Seijiro immigrated from Osaka near Wakayama-ken in 1904 and became an apple broker.\textsuperscript{54} Hamamoto Iwazo of Fukui-ken came to Sebastopol in 1906 at the age of sixteen and by 1922 he already owned a grocery store that sold both Japanese and American goods.\textsuperscript{55} Yokoyama Tokuji came from Kochi-ken on Shikoku (smallest of the four principal islands of Japan). He is the only identifiable person noted in this study who immigrated from Shikoku. The fact the he came immediately to Sebastopol after arriving in the United States suggests that his father had already established himself in Sebastopol and had called his son to carry on the father’s work, the father then returning to Japan to rejoin the rest of his family.

These records tell only a small part of the story of the many pioneers who settled in the Sebastopol area. Kashimura’s report, published in 1913, indicated there were at that time about 250 Japanese inhabitants and five Japanese stores in the Sebastopol area. Seven men leased farms that totaled about 100 acres. Eight others share-\textsuperscript{53}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 725. \textsuperscript{54}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 93. \textsuperscript{55}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 156.
cropped a total of 450 acres and five others contracted with area farmers to farm a total of 352 acres. These farmers grew strawberries, vegetables, hops and wine grapes. These reports indicate that the majority of the Japanese that lived in the Sebastopol area at the time were agricultural laborers.

When we compare the types of farming noted in Kaihara’s report of 1916 with those noted in the Nichibei report of 1922, we realize that great advances were made by the Japanese settlers in agriculture and the new fruit-drying industry.

Kaihara reported that seven settlers from Hiroshima-ken leased farmland in 1909. Three of them operated apple and fruit orchards totaling 267 acres while the other four cultivated a total of 38 acres in strawberries.

When those who had immigrated from Hiroshima-ken reported in 1922, ten men operated apple ranches totaling 543 acres, six men operated apple-drying businesses and two men operated inns. However, six of the apple growers also had side businesses as apple-dryers, so a total of twelve men operated apple-drying businesses during the harvest season.

As mentioned earlier, immigrants from Hiroshima-ken comprised the largest group of those settling in Sebastopol. This was due primarily to the immigration pattern among the Japanese contract laborers who immigrated to Hawaii. Those

56Kashimura, Hokubei, p. 137.
from Hiroshima-ken were the most willing to immigrate the mainland and were the largest group to do so. On the other hand, those from Yamaguchi-ken, who comprised the largest group of Japanese in the islands, preferred not to leave Hawaii. Thus, most of the immigrants from Hiroshima-ken left while those from Yamaguchi-ken stayed and therefore continue to be the largest group among the Japanese in Hawaii.

When these large numbers of immigrants from Hiroshima-ken moved to the mainland, they were able to find work in various parts of the region rather easily. This was due to that fact that by the late 1890s there were many Japanese inns in San Francisco that were owned or operated by immigrants from Hiroshima-ken. This was reflected in the names given to the these inns, names such as "Hiroshima-ya" or other names with distinctive regional characteristics. This, then, alerted newly-arriving immigrants that these inns were managed by fellow immigrants from Hiroshima-ken.

The owners or managers of these inns possessed news about available jobs and other information needed by the newcomers. They also functioned as agents of the large farmers or labor camps in the Sebastopol area. So newcomers looking for jobs were often directed to the farms and labor camps in Sebastopol. There were also two inns in Sebastopol which were owned by settlers from Hiroshima-ken and they, too, functioned pretty much as labor camps for seasonal workers.
Those who had settled permanently in Sebastopol submitted reports to be published in the 1922 *Jinmei Jiten*. However, there were also numerous other immigrants from Hiroshima-ken who came and left each year as seasonal laborers. When many of these workers decided to settle down, many of them chose to settle in the Sebastopol area and then brought their families over from Japan. In many other cases, a father who had established a business here would call his son from Japan, turn his business over to him and then return to Japan.

The many immigrants who came to Sebastopol via Hawaii and the effective "labor procurement" system that had been developed with the Japanese farmers and growers in the area, encouraged the immigration of laborers from Hiroshima-ken (as well as from others parts of Japan) to Sebastopol.

3. The Petaluma Area

A major development that enabled Petaluma to become a major chicken raising and egg producing capital was the invention of the incubator by Lyman Byce, along with Isaac Dias, in 1879.57

A. E. Bourke started a commercial hatchery in 1898. This pushed Petaluma to the top of the chicken raising

industry. There were many chicken farms along the Petaluma hillsides by 1900.

Heig cites two significant reasons for the growth of the chicken raising and egg producing industry in the Petaluma area. First, the sandy loam soil of the area was ideal for raising chickens. Second, the Petaluma River provided easy access to San Francisco by river boat, the ideal transportation for shipping eggs.

Petaluma's geological features and geographical location made it an ideal location for the chicken industry, which flourished from the 1890s to the 1950s, when the large-scale operations began forcing out the smaller farms.

Japanese pioneers in the area started chicken farming in 1900. At the peak of the industry, there were 30 Japanese chicken farms in the Petaluma area. But the boom in Petaluma's chicken and egg industry invited not only Japanese farmers to the area, but immigrants from many other nations as well. Heig comments:

They came from all over: Russian Jews from the Ukraine, Germans, Irish, young Swedes and Danes seeking land of their own. Petaluma had always had a heavily foreign-born population, and now ethnic communities began to form--German, Swedish, Jewish, Swiss-Italian (they mostly worked in the dairies), Danish and Japanese. A new arrival often worked as a hired hand for $25 a month and room and board, until he had $700 or $800 saved, then rented a farm. After three or four years he usually had enough money to buy his own five acres.

58 Ibid., p. 110.
59 Ibid., p. 111.
In the early 1900s, therefore, Japanese immigrants had ample opportunity to work on a chicken farm and, if they decided to become a chicken farmer themselves, they could earn enough money to buy their own farm in four or five years.

a. Early Immigrants

The earliest date given for Japanese people to begin chicken farming is cited by Takeda Junichi. According to Takeda four immigrants from Hiroshima-ken (Matoba, Tamura, Nagahori and Matsuda) established chicken farms in 1896. However, these four were not mentioned in Kaihara's Hiroshima Kenjin Hattenshi of 1918, the Nichibei's Jinmei Jiten of 1922, nor the Zaibei Nihonjinkai's Nihonjinshi of 1940. Therefore if they were in Petaluma at the end of the 1890s, they did not remain long enough to show in any of the historical records of the period, or they worked for another farmer (rather than owning their own farms).

Matsuzaki Aikuma from Kagoshima-ken was another early immigrant to begin chicken farming. When Matsuzaki first arrived in San Francisco he worked for a tobacco company. He then moved to Petaluma and bought 21 acres to start his

However, he later changed occupations and moved to San Francisco to become a banker.

The most likely date for Matsuzaki's arrival in Petaluma is 1900. There are conflicting dates given in the literature (Washizu states he came in 1902), but there is general agreement that Matsuzaki was indeed the first Japanese to begin chicken farming in the area.

Soon after Matsuzaki’s arrival other Japanese pioneers also started chicken farms but most of them moved to other places to take up new jobs.62

The Zaibei Nihonjinshii (published in 1940) comments on the Japanese who were involved in the beginnings of Petaluma’s chicken farming industry:

The beginning of the Japanese poultry industry occurred in 1900, when Matsuzaki Aikuma, Mishima Moritaro, Nakajima Torakichi, Takagi (first name unknown), Mitoma Yaju and two or three other pioneers went to the Petaluma area within a short period of time and started their chicken farms by themselves or in partnership with others. However, these pioneers did not continue their poultry farms. Some changed to other businesses or went back to Japan and did not achieve great success, but their distinguished service and their accomplishments as pioneers in the poultry industry should be remembered.63

Kashimura reported that in 1909 there were six Japanese chicken farms in Petaluma. Altogether there were 8,500 chickens on the Japanese-operated farms. Mishima and

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61 Washizu, Nihonjinshikan, Part II, p. 30.
63 Ibid., pp. 225, 226.
Mitoma of Fukuoka-ken jointly ran the largest one with 5,000 chickens.  

Mitoma first arrived in Portland in 1897 and then moved to San Francisco in about 1898 and opened a western-style restaurant. He then moved to Petaluma in about 1901 and operated the chicken farm with Mishima for about ten years. Later, Mitoma moved to Suisun, where he leased a fruit ranch for a little more than ten years.

