

The Tonomura Family



By Marlene Tonomura

Ancestors and Descendants of Senjiro

Tonomura

28 January 2016

First Generation

1. **Tome's father TONOMURA** was born in OazaKondo Minamigokasho-Mura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan. He died in OazaKondo Minamigokasho-Mura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan.

Tome's mother was born in OazaKondo Minamigokasho-Mura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan. She died in OazaKondo Minamigokasho-Mura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan.

Tome's father TONOMURA and Tome's mother had the following children:

- +2 i. **Tome TONOMURA**, born 26 Jan 1838, OazaKondo Minamigokasho-Mura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan; married Yojihei TSUKAMOTO, 1860; died 13 Oct 1901, OazaKondo Minamigokasho-Mura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan.
- 3 ii. **Ihei TONOMURA** was born in 1840 in OazaKondo Minamigokasho-Mura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan.

Second Generation

2. **Tome TONOMURA** (Tome's father-1) was born on 26 Jan 1838 in OazaKondo Minamigokasho-Mura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan. She died on 13 Oct 1901 at the age of 63 in OazaKondo Minamigokasho-Mura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan.

Tome TONOMURA and Yojihei TSUKAMOTO were married in 1860. **Yojihei TSUKAMOTO** was born on 12 Jan 1841 in OazaKondo Minamigokasho-Mura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan. He died on 3 Dec 1901 at the age of 60 in OazaKondo Minamigokasho-Mura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan.

Yojihei TSUKAMOTO and Tome TONOMURA had the following children:

- 4 i. **Kinroku TSUKAMOTO** was born on 5 Jan 1861 in OazaKondo Minamigokasho-Mura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan. He died on 12 Mar 1919 at the age of 58 in OazaKondo Minamigokasho-Mura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan.
- 5 ii. **Kojiro TSUKAMOTO** was born on 18 Jul 1864 in OazaKondo Minamigokasho-Mura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan. He died in OazaKondo Minamigokasho-Mura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan.
- +6 iii. **Senjiro TONOMURA**, born 5 Nov 1872, OazaKondo Minamigokasho-Mura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan; married Kuni YAMAMURA, 19 May 1895, 640 OazaKondo MinamiGokashoMura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan; died 30 Dec 1932, Mission BC Canada.

Third Generation

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6. **Senjiro TONOMURA** (Tome Tomomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 5 Nov 1872 in OazaKondo Minamigokasho-Mura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan. Senjiro Tsukamoto adopted to Otokichi Suzuki in Mar 10 1883 and abolished in Feb 24 1891 and returned to Kinroku Tsukamoto's Koseki at 70 OazaKondo MinamiGokashoMura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan.

Senjiro Tsukamoto adopted to Shiroyemon Tomomura and Sumi Yamamura (Tobei Yamamura's 1st daughter) at 92 OazaKondo MinamiGokashoMura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan on 04 Apr 1895. They built a new house for Senjiro to get settled at 640 OazaKondo MinamiGokashoMura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan.

He immigrated in 1901-1903 to Vancouver BC Canada. Japanese economy was getting worse and worse every year so Japanese government asked people for immigrations to Brazil, United State of America or Canada. Senjiro Tomomura decided to immigrate to Canada in 1901 right after his grandmother passed away. He died by cancer on 30 Dec 1932 at the age of 60 in Mission BC Canada.



Senjiro TONOMURA and Kuni YAMAMURA were married on 19 May 1895 in 640 OazaKondo MinamiGokashoMura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan. **Kuni YAMAMURA**, daughter of Heinai YAMAMURA and Chino NAKAZAWA, was born on 18 Sep 1871 in 90 OazaKondo MinamiGokashoMura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan. She died by natural decease at home on 3 Mar 1959 at the age of 87 in 640 OazaKondo MinamiGokashoMura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan.

Senjiro TONOMURA and Kuni YAMAMURA had the following children:

- +7 i. **Moichiro TONOMURA**, born 21 Mar 1898, 640 OazaKondo MinamiGokashoMura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan; married Tsuma OKUNO, 24 Feb 1927, 640 OazaKondo MinamiGokashoMura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan; died 25 Mar 1989, Mt St Joseph Hospt Vancouver BC Canada.
- 8 ii. **Teiji TONOMURA** was born on 27 Oct 1904 in 640 OazaKondo MinamiGokashoMura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan. He died by cancer on 30 Aug 1929 at the age of 24 in 640 OazaKondo MinamiGokashoMura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan.
- 9 iii. **Gaichi TONOMURA** was born on 11 Nov 1910 in 527 Powell St Vancouver BC Canada. He died by cancer on 3 Jun 1938 at the age of 27 in VGH Vancouver BC Canada.
- +10 iv. **Sue Margaret TONOMURA**, born 1 Mar 1912, 527 Powell St Vancouver BC Canada; died 25 Nov 2010, 4665 Baldwin St Vancouver BC Canada.

