

THE SHOGUNS GRANDNIECE

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INTRODUCTION

The history of Japanese-American relations is very rich and can often seem confusing to amateur historians. This book will seek to unite both a historical and a personal perspective through a microstory on both the family history of Mrs. Chiye Hachisuka and her daughter Masako and the cultural history of Japanese-Americans from the 1900s onward in the United States, centering on Los Angeles specifically.

DISCUSSION

The research done on this project involved both primary and secondary sources, with the secondary sources serving as historical context for the primary documents involving the family more specifically. As a result of this work, an accurate historical timeline of documents was able to be reconstructed. Now that the author has these sources to work with and explore, they can fully and accurately examine the lives of the people they are writing about. When an author is informed about a subject, they are able to make a much more refined finished product. The access to real historical documents from the time when the subjects of the book were alive ensure truthfulness and offer more opportunities to uncover hidden information that can illuminate themes or messages of the book.

METHODS

My job was to be the researcher for this project. I was to get background context, delve into the family's public history, and search for hidden truths to illuminate my instructor's perspective.

- I started this project by researching the history of Japanese-Americans as a people, specifically on the West coast.
- This quickly delved into research on the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War Two, including the legality and overreach of such efforts. After this background context,
- I got in touch with the subject librarian for my major (history) to inquire if FSU had free ancestry access. I was informed that they don't but the Leon County Library System does. After getting my library card, I was allowed free but limited access to ancestry, but it was enough to get my work done. Later we would be able to use FSU to gain full access to Ancestry, which helped my research exponentially.
- When I compiled valuable records, my process was to make them downloadable and put a brief summary describing the contents of the document and any new information learned from them. I was combing through newspapers and other secondary documents as well.
- After this work, I began to form a timeline of all of the relevant events both historical and personal throughout this time period.

LIMITATIONS

For one part of my research, I had to find legal records from 1960 about a civil lawsuit. After researching at law libraries and calling many different district courts, we found out the records were impounded. Due to this, they would not be accessible to me personally.

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