Nakahori Torakichi from Hiroshima-ken was an early immigrant to the Petaluma area. Takeda’s report (see above) listed a Nakahori among those who first began chicken farming in 1896. However, no first name was given so this writer is not able to say whether this Nakahori and Nakahori Torakichi were the same person or not. They were at least related.

Nakahori Torakichi arrived in San Francisco in 1897 (very close to 1896) and settled in Penngrove. Note also that the Zaibei Nihonjinshi report (see also above) included a Nakajima Torakichi in its list of pioneers who began their chicken farms in 1900. It is possible that the name "Nakajima" was misspelled during typesetting (since the change would involve only one Japanese character). If this was so, Nakahori began chicken farming (working for someone else) in the late 1890s or very early in the 1900s. Then by

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64 Kashimura, Hokubei, p. 135.

65 Nichibei, Jinmei Jiten, p. 368.
1904, he had established his own farm. By 1922, his farm had 6,000 chickens.\footnote{Nichibei, Jinmei Jiten, p. 422.}

Another immigrant from Hiroshima-ken, Okazaki Kinbei, arrived in San Francisco in 1904 and later settled in Petaluma. In 1922, he had a chicken farm with 4,000 hens.\footnote{Ibid., p. 506.} Okazaki Katsuhei immigrated from the same town in Hiroshima-ken as Okazaki Kinbei. He came to Sonoma County in 1903, one year earlier than Kinbei. However, he first worked at a hop ranch in the Russian River valley prior to moving to Petaluma sometime before 1920, by which time all the hop ranches in area were closed. It is likely that this change in occupation occurred around 1915 or so because in his report published in 1922 Katsuhei stated that he already had 5,000 chickens.\footnote{Ibid., p. 506.} Perhaps he had taken note of the booming prosperity of the egg industry and this motivated a change in occupations.

Sueoka Toyotaro of Yamaguchi-ken\footnote{In his book (Hiroshima Kenjin Hattenshi, p. 82), Kaihara stated that Sueoka was from Hiroshima-ken, but he was mistaken.} arrived in San Francisco in 1902 and then settled in Petaluma and began chicken farming. In the report he submitted to the Jinmei Jiten in 1922, he stated that he had been in Petaluma for 18 years. So his arrival can be dated in about 1904.\footnote{Nichibei, Jinmei Jiten, p. 572.}
Yoshizawa Seizo of Nagano-ken arrived in San Francisco in April 1904 and then came to Petaluma in October of the same year and established his chicken farm. He was graduated from Sapporo-nogakko (now Hokkaido University) before he came to America and helped to organize different associations (such as a poultry growers association and savings associations) of mutual aid among the Japanese in Petaluma.\(^{71}\)

Yamaoka Sensuke and Yoshioka Yoshitaro were two men who also came from the same county in Hiroshima-ken. Yamaoka came to Sonoma County in 1905 and by 1922, his chicken farm in Penngrove had 5,000 hens.\(^{72}\) Yoshioka settled in Sonoma County in 1906 and by 1922 his chicken farm in Penngrove had 7,000 hens.\(^{73}\) Later two more men from the same county joined them. Okada Jiro immigrated to Sonoma County in 1906 and worked as an apple dryer for eleven years before moving to Penngrove to start chicken farming in 1915.\(^{74}\) Matsumoto Kazuichi came to Sonoma County in 1900, and like Okada, worked as an apple dryer. He then moved to Petaluma in 1917 and opened his own chicken farm.\(^{75}\) We can be fairly certain that these men knew each other and

\(^{71}\)Ibid., p. 729.
\(^{72}\)Ibid., p. 700.
\(^{73}\)Ibid., p. 728.
\(^{74}\)Ibid., p. 499.
\(^{75}\)Ibid., p. 354.
that they came to the Petaluma area in order to capture a part of the booming egg producing business.

A review of the above accounts will indicate that between 1904 and 1906 three immigrants from Hiroshima-ken settled in Penngrove and established chicken farms: Nakahori (1904), Yamaoka (1905) and Yoshioka (1906). About this time Okazaki Kinbei also started chicken farming.

b. Later Immigrants

Because of the success of the early pioneers from Hiroshima-ken, many other immigrants from Hiroshima-ken were influenced to also settle in the Petaluma area. This included those who already lived in Sonoma County and those who lived outside of Sonoma County.

Matsuda Suekichi, who came from the same town in Hiroshima-ken as Nakahori, arrived in San Francisco in 1907. He soon settled in Petaluma and worked in three different fields: apple drying, potato farming and chicken farming. He established his chicken farm about 1915. His whole family worked the farm and they had 8,000 hens in 1922.76

Kawahara Toshiro came to America in 1906, moved to Fresno and worked at the Kamikawa store (a well-known Japanese store owned by a fellow Hiroshima-ken native) for six years. He then came to Penngrove and started a chicken

Miyano Ishitaro went to Watsonville in 1906 and then came to Penngrove in 1913 to start a chicken farm. Imoto Shohei went to Alameda County and established a strawberry farm there. He then came to Petaluma in 1919 to begin a chicken farm. It is interesting to note that three of these men came from the neighboring county in Hiroshima-ken to that of Yamaoka and Yoshioka.

Oomi Kazuo, also from Hiroshima-ken, arrived in San Francisco in 1905 and worked for a laundry. He then moved to Petaluma and opened a chicken farm in 1916.

Besides those from Hiroshima-ken, many immigrants coming to the Petaluma area were from Okayama-ken. Kodama Junzaburo came to Sonoma County in 1897. As mentioned previously, he established a hop ranch in Forestville, but later moved to Penngrove in 1919 to start a chicken farm. Hayashi Keitaro, who came from the same village as Kodama, came to Sonoma County one year later in 1898 and operated a hop ranch for thirteen years. He then moved to Petaluma and became an apple dryer. Araki Genpei came to Sonoma County in 1900 and then moved to Petaluma in 1911 to start the

77Ibid., p. 266.
78Ibid., p. 382.
79Ibid., p. 213.
80Ibid., p. 506.
81Ibid., p. 314.
82Ibid., p. 174.
apple-drying business together with Hayashi. Fujita Tsuneji, who was also from the same village as Kodama and Hayashi, came to America in 1907. He went to Salinas first and farmed for eleven years. He then moved to Penngrove in 1918 and opened a chicken farm.

Newcomers came from other prefectures as well. Tominaga Wakamatsu was from Kumamoto-ken. He first immigrated to Hawaii in 1900 and then came to Sebastopol. He worked an apple ranch for about five years and then moved to Santa Rosa and cultivated thirty acres of strawberries for nine years. He then moved to Petaluma in 1918 and started a chicken farm.

Matsumoto Tadasuke came from the same county in Yamaguchi-ken as Sueoka Toyotaro. He first immigrated to Sacramento in 1906 and got a job in the transportation industry, but some time later he also moved to Petaluma and started a chicken farm.

Nakano Juhachi, from Fukuoka-ken, worked at a hop ranch from 1907. He then bought eleven acres in Penngrove in 1917 and started a chicken farm. Onoda Soshichi, from

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83 Ibid., p. 103.
84 Ibid., p. 138.
85 Ibid., p. 640 and Nakamura and Mukaeda, Zaibei no Higojin.
86 Nichibei, Jinmei Jiten, p. 353.
87 Ibid., p. 432.
Shizuoka-ken, first immigrated to the Fresno area in 1907. He then came to Penngrove in 1912 to start a chicken farm.88

The settlement patterns observed in the Petaluma area are different from the ones observed in the Sebastopol area. Most of the newcomers coming to the Petaluma area had some prior relationship or association with an earlier settler in the area. Also, almost all of them had first settled in some other location before coming to the Petaluma area. Because of this they had already earned enough money to be able to start chicken farming immediately upon arriving in the area. This means they already had the capital necessary for land, facilities and chickens and did not have to rely on financial backing from someone else.

Zaibei Nihonjinshi points out some unique features of the Japanese chicken farmers in the Petaluma area: (1) they produced two or three times the amount of eggs as other farms, (2) the number of chicks born on their farms were as many as two or three times that of other farms, (3) 90% of the chicks born on their farms grew to maturity, (4) they worked longer hours than other farmers in the area and (5) their families worked together on the farms.89

Another unique characteristic of chicken farming was that compared to other types of farming, a relatively small

88Ibid., p. 493.

89Zaibei Nihonjinjinkai, Nihonjinshi, p. 228.
amount of land was needed to begin a farm. Therefore, it was possible for farmers to buy land for their children and help them get started in the business. Chicken farming was also an enterprise in which the entire family could easily participate and to which each member could contribute.