Fourth Generation



7. **Moichiro TONOMURA** (Senjiro-3, Tome Tomomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 21 Mar 1898 in 640 OazaKondo MinamiGokashoMura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan. He immigrated in 1910 to Vancouver BC Canada. He died by cancer on 25 Mar 1989 at the age of 91 in Mt St Joseph Hospt Vancouver BC Canada.

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Moichiro TONOMURA and Tsuma OKUNO were married on 24 Feb 1927 in 640 OazaKondo MinamiGokashoMura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan. **Tsuma OKUNO** was born on 8 Sep 1898 in 556 OazaHichiri MinamiGokashoMura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan. She died Stroke on 26 Apr 1978 at the age of 79 in Mt St Joseph Hospt Vancouver BC Canada.

Moichiro TONOMURA and Tsuma OKUNO had the following children:

- +11 i. **George Shigeru TONOMURA**, born 28 Feb 1928, Mission BC Canada; married Kinko YABUKI, 22 May 1950, Nakagyo-Ku Kyoto-Fu Kyoto-Shi Japan.
- +12 ii. **Betty Tsuyuko TONOMURA**, born 29 Jul 1929, Mission BC Canada; married Maurice A BARKSDALE, 30 Jan 1951, Hyogo-Ken- Japan.
- +13 iii. **Jean Mitsuko TONOMURA**, born 4 Mar 1931, Mission BC Canada; married Robert Bob M HERNDON, 25 Dec 1951, Kyoto Japan; married Douglas M MOORE, 21 Nov 1981, Washington USA.
- 14 iv. **Yoshio TONOMURA** was born on 17 Feb 1933 in Mission BC Canada. He died on 21 Feb 1933 at the age of 0 in Mission BC Canada.
- +15 v. **John Eiji TONOMURA**, born 8 Apr 1935, Mission BC Canada; married Marlene (adopted Beck) BYINGTON, 8 Dec 1979, Vancouver BC Canada; died 18 Sep 2015, Hospis Burnaby BC Canada.



10. **Sue Margaret TONOMURA** (Senjiro-3, Tome Tonomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 1 Mar 1912 in 527 Powell St Vancouver BC Canada. She died by Natural Decease on 25 Nov 2010 at the age of 98 in 4665 Baldwin St Vanouver BC Canada.

Tonomura's Family History:

Ancestors:

--- Tome Tonomura (外村 とめ):

Tome'smother was an only daughter in original Tonomura Family.

Tome'smother, namenot known married to adopted husband, Kinbei Tsukamoto (塚本 金兵衛)

and Tome was born in 29 June 1838 and brother Ihei Tonomura .(外村 伊平)

Tome'smother died in 1901.

--- YoJiheI Tsukamoto(塚本 與治平):

YoJiheI Tsukamoto was the father of Senjiro Tsukamoto born inJan 12 1841.

SenjiroTsukamoto was a 3rd son between YoJiheI Tsukamoto and TomeTonomura.

TomeTonomura (外村 とめ)andYoJiheI Tsukamoto (塚本 與治平)married in 1860.

SenjiroTsukamoto had two other brothers, therewere eldest brother Kinroku (塚本 金六)(Setsu), the second brother was Koujiro-Kaseki (塚本 幸治郎) (Fumi), and Senjiro Tsukamoto 塚本 仙次郎 (Kuni).

Senjiro Tsukamoto (塚本 仙次郎)(11 yrs old) adoptedto Otokichi Suzuki (鈴木 音吉)in Mar 10th of 1883 in 70 banchiKondo-mura Kanzaki-gun Shiga-ken but abolished Suzukis (鈴木家)andreturned to Kinroku Tsukamoto's Koseki 塚本 金六の戸籍に)in Feb 24th of 1891. In May 191894 adopted to Sumi Yamamura 山村 すみ who is Tobei Yamamura's 1st daughter (山村 藤兵衛の長女) and Shiroyemon Tonomura (外村 四朗衛門) again in Apr 1894. He was 22 yrs old.

They builta new house at 640 - Banchi Oaza Kondo MinamiGokasho Mura Kanzaki - gun Shiga -ken Japan for Senjiro so, he married to Kuni Yamamura 山村 くに soon after in 19th ofMay 1894 to start his new life . But gradually Japanese economy turned badlyevery year so Japanese Government ask peoples for immigration to Brazil or UnitedState of America or Canada. Senjiro Tsukamoto decided to immigrate to Canada toearn some money for his family.

