

The Japanese in Nanaimo
Preliminary Report on Sources & Findings
Compiled by Nanaimo Community Archives
2016

Introduction

The original goal of this report was to identify all the resources held by the Nanaimo Community Archives that were related to Nanaimo's Japanese community. Unfortunately, the Archives held so little material that a wider net had to be cast. Our search continued online and included census, city directory and government report reviews. From these sources we were able to get a broader knowledge of the early Japanese community but we also concluded that the community remained largely veiled as, other than official documents, virtually no other archival sources were found. Please note that we did not review the newspapers as the Archives does not have them on-site, conduct interviews with descendants of early Japanese people or look past around 1940 as the time and funding allowed for this project was limited.

We recognize that this research is very preliminary and hope that others will build on it and add their knowledge to create a fuller, more complex understanding of this important part of our collective history.

Population Information

1881 Census (Source: vihistory.ca):

No Japanese listed in Nanaimo area

1891 Census (Source: vihistory.ca):

No Japanese listed in Nanaimo area

1901 Census (Source: vihistory.ca):

97 Japanese appear in the Nanaimo area census. Occupations break down as follows:

Farm Labourers	38 (approximately 40%)
Unspecified Labourer	23 (approximately 24%)
Fisherman	13 (approximately 13%)
Domestic Servant	8
Unknown	8
Mine Labourer	4
Mill Hand	1
Wood Cutter/ Wood-chopper	1
Contractor	1

The chart attached as Appendix 1 includes the following categories: Name, Age, Occupation, Residence. For additional information, please refer to the 1901 Census available online at vihistory.ca

1911 Census (Source: <http://automatedgenealogy.com/census11/>):

77 Japanese appear in the Nanaimo area census.

The 1911 online censuses available were so poorly transcribed that we chose to use the original manuscript versions instead. This required a page-by-page, line-by-line reading of all the pages for Nanaimo and surrounding

areas. The complete list is available as Appendix 2. The appendix does not include every census category and researchers should consult the original material for further information.

1921 Census (Source: Ancestry.ca):

24 Japanese appear in the Nanaimo area census.

We believe this number to be wrong (i.e. too low) for the following possible reasons: 1) Many Japanese may have been away fishing when the census was taken and 2) ethnic names are notoriously misspelled (on all censuses) and, therefore, may have been poorly transcribed and/or not included for unknown other reasons. Attached is Appendix 3 of the Japanese population we were able to identify.

City Directories (Online and at NCA)

The Vancouver Public Library has city directories available online as pdf scanned documents. These are not searchable and so required a line-by-line review. Within our time limitations, we reviewed the 1900, 1920 1930, 1935, 1939 and 1940 directories (both online and hard-copy versions available at the Archives). Very few Japanese names emerged but we did find the following:

- 1900: Japanese Boarding House, Victoria Crescent
- 1920: Koyame, F., fish dealer, Brechin
- 1920 Nakagsu, Y. Grocer, Brechin
- 1920 Saneshima, Saichi, shoe repair, 25 Victoria Crescent
- 1930 No Japanese found
- 1935 Nakatsu, Y, Brechin Road [see 1920]
- 1939 Koyama F, Fishing Company, Brechin Road
- 1939 Morsby Island Fish Company, Newcastle Island
- 1939 Nakatsu Y, Brechin Road
- 1939 Under Fishing Companies, Yellow Pages
 - Canadian Fishing Co. Brechin Road
 - Koyama Fishing Company, Brechin Road
 - Matsuyama T & Co, Newcastle Island
- 1940 Matsuyama T & Co, Newcastle Island

The above is by no means a definite list of directory findings. It does, however, offer a few names for further investigation.

Canneries and Salteries

According to several sources, Nanaimo area canneries and salteries were operated primarily by Japanese immigrants. Local historian and author Bill Merilees writes that the Japanese started processing fish for export around the turn of the 20th century. Census information from 1901 indicates that only a very small number of Japanese were engaged in the fishing/fish processing in Nanaimo at that time. It appears, however, that by around 1909, there was a significant upswing in the number of operating canneries, and, presumably number of Japanese workers. According to the 1909 Fire Insurance Map, 14 herring salteries and canneries, were located along the waterfront on Stewart Avenue from just north of Townsite Road to just south of St. George Street. By 1916, when the map was revised, only five canneries and/or salteries remained in the same area, a loss of nine

operations. Some buildings burned down, all Japanese operations, in 1910 (or 1912 according to some sources) but, given even that circumstance, the industry appears to have diminished considerably between 1909 and 1916. We could not determine how many of the operations were owned and/or operated by Japanese but the following, from Henry Boam's *British Columbia: Its History, People, Commerce, Industry and Resources* (published 1912) provides a good indication:

The company [The Nanaimo Fish and Bait Company, Ltd] hold strong views on the question of Oriental labour, and although the fishing industry is one in which Japanese are almost exclusively employed, the employees of the Nanaimo Fish and Bait Company Ltd, are all white men.