Although the Petaluma area was the center of the chicken farming industry (most of the Japanese chicken farms were actually located in Penngrove), other agricultural business also thrived. The apple drying business established by Hayashi and Araki has already been noted. Kumagai Soji, from Gifu-ken, immigrated to America in 1897 and later moved to Petaluma and established a company that cultivated soybeans.\(^90\) Japanese settlers also farmed potatoes and other vegetables.

In 1940 there were thirty chicken farmers and fifteen farmers who grew vegetables or did other types of farming. Twenty-two of these farmers owned their own land, with each farm averaging about ten acres. Those who had chicken farms had a total of 256,000 chickens. Each chicken farm averaged 8,800 hens, with the largest having about 30,000. Annual production totaled 3,073,000 dozen eggs, worth about $614,440.\(^91\)

Japanese chicken farmers comprised about 0.75% of Sonoma County’s 4,000 chicken farmers, but they produced 1%

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\(^90\)Nichibei, Jinmei Jiten, p. 324.

\(^91\)Zaibei Nihonjinkai, Nihonjinshi, pp. 103, 174.
of the county's total output. The family-oriented chicken farms had reached their peak production level by the beginning of World War II and then started to decline. However, we should never forget these Japanese families who worked so hard to help make Petaluma one of the top egg producing centers of the world.

4. The Cloverdale and Ukiah Areas

It has already been reported that the first Japanese immigrant to settle in Sonoma County was Ishigro Kumekichi, a sailor from Kanagawa-ken who came to Cloverdale in 1874 and worked as a domestic servant for 32 years.

It has been reported also that Ayugase and Seki immigrated to Cloverdale in 1886 and cultivated 40 acres of tomato and watermelon and that their business failed because they lacked an adequate market for their produce.

Although this writer needs more evidence to further corroborate the immigration of Ishigro and the gannenmono into Sonoma County, it is certain that when hops were grown in the Russian River valley numerous Japanese laborers migrated there during the hop picking season to work on the many farms in the Cloverdale and Healdsburg areas.

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92Adair Heig, History of Petaluma, A California River Town (Petaluma: Scottwall Associates, 1982), p. 120.
Kashimura also reports that in 1913, there was one Japanese farmer and several Japanese farm laborers that had settled in Cloverdale.\textsuperscript{93}

Discussion of the Japanese in Sonoma County must also include Ukiah. Although Ukiah is located in Mendocino County it is related to the Japanese community in Santa Rosa because the Japanese immigrants who lived in Ukiah were members of the Sonoma Japanese Association, which had its main office in Santa Rosa for many years.

Mastushita Kamiji immigrated to Ukiah in 1898 via Victoria, Canada and settled there. He was first the first Japanese to settle in Ukiah. About four years later, other Japanese began to immigrate to the area.

Matsushita worked at an American dairy farm for eleven years. Once, he returned to Japan and established a dairy farm there, but then he came back to America.\textsuperscript{94}

Another early pioneer was Tsurumoto Katsuzo, who arrived in Ukiah from Hawaii in 1899. Matsumoto Bunkichi, who came from the same village in Kumamoto-ken as Tsurumoto, immigrated to Ukiah in 1904 and worked as a farm labor contractor.\textsuperscript{95} Onomiya Buhei came to Ukiah via Hawaii in 1904 and worked as a contract farmer.\textsuperscript{96}

\textsuperscript{93}Kashimura, Hokubei, p. 137.

\textsuperscript{94}Ibid., p. 854.

\textsuperscript{95}Ibid., p. 371.

\textsuperscript{96}Ibid., p. 856.
Later other immigrants from Kumamoto-ken came to Ukiah. Some of them had worked at the Colorado Steel Company, indicating some kind of a relationship between the company and Japanese workers.

In 1913, there were three Japanese stores in Ukiah. It was also reported that two Japanese immigrants owned ten acres of land and that four Japanese farmers had contracted to farm a total of about 587 acres.97

In 1931, there were 30 Japanese families in Ukiah, and ten of them were from Kumamoto-ken. Several of these Japanese immigrants worked as contract farmers.98 The Ukiah area had produced hops in earlier years, but by this time it mainly produced pears and plums.

5. The Neighboring Counties

This study previously reported on Enomoto and Tsukamoto, the Japanese immigrants who owned and operated a laundry business in Tiburon during the 1890s. In general, however, not many immigrants had settled in Marin County by 1922.

Kami Kichisabro settled in Mill Valley in 1902 and established his own business as a shoemaker.99 Tashiro Ushimatsu came to Mill Valley in 1904. He was an architect

97Ibid.
98Nakamura, Higojin, p.86.
99Nichibei, Jinmei Jiten, p. 262.
and built many American-style residences.\textsuperscript{100} Okuhara Nobusuke of Yamaguchi-ken came to Mill Valley and opened a laundry. He also bought land and operated a chicken farm.\textsuperscript{101} There were a few latecomers to the area, but reports indicate they numbered less than ten.

There were four immigrants from Toyama-ken who ventured into Napa during the early years. Yasui Yoshiyuki immigrated to Napa in 1906 and worked his own farm. In 1922, he was a foreman at the Dubkins orchard in the Mill Valley area.\textsuperscript{102} Maki Yasutaro came to Napa in 1907 and worked at the Whitley ranch with his brother.\textsuperscript{103} Ishikawa Kiyomatsu settled in Napa, perhaps about the same time as Maki (he did not provide his arrival date in his report) and operated his own orchard.\textsuperscript{104} These four men all came from the same village and arrived in Napa about the same time, so it is possible they came to America together on the same ship.

Sato Riichi, who immigrated from Chiba-ken, came to Napa in 1912 because his father had already worked there many years. Sato’s father first came to Hawaii in 1898. Six months later Hawaii was annexed to the United States, so he was released from his labor contract and then moved to

\textsuperscript{100}Ibid., p. 591.
\textsuperscript{101}Ibid., p. 511.
\textsuperscript{102}Ibid., p. 710.
\textsuperscript{103}Ibid., p. 338.
\textsuperscript{104}Ibid., p. 234.
the mainland. He settled in Napa, worked at a large fruit ranch and later became the foreman for the Japanese laborers there. He went back to Japan in 1911, but soon returned to Napa and then called his son to join him in 1912. Two years later he became very ill, so his son urged him to return to Japan. While Sato Riichi still lived in Napa, he traveled to Santa Rosa by train and then went to the Russian River valley to pick hops.105 Sato Riichi later relocated to Sacramento, where he owned a strawberry farm.106

6. Conclusion

From this study we have been able to determine the kinds of activities the Japanese immigrants who came to the North Bay region were involved in and some of the achievements they were able to accomplish. These achievements contributed to the economic development of present-day Sonoma County in many ways.

Sonoma County is known all around the world for its wines. The Sebastopol area is known for its fresh apples and dried fruit. The Petaluma area is a top egg producing center. The early Japanese immigrants played an important and vital role in the development of all these industries.

105 This writer was able to learn this additional information about Sato Siichi and his father by talking to Sato’s acquaintances in Sacramento, which he had met while visiting Sato’s church in Sacramento twice a month during 1984 and 1985.

CHAPTER II

JAPANESE IMMIGRANTS AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE NORTH BAY REGION

The "cause and effect" principle not only applies to natural phenomena in the physical world, it applies to events in human history as well.

This chapter will examine how changes in the various industries in the North Bay region as well as changes in the political climate affected the Japanese immigrants. It will also examine how the Japanese immigrants contributed to the agricultural development of the North Bay region and the development of society as a whole.

Before proceeding, it will be helpful to examine the census records of the early 1900s to gain an overview of the numbers of Japanese immigrants living in the region and the types of occupations they held. The census information will also be helpful in tracing how the Japanese immigrants responded to the changing economic conditions in the region.
The 1905, 1910, 1912 and 1914 editions of the Nichibei Nenkan (Japanese-American Yearbook) were consulted.107

The 1905 yearbook gave the following information about the Japanese population in Sonoma County, most of whom were agricultural laborers:

In Santa Rosa, there were three Japanese who owned land, five who leased land for farming, seventy-six who were laborers and eighteen others. A total of 102 persons.
In Sebastopol, there were two who were foremen (lit. "bosses"), 150 laborers and nine others. A total of 161 persons.
In Petaluma, there were two who owned land, nine who leased land, one foreman, five laborers and seven others. A total of 24 persons.
In Ukiah, there were two foremen, sixty-one laborers and five others. A total of 68.