本籍地 滋賀県神崎郡南五箇荘町大字金堂640番地

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日本経済は次第にこの頃から悪化、政府によって各国(ブラジル、アメリカ、カナダを拠点とした)の移民が呼びかけられた。塚本 仙次郎は家族の為にカナダ移民を決意する。

In 1901 after grandmother passed away, Senjiro immigrated to Canada leaving the two sons Moichiro and Teiji with mother Kuni in Japan.

Senjiro worked the Hastings Sawmill in Vancouver BC.

In 1909, after saving enough money he called his wife Kuni and the oldest son Moichiro to Vancouver Canada. By that time he was a care taker of a Boarding House on Powell Street in Vancouver BC, so Kuni was cooking and washing etc. for the boarders.

In Nov. 1910, the third son Gaichi was born. And in 1912 the daughter I, Sue Tonomura was born. As it became too much for mother Kuni to look after the Boarding House, they decided to start farming in Mission BC.

They moved to Mission and bought 20 Acres of wooded land on the far west end of Mission off the Thompson Road by the help of Mr Fujino who had settled there earlier. He was the first Japanese to be settled in Mission.

First, they had to build a house for the family to live in and with the help from friends, the oldest brother Moichiro, built a shack.

It must have taken a long time to clear the land by hand, enough to grow their own vegetables for their own use.

They had to have rice and shoyu, miso etc. sent from Vancouver as there were no stores near by.

They had to walk three miles into town if they wanted to buy anything. It took a long time before they had any income. The oldest brother Moichiro had to go out to work in the Mills at Pt. Alberni Hammond Cedar Mill, Ruskin etc. to support the family.

The second brother Teiji came to Canada in 1910 with his cousin Miyo Tsukamoto who married Makiji Miyasaka arranged by father Senjiro also a photograph marriage (Shashin Kekkō) Before then Teiji was staying with his uncle and aunt Kinroku Tsukamoto in Japan.

During the early 1920, father Senjiro bought another 5 more Acres on the East side of the Thompson Rd..

The farm produce was good that year so they saved some money and bought 5 Acres of flatland for \$5,000.00 cash.

In 1921, Teiji was in Div. 1 in Mission Public School with Mr Webb as his teacher and Gaichi the third brother was promoted from Junior 2 to Senior 2. I, Sue was promoted Second Primer to first Reader in 1921.

So we three were all going to school at one time.

When Teiji the second brother graduated High School, he was helping on the farm for awhile and later got work hauling railroad ties and got ill as it was too heavy a work for him.

After he got little better he was employed at the Japanese Food Store of Komura Shoten, where we've got our food stuff sent to Vancouver BC.

As he wasn't fully recovered he went back to Japan with his father to rest but he didn't improve. Mother went back to take care of him but unfortunately he passed away in Oct 1929 at the young age of 25.

In 1929 after mother came back from Japan. The Buddhist church was organized by father Senjiro and three of his friends who were Mr Hikojiro Miyagawa, Mr S Kodama and Mr Yosokichi Kitagawa and it was constructed in 1930. After it was completed, father Senjiro was presented with a Document of Honor for his good work from the Main Buddhist Temple in Kyoto Japan. But on Dec. 30 1932 father Senjiro passed away at the age of 61 and the funeral service was held in the church that he and his three friends built. Three Japanese Buddhist Minister of Vancouver came and officiated and gilled Funeral Parlor conducted the burial service. Interment has been done in Hatzic Cemetery. After father Senjiro died the oldest brother Moichiro Tonomura took over the farm till 1942 when all Japanese ancestors had to evacuate as the Second World War had started. Japan bombed Pearl Harbor Dec 7th 1941.

In early 1930's Second brother Gaichi dropped out of High School and he worked for Mr Hargitt's garage of "Hagitt Motors". later he opened a garage called "Showa Garage" with two other friends who were Mr Steve Enomoto and Mr Mas Uchida at the west end of main street in Mission. He too, took sick and went to Japan to see a good doctor leaving his share with Mr Jim Ikebuchi. He came back to Canada but never recovered.

He died in June 1938. Funeral service officiated by Buddhist minister of Vancouver in Vancouver Buddhist Church. He was cremated at Mt. View Crematorium in June 1938. Written by Senjiro's 1st daughter Sue Tonomura in 1991. Prepared by Sue M Tonomura 4665 Baldwin St Vancouver V5N 5B7 Canada I, Sue am the fourth child and the only daughter of Senjiro and Kuni Tonomura, born on March 1st 1912 on Powell St., Vancouver B.C. Canada.

They moved to Mission that 1912 to start farming. I grew up in Mission and went to Mission Public School

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graduate Grade 9. Mr Echardt was our teacher. I entered High School the following Sep. in 1928 and I dropped out after a year as I had to help on the farm and I also thought it was no use furthering my education. Since orientals weren't allowed to get good positions because of the racial discrimination.