Around 1923, again according to Merilees, around 43 Japanese Canadians operated salteries in the Nanaimo area although it is unclear how many of these were located at the northern end of Newcastle Island and how many were located along Stewart Avenue. According to the 1938 Fire Insurance Map, no canneries or salteries remained on the Vancouver Island foreshore. Unfortunately, the map does not cover Newcastle Island although there is reliable evidence of operations at Saltery Bay on Newcastle Island by the mid-1930s.

From the existing evidence we can conclude that the earliest operations began around 1908-09 on the Vancouver Island foreshore, diminished there by the mid-1910s and appear to have resumed around 1923, possibly at both the foreshore and Newcastle Island locations. By the late 1930s, however, only Newcastle Island had fish processing works. During the Second World War, all Japanese property was confiscated. By that time, the salting and cannery industries were essentially over.

Mining

The attached chart (Appendix 4) shows the number of Japanese coal miners on Vancouver Island. Although there are none reported for the Nanaimo mines, there are significant numbers for the Wellington mines (Wellington was historically a separate community which is now part of the City of Nanaimo). In the NCA collection, we also found work contracts between 13 Japanese miners and the Wellington Colliery Company. All dated 1903 and all for work in Cumberland, the two-year contracts state that wages were "seventy-five cents for each and every twenty-five hundred weight of coal mined and loaded in miners boxes by the miner in the said mines." (Source: NCA, Wellington Colliery Company fonds, Series 3 Work Contracts)

Logging & Sawmills

Several sources show that the Japanese were involved in the logging and sawmill industries. In historian Gordon Hak's *Turning Trees into Dollars*, nine Japanese are identified in 1901 as workers in Andrew Haslam's Nanaimo sawmill. In the 1911 Census, over 20 Japanese are listed as mill workers or loggers. See Appendix 2 for more detailed information.

Shipbuilding

In 1918, a shipbuilding and repair shop, known as Nanaimo Shipyards Limited and associated with a Japanese herring camp, was established on Newcastle Island by Vancouver businessman T. Matsuyama and the Ode Brothers. The shipbuilding enterprise flourished and, by the late 1930s, employed around 26 employees and featured a large shop and four marine ways. During the Second World War, the shipyard was appropriated by the Canadian Navy and subsequently sold to a private interest and moved to Nanaimo. (Source: "Chapter 8: Salted

Herring” in Merilees, Bill. *Newcastle Island: A Place of Discovery*. Surrey, BC: Heritage House Publishing Co., 1998.)

Farm Labour

In the 1901 Census, around 40% of the Japanese enumerated are listed as farm labourers. The majority of these are listed as residents of Cedar/Cranberry (areas immediately south of Nanaimo). No further information about the exact location(s) or types of these farms was uncovered.

Other Occupations

The 1901, 1911 and 1921 census extracts appended here provide information on other occupations.

Community & Social Life

At this time, information on Japanese community and social life was not discovered in the Archives.

Conclusion & Recommendations

From the above sources, a statistical profile can be created. However, further research would have to be done to get a sense of the day-to-day experience of the early Japanese in Nanaimo. We recommend a community-based interview project that will hopefully capture that experience. The Archives is not in a position to undertake such a project but perhaps other organizations could be found. We would, of course, be happy to house any subsequent projects at the Nanaimo Community Archives.

APPENDIX 1

1901 Census – Nanaimo Residents with Japan as Place of Birth

Name	Age	Occupation	Residency
Akaye, Tom	15	Unknown	North Ward
Birotoles, Oto	22	Unknown	North Ward
Bnnkice, Oota	25	Mine Labourer	Extension
Deguchi, M	37	Labourer	Cedar/Oyster District
Eno	23	Labourer	Five Acres
Fugo, Riki	17	Farm Labourer	Cedar/Oyster District
Gamagh, H	22	Fisherman	Gabriola, Valdez, and Mudge Islands
Hai, Tanacka	Unknown	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Hama, Mata	20	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Hamale, G	19	Domestic Servant	Cedar and Oyster District
Hankut, J	23	Fisherman	Gabriola, Valdez, and Mudge Islands
Haro	21	Labourer	Five Acres
Hayami, Y	26	Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Hizo, Nishimura	27	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District

Hyashi	35	Fisherman	South Ward; Chinatown; Protection Island
Ikare, T	40	Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Inoue, Shugi	18	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Ishida, Jakick	32	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Joe	30	Coal Miner	Wellington; Mountain District
Kansuyama, D	28	Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Kawasu, N	30	Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Kegami, I Iwa	42	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Kesu, Hayame	27	Domestic Servant	Cedar and Oyster District
Kesu, Sasaki	22	Unknown	Cedar and Oyster District
Ketugawa, Bunjiro	24	Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Kiharam Janekieki	43	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Kobia	27	Fisherman	South Ward; Chinatown; Protection Island
Konchie, Tani	31	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Koseki, Yoseki	20	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Kueshi	20	Farm Labourer	Five Acres
Kuyasa, Saich	25	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Leanco, Nowi	19	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Madso, Inovi	20	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Maidechmateus, M	47	Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District