In 1910, Santa Rosa had 221 Japanese men, Sebastopol 217 men and Ukiah 117 men. The Japanese population in Santa Rosa and Ukiah doubled during the five-year period, while Sebastopol's population increased by only about one-third.

The following sections will discuss the changes that took place in the various agricultural industries in the North Bay region and how they affected Japanese immigration.

A. THE SAWMILL AND LUMBER INDUSTRY

Most Japanese immigrants arrived in America with little or no money. They did have, however, strong bodies and physical endurance. They needed to find jobs that required no previous experience. The railroad and the mines in the western United States met this need for many workers. In Sonoma County, the sawmill and lumber industry provided many such jobs for inexperienced laborers.

The first water-powered sawmill in Sonoma County was built in 1834, with the first steam-powered mill built at Bodega in 1846. Heald and Guerne started their sawmills in present-day Guerneville in the 1860's. Until 1876, there were only three small sawmills operating in the Sonoma County coast region, but then six large mills were started within a nine-month period.

By 1877, there were thirteen mills which produced a total of 50,000,000 board-feet of lumber and 10,000,000

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108 Bell and Heymans, eds., Sonoma County and Russian River Valley (San Francisco, Bell and Heymans, 1888), p. 14. (Hereinafter referred to as Sonoma Co. and Russian R. Valley.) Also, there is a more detailed history in Lewis Publishing Company, An Illustrated History of Sonoma County, California (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1889), pp. 293, 294. (Hereinafter referred to as History of Sonoma County.)

109 Harvey J. Hansen et al, Wild Oats in Eden, Sonoma County in the 19th Century (Santa Rosa: no publisher given, 1962), p. 56. (Hereinafter referred to as Wild Oats.)
Each mill usually employed about eighty-ninety men. Therefore, a total of approximately 1,000 men worked in the mills.

The main cause for the sudden increase in the number of mills and the growth of the industry was the extension of the North Pacific Coast Railroad from Tomales to Duncan’s Mills by 1877. The railroad crossed the heartland of the redwood forest and was later extended to Cazadero.

The Fulton-Guerneville branch of the San Francisco & Northern Pacific Railway had also been completed by 1876. It too was later extended to Duncan’s Mill.

Before these railway lines were built, the finished lumber had to be hauled to the coast by specially-built lumber wagons and then loaded onto ships. The extension of the railroads into the logging areas meant that the finished lumber could then be transported economically.

By 1887 there were twenty-one sawmills in the redwood forest region: thirteen on the coast and eight in the central or eastern portions of the forest. They produced about 35,000,000 to 40,000,000 feet of lumber that year.

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110 Robert A. Thompson, Historical and Descriptive Sketch of Sonoma County (Philadelphia: L. H. Hovarts and Company, 1877), p. 28. (Hereinafter referred to as Historical Sketch of Sonoma County.)

111 Ibid., pp. 43, 44.

112 Thompson, Historical Sketch of Sonoma County, p. 87. See also Ernest Latimer Finley, ed., History of Sonoma County California: Its People and Its Resources (Santa Rosa: The Press Democrat Publishing Company, 1937), pp. 398-402. (Hereinafter referred to as History of Sonoma County.)
The report of the Board of Supervisors of Sonoma County in 1899 reported that the handling of lumber and other forest products directly employed 2,000 workers.\textsuperscript{113}

The sawmill and lumber industry reached its peak in the decades between the 1880 and 1910. However, by the 1930s the redwood forests had been logged out. The North Pacific Coast Railroad was forced to retreat from Sonoma County by 1932 and the Fulton-Guerneville extension ceased operation in 1935.\textsuperscript{114}

As mentioned in Chapter I, Takao and Nishi were two early immigrants who worked as loggers in the 1880s and it is likely that other early \textit{gannenmono} also came to the Sonoma coast and found work at the sawmills or on the lumber ships.

When this writer researched Japanese newspapers from the period, he found one article that referred to Japanese loggers in San Mateo County. Another article reported that Japanese workers at a shingle factory had set new production records.\textsuperscript{115} This would indicate that there were Japanese in

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{113} The Board of Supervisors, \textit{Sonoma County, California} (Santa Rosa: The Board of Supervisors, 1899), no page numbers printed.
  \item \textsuperscript{114} Finley, \textit{History of Sonoma County}, pp. 400, 402.
  \item \textsuperscript{115} \textit{Shinsekai Asahi Shinbunsha} (New World Morning Sun) (San Francisco: selected editions from 1906-1911). These newspapers are located in the Historical Room of the First Bank of California (formerly the Bank of Tokyo) in San Francisco. The historical collection contains very good original source material relating to the early Japanese immigrants. The curator of the collection is Mr. Seizo Oka, who was born in the United States but was educated in Japan. He later was a vice president of the bank.
\end{itemize}
Sonoma County who worked in the logging and forest products industry as well.

Also mentioned in Chapter I was the strong likelihood that many Japanese agricultural workers worked in the sawmills or in logging on a seasonal basis during the winter months. This kind of temporary job would not appear in the personal histories that were published, but it is likely that the sawmill and lumber industry provided jobs for many Japanese newcomers and seasonal agricultural laborers.
B. THE WINE INDUSTRY

1. Early Developments

The vineyards and wineries in Sonoma County first appeared in the southeastern corner of the county. The mission fathers brought grapevines to Sonoma in the early 1820s and produced wines for the mission's needs.\textsuperscript{116}

General Vallejo was the first to produce wine commercially, using mission-grown grapes.\textsuperscript{117} Records do not indicate the exact date Vallejo established his winery; it is likely that it was before 1850.

The true founder of the grape and wine industry in Sonoma County, however, was Colonel Agaston Haraszthy, who immigrated to Sonoma in 1856 from Hungary. Haraszthy believed that grapevines would grow well without irrigation and that the hillsides of Sonoma provided better growing conditions for growing grapes than the flatlands in the valleys. He imported vines from Europe and planted 80,000 vines on the slopes of the gently rolling Sonoma hills.

Haraszthy was also the first to use redwood for wine casks and he wrote several books about vineyards and

\textsuperscript{116}Alley, Brown and Company, \textit{History of Sonoma County Including Its Geology, Topography, Mountains, Valleys, and Streams} (San Francisco: Alley, Brown and Company, 1880), p. 74. (Hereinafter referred to as \textit{History of Sonoma County}.)

\textsuperscript{117}Hansen, \textit{Wild Oats}, p. 55.
wineries in which he gave expert guidance for cultivating grapes and making and storing wines.

In 1861, Haraszthy was appointed Wine Commissioner by the State of California and was sent by the state to tour the wine-growing countries of Europe. In 1862, he returned from Europe and brought back 300 different varieties of vines. He organized the Buena Vista Wine Cultural Society in 1863. He then moved to Nicaragua in 1868 and mysteriously disappeared on July 6, 1869. Some conjecture that he accidentally fell into a river and was killed by an alligator.118

In the years that followed, many others would establish vineyards and wineries in the region. Harris and Nagasawa established their vineyard and winery at Fountain Grove in in the late 1870s. Andrea Sabarboro led a group of Italian immigrants to nearby Cloverdale in 1881, where they established their Italian-Swiss Colony winery at Asti.119 By 1900, the many vineyards in Sonoma County extended along valleys hillsides from Sonoma to Santa Rosa and into the Napa Valley.

In Sonoma County, almost the total production of grapes was used for winemaking. The fact that most grape growers also produced their own wine gave them many advantages. For example, the growers did not need to pack their grapes and immediately ship them off to other markets. They

118 Alley, History of Sonoma County, pp. 74, 75.
119 Hansen, Wild Oats, p. 55.
were able instead to crush their crops and make wines that could be stored for many years, increasing their value. The winemakers were then able to choose when to market their product in order to maximize their profit.

The vineyards in Sonoma County expanded greatly during the 1880s and 1890s and were strong enough to survive the Prohibition. Thompson reports that a total of 2,535,000 gallons of wine was produced in 1876.¹²⁰

Bell reports that in 1898 Sonoma County had a total of 25,000 acres under cultivation and produced more than 10,000,000 gallons of wine, nearly four times the volume produced in 1876.¹²¹

Scores of Japanese farmers were able to establish small vineyards in the Lodi and Fresno areas. However, to be successful in Sonoma and Napa Counties grape growers had to also establish their own wineries, which required a large capital outlay. Harris provided this capital for Nagasawa, but few other Japanese immigrants had the resources to begin such an enterprise. This is why there were only a few other Japanese growers in Sonoma and Napa Counties.