Mara	31	Fisherman	South Ward; Chinatown; Protection Island
Marinaga, Shin	21	Servant (male)	South Ward; Chinatown; Protection Island
Masa, Thara	18	Domestic Servant	Cedar and Oyster District
Matsa	27	Fisherman	South Ward; Chinatown; Protection Island
Mea, Hada	Unknown	Farm Labourer	Gabriola, Valdez, and Mudge Islands
Minato, Ich	18	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Mio, I	20	Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Miza, Jitsugo	23	Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Montaro, Yosaki	40	Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Mooda, So	Unknown	Farm Labourer	Gabriola, Valdez, and Mudge Islands
Mori, Sue	20	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Morisaki	29	Fisherman	South Ward; Chinatown; Protection Island
Mura, Chule	38	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Mustagu, George	23	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Myoni	28	Fisherman	South Ward; Chinatown; Protection Island
Nakamura, Y	39	Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Nakata, Tazako	36	Mine Labourer	Extension
Nida, Kan	25	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Nomia	30	Fisherman	South Ward; Chinatown; Protection

			Island
Nora, Kanomas	20	Labourer	North Ward
Nushiyama, M	24	Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Oba, Sano	27	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Oka	29	Fisherman	South Ward; Chinatown; Protection Island
Okamatia, Jamlo	35	Domestic Servant	Extension
Onishi, Otoziro	30	Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Osi, Ogi	19	Domestic Servant	Cedar and Oyster District
Oyama, K	40	Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Ra, Som	Unknown	Farm Labourer	Gabriola, Valdex, and Mudge Islands
Saite, Soi	18	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Saka	36	Fisherman	South Ward; Chinatown; Protection Island
Shimadu, Smily	18	Servant (male)	Middle Ward, south half
Sito, Eto	24	Mill Hand	North Ward
Stata	18	Labourer	Five Acres
Suma	27	Unknown	South Ward; Chinatown; Protection Island
Suminato, K	22	Fisherman	Gabriola, Valdez, and Mudge Islands
Sung, Jonabe	17		North Ward
Tabara, Kaich	16	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District

Tabara, Mau	30	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Tabata, Sakuti	28	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Tada, Tokutaro	37	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Taka, Seen	17	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Takahara, Fukuji	Unknown	Unknown	Nanaimo North, Dunsmuir District
Takimoto, Few	35	Domestic Servant	Extension
Tani, Sin	34	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Tasside, Thomas	25	Wood Cutter/Wood Chopper	Extension
Tonakishi, Inovi	20	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Ueyama, S	23	Contracter	Cedar and Oyster District
Uino, Y	37	Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Wa, Oka	Unknown	Farm Labourer	Gabriola, Valdez, and Mudge Islands
Wanaga, I Kami	28	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Wanaga, I Wine	30	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Waternavy, Thomas	26	Domestic Servant	Extension
Yainto, N	21	Fisherman	Gabriola, Valdez, and Mudge Island
Yama, We	Unknown	Farm Labourer	Gabriola, Valdez, and Mudge Islands
Yamamuro, Neatoro	35	Mine Labourer	Extension
Yamamuro, Tatao	5		Extension
Yashira, C	24	Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District

Yashira, R	24	Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Yasse	Unknown	Farm Labourer	Gabriola, Valdez, and Mudge Islands
Yeuiama, Y	22	Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Yosh, Kobar	21	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Yoshira, M	27	Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District
Zennosuke, Inoue	17	Farm Labourer	Cedar and Oyster District

APPENDIX 2 is available as a separate legal size document.

APPENDIX 3

Canadian Census 1921 – Japanese Residents of the Nanaimo Area (Source: Ancestry.ca)

Name	Birth Year	Birth Place	Occupation	Residence
Kato, Kuwakichi	~ 1878	Japan	Labourer	Mountain District
Kato, Hatsujo	~ 1894	Japan	None	Mountain District
Kato, Kagus	~ 1919	British Columbia	None	Mountain District
Kato, Charue	~ 1921	British Columbia	None	Mountain District
Hoyama, Pupikaga	~ 1887	Japan	Fisherman	Mountain District
Denga, Cado	~ 1872	Japan	Labourer	Mountain District
Denga, Kiku	~ 1895	Japan	None	Mountain District
Denga, Isemer	~ 1914	British Columbia	None	Mountain District
Denga, Kyoko	~ 1916	British Columbia	None	Mountain District
Denga, Jones	~ 1920	British Columbia	None	Mountain District
Domoe, Turokeli	~ 1884	Japan	Fisherman	Mountain District
Domoe, Isa	~ 1897	Japan	None	Mountain District
Domoe, Terokade	~ 1917	Japan	None	Mountain District

Hamanachi, Kidelo	~ 1876	Japan	Fisherman	Mountain District
Hamanachi, Rjyo	~ 1891	Japan	None	Mountain District
Hamanachi, Kathie	~ 1915	British Columbia	None	Mountain District
Hamanachi, Frederik	~ 1917	British Columbia	None	Mountain District
Hitadi, Jameshita	~ 1882	Japan	Fisherman	Mountain District
Erion, Sto	~ 1879	Japan	None	Mountain District [Brechin]
Erion, Rystaro	~ 1884	Japan	Gas Engineer	Mountain District [Brechin]
Jamashito, To Rutaro	~ 1877	Japan		Mountain District
Jushida, Sukeslichi	~ 1889	Japan		Mountain District
		Japan		Mountain District
		Japan		Mountain District

1905								
1906		86	1	85				
1907		174	1	173				
1908								
1909								
1910		*	6			49		
1911			1	18		184		
1912			4	113		117		
1913				120	7	128		
1914				126		126		
1915				124		124		
1916						151		
1917				99		99		
1918				98		98		
1919				82		82		
1920						79		
1921				76			14	
1922				121		162		
1923				91		**365		
1924				62		62		
1925				62		62		

1926				62		115		
1927				55		55		
1928				62	9	62		
1929								
1930								**2
1931			**33	**161				
Year	Nanaimo	Wellington	Extension	Union (Comox)	New East Wellington	Canadian Collieries	Lantzville	South Wellington
1932				**62				
1933				**32				
1934				**49				
1935				**18				
1936				**18			**1	
1937				**21			**1	
1938				**19			**1	
1939				**24			**1	
1940		**26		**24			**1	
1941			**1	**27			**1	
1942				**26			**1	
1943				**32				
1944				**30				

1945				**29				
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* In 1910, Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir), Limited acquired the holdings of the Wellington Colliery Company, and henceforth operated the Extension and Comox Colliery.

** The numbers of Japanese and Chinese miners were compiled as one in these reports

APPENDIX 2

1911 Canadian Census

EA22 Page 5 – Nanaimo Suburbs

Name	Region	Sex	Relationship to household	Marital Status	Birth month/year	Age	Country of birth	Year of immigration to Canada	Race	Nationality	Religion	Profession	Read?	Write	Language Commonly spoken
[Miyanacki], Masa	New Castle	F	Head	M	March 1872	38	Japan	1905	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	None	No	No	Japanese
[Miyanacki], [?]	Town Site	F	Daughter	S	May 1896	15	Japan	1905	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	None	Yes	Yes	Japanese
[Miyanacki], Shigis	Nanaimo	F	Son	S	February 1898	13	Japan	1905	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	None	Yes	Yes	Japanese
[Miyanacki], [Hanuo]	Nanaimo	M	Son	S	April 1909	[2]	British Columbia		Japanese	Canadian	Buddha	None	No	No	Japanese
[Miyanacki], [Gablier]	Nanaimo	M	Husband	M	January 1965	46	Japan		Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	Fisher	No	No	Japanese
[Makamo], Hugh	Nanaimo	M	Head	M	August [1875]	36	Japan	1892	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	Fisher	Yes	Yes	Japanese
[Makamo], [Kimby]	Nanaimo	F	Wife	M	November 1880	30	Japan	1899	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	None	No	No	Japanese
[Makamo], [Arhaika]	Nanaimo	F	Daughter	S	September 1908	2	British Columbia		Japanese	Canadian	Buddha		No	No	Japanese
Sogama, [Yi]	Nanaimo	M	Head	S	December 1878	32	Japan	1899	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	Carpenter	Yes	Yes	Japanese

Shangido, [Yamoto]	Nanaimo	M	Head	M	September 1988	32	Japan	1898	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	N/A	No	No	Japanese
Shingido, [Naiem]	Nanaimo	F	Wife	M	[June] 1886	24	Japan	1898	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha		No	No	Japanese
Shingido, [Lomakido]	Nanaimo	F	Daughter	S	May 1909	1	Japan		Japanese	Canadian	Buddha		No	No	Japanese
Shingido, [Matanga]	Nanaimo	M	Son	S	February 1910	1	Japan		Japanese	Canadian	Buddha		No	No	Japanese
[Makeamado], [L]	Nanaimo	M	Head	M	December 1968	42	Japan	1903	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	N/A	No	No	Japanese
[?], [Yi]	Nanaimo	M	Lodger	S	[?] 1875	36	Japan	1904	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	Carpenter	Yes	Yes	Japanese
[Yashamando], [Samai]	Nanaimo	M	Lodger	S	[?] 1873	38	Japan	1909	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha		No	No	Japanese
									Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	N/A	No	No	Japanese

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Name	Region	Sex	Relationship to household	Marital Status	Birth month/year	Age	Country of birth	Year of immigration to Canada	Race	Nationality	Religion	Profession	Read?	Write?	Language Commonly Spoken
Muki, Y	Town Site	M	Head	M	June 1874	36	Japan	1903	Japanese	Japanese	N/A	Fisher	Y	Y	Japanese
Nakano, L	Town	M	Lodger	S	February	25	Japan	1905	Japanese	Japanese	N/A	Fisher			Japanese

	Site				1886										
Yoshida, H	Town Site	M	Lodger	S	January 1871	40	Japan	1899	Japanese	Japanese	N/A	Fisher			Japanese
Sota, Y	Town Site	M	Lodger	S	July [1878]	32	Japan	1902	Japanese	Japanese	N/A	Fisher			Japanese