The vineyards and wineries, however, did provide good autumn and winter employment for Japanese seasonal laborers. Migrating between the hop fields and vineyards provided many Japanese laborers with steady year-round employment, which

¹²⁰Thompson, Historical Sketch of Sonoma County, pp. 26-28.

¹²¹Bell, Sonoma Co. and Russian R. Valley, p. 16.
encouraged many of the laborers to permanently settle in the area.

2. Later Developments

Because of decades of successful harvests, growers assumed that the hillsides of Sonoma County were more suitable for growing grapes than the flatlands. But all this changed during the 1920s, when growers abandoned the hillsides and planted new vineyards in the flatlands of the river valleys. There were two significant causes for this dramatic change.

The first was a natural cause, phylloxera, a deadly insect that attacks the leaves and roots of the vines. It had spoiled the hillside grounds of the old vineyards.

The second was a human cause, the Prohibition Act of 1920, which destroyed the hop industry and eliminated the hop fields from the flatland valleys of the Russian River tributary system.

The grape growers were seeking new fresh grounds for new vineyards. At the same time, the hop farmers were needing new crops to plant in their once-famous hop fields. With these two forces at work, the flatlands near the stream systems of the Russian River were soon filled with new grape vineyards.

It is significant to note that land that was good for growing hop vines was also good for growing grapevines. It
is this writer’s conclusion that the reason these lands were good for both hops and grapes was the fresh groundwater that flowed beneath it.

Since these lands were located near running streams or rivers, the underground water in these areas are also steadily flowing. On the other hand, flatlands where the groundwater is slow-moving or stagnant are not productive lands for hops and grapes. The deep roots of the hop vines needed fresh ground water for their rapid growth during the spring and summer months. The same conditions are needed for grapevines, too.

When Nagasawa first established his vineyard at Fountain Grove, he anticipated the potential problems he could encounter with phylloxera, so he grafted his new vines onto native American stock which had a strong resistance to phylloxera. However, Kado da reports that Nagasawa's vineyards were damaged by phylloxera in 1909. He then had to replant his entire vineyard.

Eventually all the old unirrigated vineyards on the hillsides of Sonoma County would fall prey to the phylloxera. There is now very little that remains of the vineyards that once covered the hillsides of Buena Vista, Asti and Fountain Grove.

It has already been noted that Harris and Nagasawa considered two possible locations for their ranch, one in the Healdsburg area (which would have been close to the Russian River) and the one in Fountain Grove. Perhaps they
chose the Fountain Grove site because it had better scenery. Had they chosen the Russian River site, their famed winery might still be in existence today.
C. THE HOP INDUSTRY

The hop industry in Sonoma County grew and expanded during a period similar to that of the lumber industry, a period spanning the last part of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth century.

The hop fields had spread rapidly from the Cloverdale area to the Healdsburg area. Hop vines were then planted in almost all of the fields near the tributaries of the Russian River system located in the Russian River Valley north of the line between Santa Rosa and Forestville. Then the industry suddenly came to the end upon the enactment of the Prohibition Amendment in 1920.

Thompson reported that there were only 150 acres of hop fields in 1876, their crops totaling 150,000 pounds. The major growing areas then were in the Cloverdale and Healdsburg areas.122

By 1887, there were forty-eight hop growers in the townships of Santa Rosa, Analy, Washington and Mendocino. They produced a total of about 2,000,000 pounds of hops.123

By 1898, acreage planted with hops reached 2,000 acres. Total production was 14,300 bales, which equals

122 Thompson, Historical Sketch of Sonoma County, pp. 26, 92 and 94.

123 Bell, Sonoma Co. and Russian R. Valley, p. 16. Bell’s observations on the hop industry are given on p. 79.
about 2,717,000 pounds (a bale weighing about 190 pounds). 124

The *Japanese American Yearbook* indicated that in 1910 there were 38 Japanese hop farmers in the Russian River system area, who cultivated a total of 2,520 acres. Only two of the farmers leased their land, the remainder farmed on a contract basis. The acreage under cultivation by area is given below: 125

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
<th># of Farmers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healdsburg</td>
<td>862</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulton</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Rosa</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windsor</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebastopol</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>2,520</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the above, there were also four hop farmers in the Ukiah area who contracted to farm a total of 580 acres. Therefore, Japanese farmers cultivated a total of 3,100 acres.

These figures indicate that in the two preceding decades, it is likely that numerous Japanese laborers had worked in the hop fields in these areas. This would continue now that Japanese farmers operated their own farms.

The 1912 *Yearbook* shows the number of Japanese farming hops had been reduced by one-half. There were now only 19 hop farmers cultivating 1,314 acres in Sonoma County. On

124Supervisors, *Sonoma County*, no page numbers printed.

125The *Yearbook* included only listings giving each individual's acreage, so this writer summarized the acreage figures for each geographical area.
the other hand, the number of tomato growers and fruit farmers increased. In Sebastopol, ten Japanese farmers started their own fruit orchards. In the Petaluma area, ten Japanese had started chicken farms. In the Healdsburg area, some farmers shifted from hops to tomatoes or to fruit. In the Santa Rosa area, some Japanese had established livestock farms. However, in the Fulton and Windsor areas, the Japanese continued hop farming until the 1920 Prohibition Act.

The trends among Japanese farmers noted in the 1912 Yearbook continued in the 1914 Yearbook. The situation then changed dramatically in 1920, with many farmers beginning new businesses in the dry fruit industry, especially dried apples.
D. THE POLITICAL CLIMATE

Besides the changes that occurred in the agricultural industries of the area, several changes in the political climate influenced the immigration and settlement patterns of the Japanese living in the North Bay region.

First, in 1907, the American and Japanese governments prohibited further immigration of Japanese immigrants to the mainland from Hawaii. Following this action, the number of immigrants who came to the United States primarily with the intention of working on a short-term basis as a seasonal agricultural laborer and of returning then to Japan decreased dramatically. On the other hand, the number of immigrants coming to the United States with the intention of settling and establishing a more stable employment and living situation for themselves increased.

Over the years, many of the seasonal laborers continued their seasonal moving patterns, but each year more immigrants became small farmers. After working as a hired laborer for many years, many of them became foremen on the farms or ranches where they worked. Then they would become contract farmers, contracting with a landowner to farm his land in return for a percentage of the profits. After enough money had been saved, the next step would be to lease land to farm. The final step would be to actually purchase land.
The second major change occurred in 1913, when the California legislature passed the Land Act of 1913 prohibiting Japanese immigrants from owning land. The act also prevented immigrants from leasing land for more than three years.\textsuperscript{126}

The previous section noted the dramatic decrease in the number of hop farmers after 1910. This was a direct result of the Land Act. Thus several of the Japanese hop farmers in the Russian River Valley gave up hop farming and moved to the Petaluma area in order to begin chicken farming, which required only a few acres.

Others changed occupations. Many became fruit dryers, since they already had experience working with a kiln in the hop drying process. This experience helped them get started in the apple-drying or plum-drying business, since the drying process was pretty much the same. Thus, some of the hop farmers moved to the Santa Rosa or Sebastopol areas to begin fruit drying businesses. In Sebastopol, some vegetable and strawberry farmers started to dry fruit also, since it did not require much property.

The third major change took place in 1919, when the Japanese government and the Japanese Association in America agreed to stop the practice of "picture marriages". This was done in an effort to help ease the anti-Japanese sentiment that was growing at the time.

\textsuperscript{126}Nichibei, Jinmei Jiten, p. 18 and Zaibei Nihon-jinkai, Nihonjinshi, p. 102.
This action caused many Japanese laborers to return to Japan. Other Japanese laborers who stayed in America missed the opportunity to marry and remained single and continued working as seasonal laborers for the rest of their time in the United States.

The fourth major change took place in 1920, when California voters approved the Land Laws of 1920, which completely prohibited Japanese immigrants from buying or leasing land.127

The fifth and final blow came in 1924 when the United States government prohibited all further Japanese immigration. Once this law was enacted, anyone going back to Japan could not return as an immigrant. Therefore, before the law became effective, many single men went back to Japan, got married and brought their wives back to the United States with them.

From about 1910, the Japanese communities in the North Bay region became more and more stable as the Japanese immigrants in the region responded and adapted to the changing economic conditions in the region and the changing political climate in the state and the nation.