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Name	Region	Sex	Relationship to household	Marital Status	Birth month/year	Age	Country of birth	Year of immigration to Canada	Race	Nationality	Religion	Profession	Read?	Write?	Language Commonly Spoken
[Yamaguchi], Li	Comox Road	M	Head	M	June 1871	39	Japan	1899	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	Mill Worker	N	N	Japanese
[Yamaguchi], Matsi	Comox Road	F	Wife	M	August 1872	38	Japan	1905	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	Mill Worker	N	N	Japanese
[Yamaguchi], Yoak	Comox Road	F	Daughter	S	[December] 1905	6	British Columbia		Japanese	Canadian	Buddha		N	N	Japanese
[Yamaguchi], Yaro	Comox Road	M	Son	S	February 1906	5	British Columbia		Japanese	Canadian	Buddha		N	N	Japanese
[Yamaguchi], Kinglo	Comox Road	M	Son	S	July 1904	3	British Columbia		Japanese	Canadian	Buddha		N	N	Japanese
[Yamaguchi], Takeo	Comox Road	M	Son	S	January 1911	0	British Columbia		Japanese	Canadian	Buddha		N	N	Japanese
Yama, Da	Comox	M	Lodger	M	June 1870	40	Japan	[1905]	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	Mill Worker	N	N	Japanese

	Road														
Yamakia, Yo	Comox Road	M	Lodger	M	March 1882	29	Japan	[1900]	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	Mill Worker	N	N	Japanese
Tamo, Sata	Comox Road	M	Lodger	S	April 1882	29	Japan	[1904]	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	Mill worker	N	N	Japanese
Bagiro, Waka	Comox Road	M	Lodger	S	May 1863	[48]	Japan	1908	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	Mill Worker	N	N	Japanese
[Koma], [J]	Mill Street	M	Head	M	August 1888	22	Japan	1904	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	Mill Worker	N	N	Japanese
[Kryoa], [Ghangio]	Mill Street	M	Lodger	S	May [1881]	29	Japan	1904	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	Mill Worker	N	N	Japanese
[Hoarao], [?]	Mill Street	M	Lodger	S	June 1880	30	Japan	1906	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	Mill Worker	N	N	Japanese
[?anaka], [?]	Mill Street	M	Lodger	S	January 1878	33	Japan	1898	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	Mill Worker	N	N	Japanese
Tanaka, Myno	Mill Street	M	Lodger	S	[December] 1870	40	Japan	1899	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	Mill Worker	N	N	Japanese

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Name	Region	Sex	Relationship to household	Marital Status	Birth month/year	Age	Country of birth	Year of immigration to Canada	Race	Nationality	Religion	Profession	Read?	Write?	Language Commonly Spoken
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Katanna, Tasagiyo	Mill Street	M	Head	M	May 1879	32	Japan	1906	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	Saw [Millworker]	No	No	Japanese
[Onishi], [Otonian]	Mill Street	M	Lodger	M	August 1868	43	Japan	1908	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	Saw [Millworker]	No	No	Japanese
[Kaio], [Mahasaka]	Mill Street	M	Lodger	M	December 1881	29	Japan	1906	Japanese	Japanese	Buddha	Saw [Millworker]	No	No	Japanese

Ladysmith Page 30

Name	Region	Sex	Relations- hip to household	Marital Status	Birth month/year	Age	Country of birth	Year of immigration to Canada	Race	Nationality	Religion	Profession	Read?	Write?	Language Commonly Spoken
[Nitori], T	Ladysmith	M	Head	M	May 1876	35	Japan	1899	Japanese	Japanese		Store Worker	N	N	Japanese
[Nitori], Kati	Ladysmith	F	Wife	M	May 1880	31	Japan	1906	Japanese	Japanese		None	N	N	Japanese
[Tsuomura], K	Ladysmith	M	Head	M	May 1880	31	Japan	1899	Japanese	Japanese		Logger	N	N	Japanese
[Tsuomura], Katie	Ladysmith	F	Wife	M	March 1883	28	Japan	1906	Japanese	Japanese			N	N	Japanese
[Tsuomura], Kana	Ladysmith	F	Daughter	S	April 1902	9	[British Columbia]		Japanese	Canadian			N	N	Japanese

Mountain Page 10

Name	Region	Sex	Relations- hip to household	Marital Status	Birth month/year	Age	Country of birth	Year of immigration to Canada	Race	Nationality	Religion	Profession	Read?	Write?	Language Commonly Spoken
[Osakichi], Shikaya	Mountain	M	Head	M	October 1871	39	Japan	1907	Japanese	Japanese	[J.L.W.]	Mill Worker	Y	Y	Japanese

[Osakichi], [Tatau]	Mountain	F	Wife	M	June 1871	39	Japan	1907	Japanese	Japanese	[J.L.W.]		Y	Y	Japanese
[?mia], [?imichiro]	Mountain	M	Lodger	S	[?] 1887	24	Japan	1907	Japanese	Japanese	[J.L.W.]	Mill Worker	Y	Y	Japanese
[?], [Tehichi]	Mountain	M	Lodger	S	July 1882	28	Japan	1907	Japanese	Japanese	[J.L.W.]	Mill Worker	Y	Y	Japanese
[Sahai], [Haiga]	Mountain	M	Lodger	S	May 1885	26	Japan	1907	Japanese	Japanese	[J.L.W.]	Mill Worker	Y	Y	Japanese
[Yaris], [?]	Mountain	M	Lodger	S	March 1877	34	Japan	1907	Japanese	Japanese	[J.L.W.]	Mill Worker	Y	Y	Japanese
[?], [Yoshib?]	Mountain	M	Lodger	S	December 1874	36	Japan	1907	Japanese	Japanese	[J.L.W.]	Mill Worker	Y	Y	Japanese
[?], [Tamiyiro]	Mountain	M	Lodger	M	May 1880	31	Japan	1907	Japanese	Japanese	[J.L.W.]	Mill Worker	Y	Y	Japanese
[Trichi], [Takicha]	Mountain	M	Lodger	M	January 1879	32	Japan	1907	Japanese	Japanese	[J.L.W.]	Mill Worker	Y	Y	Japanese

Mountain Page 12

Name	Region	Sex	Relationship to household	Marital Status	Birth month/year	Age	Country of birth	Year of immigration to Canada	Race	Nationality	Religion	Profession	Read?	Write?	Language Commonly Spoken
[Maragno], [Tujimmaga]	Mountain	M	Head	M	May 1880	31	Japan	1907	Japanese	Japanese	[J.L.W.]	Wood Cutter	Y	Y	Japanese

[Denshiro], [Kigano]	Mountain	M	Lodger	S	October 1888	22	Japan	1907	Japanese	Japanese	[J.L.W.]	Wood Cutter	Y	Y	Japanese
[Riyorai], [Fugimoto]	Mountain	M	Lodger	S	August 1884	26	Japan	1907	Japanese	Japanese	[J.L.W.]	Wood Cutter	Y	Y	Japanese

Nanaimo, Middle Ward Page 3

Name	Region	Sex	Relationship to household	Marital Status	Birth month/year	Age	Country of birth	Year of immigration to Canada	Race	Nationality	Religion	Profession	Read?	Write?	Language Commonly Spoken
Nakano, [Yeo]	[Commercial]	M	Head	S	March 1887	24	Japan	1907	Japanese	Japanese	Japanese	Store Keeper	Y	Y	English/Japanese

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Name	Region	Sex	Relationship to household	Marital Status	Birth month/year	Age	Country of birth	Year of immigration to Canada	Race	Nationality	Religion	Profession	Read?	Write?	Language Commonly Spoken
Aoki, Y	Newcastle Island	M	Head	S	August [1886]	24	Japan	1906	Japanese	Canadian		Fisheries Watchman	Y	Y	English and Japanese
Tanaka, N	Newcastle Island	M	Head	S	February [1892]	[19]	Japan	1904	Japanese	Canadian		Fisheries Watchman	Y	Y	English and Japanese

[Takahashi], [?]	Newcastle Island	M	Head	S	February [1890]	21	Japan	1908	Japanese	Canadian		Fisheries Watchman	Y	Y	English and Japanese
Hanada, J.	Newcastle Island	M	Head	S	July [1895]	25	Japan	1904	Japanese	Canadian		Fisheries Watchman	Y	Y	English and Japanese
[Takasta], [G]	Newcastle Island	M	Head	S	November [1891]	29	Japan	1904	Japanese	Canadian		Fisheries Watchman	Y	Y	English and Japanese

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Name	Region	Sex	Relationship to household	Marital Status	Birth month/year	Age	Country of birth	Year of immigration to Canada	Race	Nationality	Religion	Profession	Read?	Write?	Language Commonly Spoken
Nishimoto, [Kisak?]	Oyster	M	Head	M	July 1880	30	Japan	1899	Japanese	Canadian	Buddhist	Labourer	Y	Y	Japanese and English
Nishimoto, Kikuyo	Oyster	F	Wife	M	January 1889	21	Japan	1906	Japanese	Canadian	Buddhist		Y	Y	Japanese and English
Nishimoto, Hiao	Oyster	M	Son	S	October 1907	3	British Columbia		Japanese	Canadian	Buddhist		N	N	Japanese and English
Nishimoto, [Harumi]	Oyster	M	Son	S	February 1909	2	British Columbia		Japanese	Canadian	Buddhist		N	N	Japanese and English
Nishimoto, Kasuke	Oyster	M	Father	M	December 1855	55	Japan	1902	Japanese	Japanese	Buddhist	Labourer	N	N	Japanese
Yamashita, [Keangoto]	Oyster	M	Lodger	M	December 1879	31	Japan	1907	Japanese	Japanese	Buddhist	Labourer	N	N	Japanese