From this time, two basic groups of Japanese immigrants began to be more easily identified. The first group

127Nichibei, Jinmei Jiten, pp. 22-27 and Zaibei Nihon-jinkai, Nihonjinshi, pp. 102, 104.
consisted of the seasonal laborers who continued to migrate between Sonoma County and other parts of Northern California, especially the Sacramento Valley.

The other basic group consisted of those who had begun to settle permanently in the region and who had started their own farm or business. This group grew as more and more agricultural laborers gradually began to settle in the area.

The following chapter will examine some of the similarities and differences found among the Japanese immigrants who settled in the North Bay region and other parts of the San Francisco Bay Area.
CHAPTER III

JAPANESE IMMIGRANTS IN THE NORTH BAY REGION
AND OTHER PARTS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

As we examine the Japanese immigrants who settled in
the North Bay region and the other parts of the San Fran­
cisco Bay Area, we find both similarities and differences.
This is true in reference to the individual personalities
that were prominent as pioneers, to the regional character­
istics demonstrated by immigrants from the various prefec­
tures in Japan, and to the various associations and organi­
zations that were established in the Japanese communities.

The following sections will examine these similarities
and differences, beginning first with the major personali­
ties among the pioneering immigrants.
A. PERSONALITIES

1. Nagasawa and Ushijima

Nagasawa Kanae and Ushijima Kinji both came from Kyushu Island. Ushijima settled in the Sacramento delta area and transformed thousands of acres of delta land into his famed "Potato Island".

During the interview concerning her father, who worked for Nagasawa, Mrs. Shimizu recalled seeing Ushijima several times at Nagasawa's house. There is no record concerning when their relationship began, but as the years went by, Nagasawa and Ushijima became good friends.

Ushijima called many Japanese youth from Fukuoka-ken to come to work at his potato ranch. Most of them later became farmers themselves. Ushijima built a great network among some of his good friends and they worked well together for many years and with great success.

These facts demonstrate some of the differences between these two great pioneers. Nagasawa did not maintain very close relationships with other Japanese immigrants, while Ushijima maintained strong relationships with his native land and brought over many young people to work on his ranch. Nagasawa built his great fortune on the foundation provided by someone else's investment, while Ushijima started with nothing and was forced to rely at first on only his own resources. Nagasawa tended to work alone and
depended upon his own unique organizational and managerial skills, while Ushijima developed a great farming organization and depended heavily on his trusted friends and associates.

2. Nagasawa and Tsukamoto

Tsukamoto Matsunosuke once worked for Nagasawa at his Fountain Grove ranch but he later established his own laundry business and equipped it with modern machinery. After he had moved his business to San Francisco, Tsukamoto was thrown into jail on several occasions because he insisted on using his new equipment, even after the union had coerced the City of San Francisco to ban the use of laundry machinery by non-citizens.

Tsukamoto took his fight all the way to the Supreme Court, were he at last won the right to use the machinery. He was a devoted Christian and a faithful member of the Presbyterian Church. His sincere Christian faith enabled him to make a strong stand for his civil rights and enabled him to endure his times of imprisonment without shame or fear. He lived past the age of 100.

Nagasawa and Tsukamoto were different in many ways. Nagasawa enjoyed a rather noble lifestyle, while Tsukamoto was content to live a more common, ordinary life. Nagasawa was influenced by Harris and his radical religious thoughts,
while Tsukamoto embraced a more traditional understanding of the Christian faith.

3. Yoshizawa and Yoshiike

Yoshizawa Seizo and Yoshiike Kan both immigrated from Nagano-ken. There were not many immigrants from Nagano-ken among those who came to America, but they seemed to distinguish themselves wherever they went. Yoshizawa and Yoshiike are good examples.

Yoshizawa, who was college-educated, arrived in San Francisco in 1904 and started his chicken farm in Petaluma later the same year. Yoshiike immigrated to the East Bay and was a pioneering chrysanthemum and carnation grower. Both Yoshizawa and Yoshiike were devoted to their trades and did many good things for their respective industries and communities.
B. REGIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Immigrants from Kumamoto-ken

Immigrants from Kumamoto-ken seemed to possess the spirit of adventure and helped to pioneer the settlement of Japanese immigrants in many areas in California. Immigrants from Kumamoto-ken opened new areas to the Japanese in the East Bay and South Bay regions as well as in the North Bay region.

These pioneers did not often accumulate great personal wealth, but by their tireless effort, they opened new frontiers for others.

An example is Shimada Gonzo, who changed his occupation and business and living place many times during his years in the North Bay region. Another such person was Furuta Ichizo, who first worked with livestock, then opened a grocery store in Santa Rosa and operated a kind of logging business as well. After going out of business, he later operated a farm where he grew strawberries and tomatoes, then became an apple dryer. He also worked at the Nagasawa winery. Even though the situation around him was constantly changing, he never flagged in his activity or effort.

Another example of the adventurous nature of the immigrants from Kumamoto-ken was the colony they established in Ukiah, located in the middle of the narrow Russian River
Valley in Mendocino County, a small island in a great sea of forests.

2. Immigrants from Okayama-ken

Okayama-ken did not send many immigrants to America, compared to Hiroshima-ken, in spite of the fact they are neighboring prefectures in Japan. Therefore, it is unusual that Sonoma County received a sizable number of pioneers from Okayama-ken.

There were thirteen immigrants from Okayama-ken reported in 1922, a majority of them coming to Sonoma County between the end of the 19th century to about 1910. Most of them worked on farms or on the hop ranches. In about 1920, many of them moved to Sebastopol to become apple dryers or to Petaluma to become chicken farmers.

They are good examples of those who willing to be pliable and who changed their occupations to adapt to the changing economic or social situations around them.

3. Immigrants from Hiroshima-ken

Hiroshima-ken sent the largest numbers of immigrants to Hawaii and to the American mainland in the period from 1885 to 1907. Many of these immigrants first went to Hawaii on three-year labor contracts and then moved on to the mainland. Many of them then sent the money earned back to their
families and relatives in Japan so many other immigrants could join them in America.

Therefore, it is not unexpected that one would find a fraternal organization for Hiroshima-ken immigrants in many places throughout California, including Sebastopol and Petaluma.
C. ORGANIZATIONS IN THE JAPANESE COMMUNITY

There were many organizations that developed in the various Japanese communities in the North Bay region and in other regions in the Bay Area. These included the fraternal organizations composed of those who immigrated from the same prefecture in Japan or other civic organizations that were composed of immigrants living in a specific area, mutual aid associations, and trade associations that were composed of businessmen working in the same trade or industry.

1. Fraternal Organizations

When people immigrate to another country they are often naturally drawn to others who have come from the same prefecture or county or hometown.

In many cases, therefore, immigrants from the same prefecture (or sometimes immigrants simply living in the same area) formed fraternal organizations called kenjinkai. Some kenjinkai now have histories that extend over 100 years and still hold annual meetings.

Each area (such as Sacramento, Fresno, Oakland, etc.) organized a regional kenjinkai. For example, four immigrants from the same village in Hiroshima-ken organized a kenjinkai in Newcastle in Placer County.\(^{128}\)

\(^{128}\)Kaihara, Hiroshima Kenjin, pp. 67-70.
These kenjinkai then provided immigrants with a source of fellowship and also a source of financial support. They typically saved up the collected membership fees and then made money available whenever any member needed help. Thus, the kenjinkai would take care of financial needs that arose during times of illness or death. They also provided gifts on the occasion of a marriage and often lent up to one hundred dollars interest free to members when a need arose.

Another example was the Agun Hiroshima Kenjinkai (Hiroshima-ken Association of Alameda County) located in Oakland. They had well-defined bylaws with twenty-five major articles and fifteen minor articles. The main purposes of the association were to provide good fellowship, to maintain good discipline and to extend the prosperity of the community.

When any member wronged or insulted a fellow member, the president of the association was charged with the responsibility of dealing with the offending party. If the party did not accept the advice or counsel given, the association could dismiss him from their membership.

When any member needed assistance, the association provided the help or support needed, whether it concerned trouble with an American citizen, a death in the family, or the need to return to Japan for some reason.

The annual membership fee was $1.20 per family, with any member having the privilege of requesting assistance in time of need.129

2. Mutual Aid Associations

In America, when one wants to start his own business or some enterprise, he usually borrows money from a bank. However, immigrants did not have these kinds of financial institutions available to them in the Japanese community, so

129Kaihara, Hiroshima Kenjin, pp. 70-72.
they established their own mutual aid associations to fill the need. These mutual aid associations were called *tanomoshi-ko* or *mujin*.