[Amokishi], [Makuta]	Oyster	M	Lodger	S	January 1883	28	Japan	1907	Japanese	Japanese	Buddhist		N	N	Japanese
Yoshigoro, [Hama?]	Oyster	M	Lodger	W	November 1887	23	Japan	1907	Japanese	Japanese	Buddhist	Labourer	N	N	Japanese
[Fuokachi], [Togies]	Oyster	M	Lodger	S	July 1882	28	Japan	1907	Japanese	Japanese	Buddhist	Labourer	N	N	Japanese
[Yagomati], [Otruatam]	Oyster	M	Lodger	S	March 1882	29	Japan	1906	Japanese	Japanese	Buddhist	Labourer	N	N	Japanese
Kobayashi, [Tosoga]	Oyster	M	Lodger	M	December 1866	44	Japan	1907	Japanese	Japanese	Buddhist	Labourer	N	N	Japanese
Takiyuchi, [Ejiro]	Oyster	M	Lodger	M	May 1881	30	Japan	1905	Japanese	Japanese	Buddhist	Labourer	N	N	Japanese
Takiyuchi, Sai	Oyster	F	Lodger	M	August 1893	17	Japan	1911	Japanese	Japanese	Buddhist	Domestic	N	N	Japanese

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Name	Region	Sex	Relationship to household	Marital Status	Birth month/year	Age	Country of birth	Year of immigration to Canada	Race	Nationality	Religion	Profession	Read?	Write?	Language Commonly Spoken
[Uys??gi], [Tomojo]	Oyster	M	Head	M	April 1876	35	Japan	1899	Japanese	Japanese	Buddhist	Labourer	N	N	Japanese and English
[Uys??gi], [Milo]	Oyster	F	Wife	M	January [1884]	27	Japan	1907	Japanese	Japanese	Buddhist		N	N	Japanese and English

[Uys??gi], Narichi	Oyster	M	Son	S	November 1907	3	British Columbia		Japanese	Japanese	Buddhist		N	N	Japanese and English
[Uys??gi], Takaji	Oyster	M	Son	S	March 1909	2	British Columbia		Japanese	Japanese	Buddhist		N	N	Japanese and English



Japanese fishers used twin boats to seine herring in Departure Bay, c. 1910. The white building near the shore to the left is the current Annex of the Pacific Biological Station.

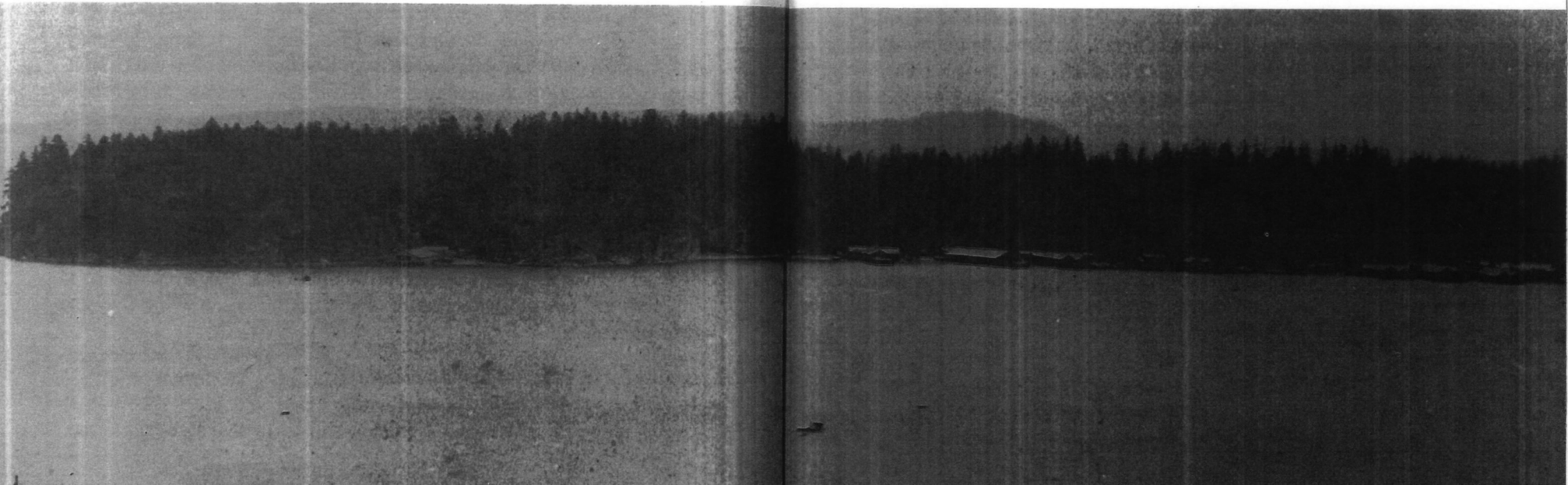
The photo below was taken from the summit of Sugarloaf Hill in 1912. You can see the saltery in Sunset Bay. Shortly after this photo was taken these salteries were destroyed by a fire of suspicious origin.

CHAPTER 8

SALTED HERRING

Exactly when the first Japanese arrived in Nanaimo and when they first established a fishing community on Newcastle Island is unknown. However, by the late 1800s, their presence in British Columbia was well established and their influence on the provincial fishing industry was considerable. By the turn of the century they controlled a large portion of the provincial salmon and herring fisheries. During this era, Japanese fishers established their presence in the area now known as Saltery Beach on the Departure Bay side of Newcastle Island.

As the establishment of new salteries and the expansion of the old continued on Newcastle Island, the success of the Japanese resulted in



Whites and Japanese working in the depression-era fishing industry was being regulated by the British Columbia Salt Fish Board under the federal Natural Products Marketing Act. This decision-making board was made up of seven members, consisting of five Whites and two Japanese Canadians. They not only established the annual fishing quotas, but also assured that a certain number of White and First Nations fishers (up to 50 per cent) were employed at the Japanese Canadian salteries.

John Allan remembers the Ode saltery as being occupied only during the fishing season. Through the summer, notwithstanding the presence of a watchman, the camp was largely unoccupied. Pay was 45 cents per hour, and employees were given a 10-minute coffee break mid-morning and mid-afternoon, respectively. A break of this nature was unheard of in other fish camps of the period. Between 25 and 30 workers lived at Ode's fishing camp during the season, with additional workers being ferried in by boat when needed. Whites who worked for Ode had considerable praise for his management practices and the personal treatment he afforded them.

With the 1941 outbreak of hostilities with Japan, Canada's government felt compelled to take unprecedented action. All persons of Japanese ancestry were interned and moved to the BC Interior, some as far as the Kootenays. The Custodian of Enemy Alien Property confiscated all Japanese private property that the internees could not carry. Good fish boats were sold in Vancouver for \$300. The seiners *Departure Bay 3* and *Departure Bay 5* (owned by Nanaimo Shipyards Limited) were among those purchased by Nelson Brothers Fisheries Limited (Vancouver) in 1942 (Graham Elliston, personal correspondence).

On Newcastle Island, Nanaimo Shipyards Limited and 4.18 acres (1.69 hectares) of land was taken over by the Royal Canadian Navy for use as a wartime repair depot for small vessels. This depot was under a 21-year lease from the Canadian Pacific Railway, the owners of Newcastle Island. Workers were ferried over to the base from Departure Bay.

At the end of the Second World War the Custodian of Enemy Alien Property sold all the Japanese facilities on Newcastle Island for \$3,500. The purchaser was instructed to sell, dismantle, and clear everything. What could not be sold or removed was burned. Number 2 shipway was purchased by John Rowan in 1945 and moved south, along Newcastle Island Passage. This was the start of the present-day Nanaimo Shipyards Limited on Stewart Avenue. Number 1 shipway was purchased by Jim's Boatworks, which became Robertson's and is now no longer in business.

Today signs of the saltery operations are quite prevalent. Some construction was undertaken during the navy's presence (visitors can still find a cement block with July 1943 etched into it). Most of the remains, however, date back to the Japanese presence. The shipways, building

footings, pile bases (visible only at low tide), a steam-generation boiler, and shards of broken pottery along the beach are visible reminders of this once-thriving industry. They are also a sad reminder of innocent British Columbians who lost their livelihood and possessions, victimized by war.

BILL MUNN

In 1980, as part of the preparation for the Newcastle Island Provincial Park Master Plan, 1983, Bill Munn, BC Park Planner in the Nanaimo Regional Office, made a concerted effort to research the history of the Japanese fishing community that operated off Newcastle Island. Bill made contact with a number of families that had either lived or worked on the island. Primarily, these were employees of Ode and the Nanaimo Shipyards Limited. The assistance given Bill by Jim Sawada of Nelson, George Hamagami of Vancouver, and Mrs. Takenaka of Vancouver was extremely important. Bill's detailed notes provided a major contribution to the understanding of this fascinating chapter in Newcastle Island's history. Although his work was never put into report form, his research was kept together and made available to me. With the closing of the BC Parks Regional Office in Nanaimo, Bill and his family relocated to Victoria, where he continues his career as a planner with BC Parks.



The collection of Schwarze photographs on the following pages is representative of the historic contribution the Schwarze family has made to the community.

Counter-clockwise from top left the photos show:

- 1. Brechin Point, Newcastle Island, and three of the four salteries present, c. 1937.*
- 2. Herring being brought on shore for salting. Notice the dogfish in the nearest enclosure.*
- 3. Japanese fishers with a set of herring in Departure Bay.*
- 4. Workers both White and Japanese along with their wives at the Ode Brothers camp on Newcastle Island. The fishing vessel behind the group is believed to be the seiner, Departure Bay 3.*
- 5. Workers salting herring, c. 1937.*
- 6. Herring saltery sheds in Nanaimo Harbour, c. 1935.*





Looking across Departure Bay from near Brechin Point showing the saltery buildings in the background, with Japanese fishers actively saining herring by their unique double vessel method.

Digging clams with children playing in the tide pool beyond. The shipway to the Ode Brothers ship building and repair facility are to the right of this picture.



The view looking south along Saltery Beach from near Tyne Point. Notice the pilings of the most northerly Saltery projecting above the water.

Part of the residential and working space of the Japanese when they were in residence on Newcastle Island. See the series of pilings to the left that were once the supports to one of the large saltery sheds.