One of the original functions provided by these associations was to help each other who wanted to go on a traditional pilgrimage to a Buddhist temple or Shinto shrine. The members of the association would collect the money needed and send one or more of their members. In this way, after a period of time, each member would be able to realize their dream pilgrimage in their lifetime. In the same function similar associations were organized to provide the money needed to start a new business or remodel a house. These associations helped many Japanese settlers to establish their own businesses or farms or to meet some financial need.

These organizations were self-governing associations established by the immigrants themselves. However, an "umbrella" organization, the Zaibei Nihonjinkai (Japanese Association in America) was created to act as a liaison between the Japanese immigrants and the Japanese government.

Each major city had its own branch, such as the Sonoma Nihonjinkai, which at first had its office in Santa Rosa, but later moved to Sebastopol. The officers of these associations were volunteers elected from among the settlers in the community.
3. Trade Associations

Besides the fraternal and commercial associations described above, Japanese settlers also organized groups according to their trade or business.

In the East Bay, for example, settlers who grew carnations or roses established their own trade association, the Kaengiyo Kumiai (Flower Growers' Association). A similar organization was established in Petaluma for those in chicken farming, the Petaluma Yokei Kumiai (Petaluma Poultry Association).

The members of these associations supported one another, helped each other in times of need, and exchanged information that related to their trade or business.
EPILOGUE

Great changes have taken place in the North Bay region over the hundred years or so since the early Japanese immigrants first settled in the region.

The sawmill and hop industries that once flourished are now only things of the past. On the coastal mountain ranges, there are no more great redwood forests or active sawmills, only quiet canyons without forests. The rolling Sonoma hillsides that were once covered with vineyards are now bare. Instead, grape vineyards now flourish in the fertile flatlands of the Russian River system where the hop vineyards once grew.

Great changes have also taken place in other industries as well. There were once many Japanese chicken farmers in the Petaluma area, but now almost all the small chicken farms have disappeared. In the Sebastopol area, many Japanese families operated their apple orchards. Now new orchards are being planted in new areas, while Sebastopol itself is becoming a suburb of the growing city of Santa Rosa.

Yes, things have changed greatly during the past century and the Japanese people have been involved in those
changes and have been affected by those changes in many ways.

In the past twenty years, almost all of the original immigrants from Japan have passed away. Their children who were born in Japan and who immigrated with them are now in their 80s and 90s. The second generation of Japanese Americans (those born in America) are becoming a generation of senior citizens. Many of the third generation have moved from the area in order to pursue their educational goals or to pioneer on some new frontier.

As time passes, things and people change. Although the Japanese were involved in almost all of the agricultural industries of the region, the memories of their accomplishments are fading. Their names are not reflected in the names of the cities or towns or streets. But the people of the North Bay region need to remember the achievements of the many hundreds of nameless Japanese immigrants who contributed so much to the glorious developments of the past and to what the region is today.

The present has been brought forth from the roots established in the past and the future will be built upon the foundation of the present. It is this writer's hope that this study will help those who live and work in the North Bay region to discern the footsteps left behind by the pioneers of the past and to feel for themselves the hardships they experienced so they may receive the wisdom and gain the strength needed to build a more productive present
for their generation and a more beautiful future for the coming generations.
SUMMARY OF PRIVATE INTERVIEW

With Mr. & Mrs. Kiyoshi Akutagawa
and Mrs. Tomie Wakayama

Held in Cotati, California
December 29, 1983

Mr. Kiyoshi Akutagawa was born in 1899 in Kumamoto-ken and immigrated to the United States in 1917. He came to Sebastopol immediately upon arriving because his father had already settled there several years earlier.

Before the 1924 anti-Japanese immigration law took effect, Mr. Akutagawa and Mr. Wakayama went back to Japan together to get their wives. They then returned to California together and settled in Sebastopol. In the early 1960s, the Wakayama family moved to Penngrove. Mr. Wakayama passed away a few years before the interview was held. At the time of the interview, Mr. Akutagawa was one of the oldest remaining first generation (Issei) immigrants.

When Mr. Akutagawa came to Sebastopol in 1917, there were no automobiles. Transportation was by horse-drawn wagons and the roads were unpaved. Autos did not come into common usage until about 1920. Akutagawa learned to drive in 1919, so when his employer bought a truck, he was able to obtain a good job as a truck driver on his employer's apple ranch.

130 The English practice of listing first name then last name will be used throughout this appendix.
In the 1920s, most of the Japanese men were single. Before the automobile became popular, people traveled to San Francisco by train. They would take the train to Sausalito, then take the ferry to San Francisco. By train, the trip from Santa Rosa to San Francisco took about two hours. The trip from Santa Rosa to Ukiah also took about two hours.

While travel by rail was suitable for single men, travel by auto was better suited for families. Roads in the Sebastopol area began to be paved in the 1930s and paved roads extended throughout the area by the beginning of World War II.

By the War, there were about 300 Japanese living in the area between Santa Rosa and Ukiah. At one time membership in the local Buddhist temple reached 700-800, and consisted of about 150 families.

Although the number of cars increased after 1920, farmers continued to use wagons, usually drawn by two horses, in the apple orchards. Each day the wagons hauled freshly picked apples to the packing shed. After unloading, the wagons would then be loaded with the lower-grade apples that had been sorted out the day before. These were taken to the apple dryers. The poorest grade apples were taken to the apple juice company. After the juice was extracted, the residual was used for fertilizer. Mr. Akutagawa commented that apples were good fruit because every part could be used.
During the years from the 1920s to the 1950s, the apple-drying industry reached its peak. Many Japanese got into the fruit drying business during this period. Japanese apple dryers usually rented drying facilities during the apple drying season, bought apples from growers and dried them from about July to September. Japanese laborers usually worked at the hop ranches from April to July. Once they finished their jobs, they would move from one Japanese inn in one area to another inn in a new area. Employers would then come to the inns to secure the laborers needed. In this way, the owner of the inn acted as a labor contractor.

In about 1950, large companies began to take over the apple juice and canning industry and soon took over the apple-drying industry as well, driving out the small operator in much the same way the large corporations drove out the small chicken farmers.

Mr. Akutagawa commented that he had friends in Ukiah and visited there many times. There were many vineyards in the area between Santa Rosa and Ukiah and many pear orchards as well.

When the interviewer shared his observation that the early Japanese immigrants to the Sebastopol area often moved from place to place before finally settling in one place, Mr. Akutakawa concurred. He indicated that the Japanese immigrants referred to Sebastopol as "The Valley of Hell" (jigoku-dani), because when one fell into the Valley of Hell
he never had a chance to escape from it. In the same way, as Japanese immigrants moved to the area with the idea of making their fortune and returning soon to Japan, they often grew weary of moving from place to place, began to desire an end to the constant migrating and then finally decided to settle permanently in the area.

Perhaps the main reasons for the stable living conditions found among many of the Japanese were job availability and the surroundings. The opportunity to work year around and the geographic setting of the area attracted many newcomers.

During the interview, Mr. Akutagawa demonstrated his love for the Sebastopol area and invited the interviewer to return and visit during the time of the apple blossom festival.
SUMMARY OF PRIVATE INTERVIEW

With Mr. & Mrs. Hisajiro Honda
and Mrs. Takayo Nabeta

Held in Richmond, California
December, 1975

Mr. Yataro Nabeta immigrated to California in 1892 from Ikeda-mura, Naka-gun, Wakayama-ken. He first worked as a gardener in the Berkeley area. During this time he also traveled regularly to Cloverdale to work at the Prescott home. Mr. Prescott was vice president of the Union Iron Manufacturing Company. Nabeta did this for about five years, from about 1895-1900.

Yataro Nabeta and his younger brother Toyokichi Nabeta started a carnation nursery in Berkeley in 1900. In 1905 they bought land in the Stege area of present-day southeast Richmond and built a new nursery with six greenhouses.

Yataro Nabeta passed away in 1928. During his lifetime, he called many relatives from Japan and almost all of them settled in the Bay Area.

Hisajiro Honda, a nephew of Yataro Nabeta, was called by Nabeta and arrived in San Francisco in 1899. Nabeta met Honda at the San Francisco harbor and informed Honda that he had just returned from Cloverdale after completing his work there.

On the way back to his home in Berkeley, Nabeta and Honda stopped at the Oakland train station, where Nabeta told Honda to wait while he visited Kan Yoshiike. At the
time, Yoshiike was one of the leading flower growers in the Oakland area, growing both carnations and chrysanthemums. This visit preceded the establishment of Nabeta's own nursery in 1900, so it is likely that Nabeta visited Yoshiike on this occasion to get information and advice.

When Honda first came to California, he worked in the agricultural fields of the Fresno and Bakersfield areas during the summer months and worked at Nabeta's nursery during the winter months. He then established his own nursery in Richmond in 1912.

The flower business established itself soon after the San Francisco earthquake because of the great demand for flowers on Memorial Day, which shortly followed the April 18, 1906 disaster. Honda himself experienced the earthquake while riding the railway and while carrying a load of carnations to the San Francisco flower market.

Until about 1920, most Japanese growers produced only carnations, but then they began to grow roses also. At first, each individual grower brought his cut flowers to the San Francisco flower market and sold their flowers themselves. Then from about 1909, they began to market their flowers through the newly-organized flower growers association.

Nabeta was the first to establish a nursery in Richmond. Later the Adachi, Sakai, Oishi, Sugiyama, Mayeda and Furuta nurseries were established. Sugiyama and Furuta later returned to Japan after earning enough money. The
Domoto brothers operated a large nursery and grew mainly ornamental plants but went bankrupt during the Great Depression. The other nurseries survived and flourished.

When the flower growers in the East Bay are compared with the chicken farmers in Petaluma, many similarities are noted. Both involved small-scale businesses that did not require large parcels of land in order to begin. Both also involved work in which every member of the family could participate. With the hard work and great care given by each family member, these small businesses were able to thrive.
Mr. Seizo Oka was born in San Francisco in 1917 and is one of the earliest Nisei (second-generation Japanese American) in the Bay Area. His father, Naoki Oka, had lived in San Francisco for many years, served as a board member of the Japanese Association in America and was the president of the Japanese Language School in Isleton.

Seizo lived in San Francisco until he was twelve. During that time his father took him to many places in the Bay Area. Seizo also heard of the early events concerning the Japanese community in the Bay Area from his parents and other Issei immigrants.

Seizo moved to Japan with his father in 1929 and was educated there. He was graduated from Aki Chugakko (high school) in Aki-shi, Kochi-ken, then Tokyo Gaigo Gakko (Tokyo Foreign Language School), majoring in English. He then worked for the Yokohama Specie Bank and worked in Kobe until 1948.

Mr. Oka returned to San Francisco in 1948 and worked for seven years at the Compensation Office of the U. S. Government for Japanese concentration camps. In 1955 he returned to the banking business and later became a vice president of the California First Bank. He recently began serving as chairman of the Historical Room of the California
First Bank in San Francisco and has been gathering valuable material relating to Japanese American history.

Because he lived in San Francisco during the early years of the Japanese community, Mr. Oka personally experienced many of the events as a young boy. For example, he accompanied his father when he traveled to Isleton on the Sacramento riverboat to teach at the Isleton Japanese Language School.

Since Mr. Oka is fluent in both Japanese and English, he himself is a major source of Japanese American history. While visiting the Historical Room on a daily basis over a three-week period, this writer had many opportunities to discuss various events in Japanese American history with Mr. Oka. The following reports some of the information shared by Oka.

Oka confirmed that many Japanese immigrants worked in the San Francisco Bay salt fields and that one of his father's friends had worked there for many years. Whenever this friend would visit his father, he would bring Seizo salt crystals that had been formed at the base of the mounds of salt piled on the salt fields.

Oka also confirmed that there were some records which indicated that Japanese laborers worked in the Sonoma County sawmills. The Zaibei Nihonjinshi, he noted, indicated that some went to Sonoma County work at bastubok ("cutting wood"). Other references indicated that some went to work at seizijo ("sawmills").
Oka also stated that many Japanese students went to work in Sonoma County and in the areas between Vacaville and Sacramento because these areas were near to Bay Area schools and jobs could be found easily there.

Oka indicated that the majority of the early Japanese immigrants did not take trains, but walked almost everywhere, trying to save every penny. It can be assumed, then, that the majority of early Japanese seasonal workers traveled from place to place mostly on foot. When some were able to save enough money, he would buy a bicycle. But that situation did not occur often until Japanese laborers began to live in a somewhat more settled manner made possible by working regular jobs at the same places each year.

There were several factors that made it difficult for Japanese immigrants to save money. First, was the very low wages they worked for, usually only one dollar for ten hours of work each day. Second, was the fact many sent as much of their earnings as possible to their families in Japan. And third, many times Japanese laborers lost their earnings in Chinese gambling establishments.

Oka indicated that later on Japanese immigrants used bicycles extensively. They rode American-made bicycles manufactured in the East. They were heavy, big and strong. He himself rode his bicycle on a Boy Scout trip to the Russian River. In those days, the roads in Sonoma County were not paved.
Oka indicated that the most common way people traveled to the North Bay region was via Sausalito, which was the shortest route from San Francisco by ferry boat. From Sausalito, travelers could then journey to the Santa Rosa, Sacramento, or Vacaville areas by foot.

Oka also explained from where the name for Hearn Avenue in Santa Rosa originated. The street was named after Lafcadio Hearn, who was born in Greece in 1850 and who later lived in Santa Rosa. Hearn later went to Japan, where he took the name Koizumi Yagumo. In Japan, he taught at several universities and wrote many books in both English and Japanese. His friends were Robert Louis Stevenson and Jack London. Jack London's last unpublished novel was based on the tragic story of Okei, the first Japanese girl to immigrate to California. She arrived with the Wakamatsu Colony in 1869, but who died in 1871 at the age of 19.
SUMMARY OF PRIVATE INTERVIEW

With Mr. & Mrs. Hideo Shimuzu
and Mr. Yoshio Shimizu

Held at Cotati, California
December 29, 1983

Hideo Shimizu and Yoshio Shimizu are brothers and are among the earliest Nisei to be born in this country. Their family originally lived in the Fresno area, but in 1920 their father bought a chicken farm with 500 hens in Cotati. The family moved from Fresno to Cotati by driving first to Richmond and then crossing San Pablo Bay to San Rafael by ferry.

Once they started farming, they packed the eggs produced into wooden boxes, separating them with cardboard. They then took the eggs by wagon to Petaluma twice a week (they bought a truck in 1923) and shipped them to San Francisco by boat. Shipping by boat was better than by railroad because the trip was fast and the cost was cheaper. The eggs were loaded onto the boats in the evening and arrived in San Francisco in the morning.

The chickens were fed twice a day. The feed was ordered in Petaluma and shipped by rail to Penngrove. By about 1958, chicken farmers started to use cages and competition with big corporations became very tough. The Shimizus stopped chicken farming in 1962.

Mrs. Shimizu was the daughter of Mr. Furuta of Santa Rosa, who worked at the Nagasawa winery for many years.
Mrs. Shimizu confirmed that the redwood lumber Nagasawa used at Fountain Grove was brought in by wagon from Guerneville.

In the early days of Japanese immigration, laborers often traveled from one labor camp to another by train. However, Mrs. Shimizu remembered that one Japanese worker who regularly moved from Sebastopol to Santa Rosa and to other places always walked. She never saw him take the train. This would indicate that other Japanese laborers also walked long distances in order to go from one job to another.

Mr. Furuta was in Santa Rosa when the 1906 earthquake occurred. He then rode a wagon to San Francisco to buy bread because there was none available in Santa Rosa. When he wanted to return to Santa Rosa, he was stopped by police officers and was forced to spend a half day cleaning up a street.

Perhaps Furuta was working at a Japanese store in Santa Rosa at the time. About five years later, together with his brother, he bought his own store.

While living at Fountain Grove, Mrs. Shimizu recalls seeing Mr. Ushijima, who operated a large potato farm in the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta area, and Loyer King at the Nagasawa residence on many weekends. Other well-known Japanese personages were seen at the Nagasawa home many times.

Mr. Furuta earned three dollars a day at the winery, while the regular farm laborers earned only seventy-five
cents a day. Some laborers earned fifteen cents an hour for ten hours a day and then paid fifty cents a day for room and board.

After Nagasawa died, Mrs. Shimizu recalls that the ranch deteriorated rapidly. The ranch property was divided among several people. The beautiful guest house, with its fine furniture and European art pieces, fell into disrepair. Mrs. Shimizu expressed that she could not understand how nor why such things happened.
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