In 1930 my father and his friends had constructed a Buddhist Church, Mission Japanese Buddhist Young Women Association was organized and we had different classes for sewing one day and cooking the next so I joined the church and took up sewing class knitting class and cooking class etc.

Father Senjiro took ill in Aug 1932 so I had to help my brother on the farm. In the meantime Mrs Miyagawa and Mr Ootani of Port Haney came to ask for my hand in marriage to Ralph Tamitaka Yoshida of Haney BC, also from Shiga-ken Japan. So they thought it was a good arrangement, as nearly all marriages, at that time, were arranged marriages.

I really didn't know what to do but leave it to the family so I married him in Nov 1935 at the age of 23. He and his parents had 20 acres of land on 22nd rd. in Port Haney BC.

Ralph was working at the Maple Ridge Co-op while I helped on the farm.

In June 1937, my first son Jun was born. And in June 19th 1937 my first daughter Sumi Jane was born. And in Nov 05th 1940 another daughter Emi Frances was born and a second son Ko Victor was born in April 12th 1942.

On Dec 7th 1941 Japan bombed Pear Harbor so we all of us, Japanese ancestors, Canadian born or not had to report to RCMP to register.

We were not permitted to go out after dark and had to black out the windows so the lights couldn't be seen, we couldn't own a radio so we gave it to our neighbor Mr & Mrs Heingh.

We had to relocate to Hastings Park so Ralph sold the half ton truck he owned, the year before he had reconstructed the house as the children were growing and the old house was too small, he added two extra rooms for the kitchen and a big dining room when we had to leave it all.

On 1st July 1942 we left Port Haney with four small children, my fourth were only 2 and a half months old and their grandparents. There were eight of us then. We were put in the live stock building with no heat, no beds or partition. We had wooden frames for beds with straw filled mattresses and had to hang sheets and blankets up for privacy, no furniture to sit on. The beds were on the cement floor. We had to go about a block away for our meals to a mess house and no baths or place to wash, just showers. We stayed there for about six weeks as there were no houses for us yet at Tashime where we were suppose to go. We chose Tashime as it was the closest camp from the coast and thought with small children and two elderly grandparents it would be closer to our home town when we can go home again. My husband had gone a head to Tashime about a week after we relocated to build houses for us and other families.

Around Aug 15th we were called to Tashime. We left Hastings Park in Vancouver and reached Tashme about 3:30 pm.

Our house was on 614 6th Ave. Tashme B C Canada. There were about fifteen houses built on both sides of the mad road It was built with four small bedrooms on both sides and a kitchen in the centre with the campstove in the corner that we used for cooking and for warming the house. The house was built with siding board and black tar paper to keep the cold out but it was cold as it snowed about six feet that year. We had to paper the walls inside with the wallpaper that we bought ourselves as there were about three inches of ice under our beds and around the windows. We had to heat up rocks in the oven to put in our beds to keep the beds warm. We also had to dry the fire wood in the oven before we can use them. Food was plenty as there was a grocery store and a butcher shop but we had to change our cash into coupons before we can spend it.

On Dec 5th another son Ben was born in 1944. There was a lot of snow at that time so four men came and took me to the Tashme Hospital on the stretcher.

My husband was working in the woods cutting woods for families also for the Shingle Mill there which was appreciated by custodians. Ralph worked in the Shingle Mill near the end packing shingles.

In Aug 15 1945 US bombed Hiroshima so the War ended and we had to decide whether to go east of the Rockies or be repatriated to Japan. I didn't want to go as this was my home country but as we had no where else to go and we weren't permitted to go back to our home in Port Haney BC. I had no choice but to follow them since I had my hands full with five small children, plus, I was pregnant.

We left Tashme on the 1st of Aug 1946 for Vancouver to board a boat, General Meige, with five small children and two elderly grandparents and with me seven months pregnant to cross the Pacific Ocean to Japan. We reached Uraga Japan on the 13th of Aug 1946. We were there for about two weeks before we headed for my husband's native country in Taga-cho, Shiga-ken. As there was no vacancy or house for rent. We went to

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Tsuchida's home in Tsuchida Taga-cho, Shiga-ken, a friend of our family. They were kind enough to put us up for about a week but we couldn't burden them with such a big family. I decided to go to my mother and brother's place in Kondo Gokasho-cho, Shiga-ken, as they had a big house with Kura. They also were repatriated and went back to Kondo on the same boat. We asked to stay with them till at least when the baby was born. Well my youngest daughter Tami was born on Oct 18th 1946 two months after we arrived to Japan.



Ralph Tamitaka YOSHIDA, son of Enzaburo (ADOPTED) OOTA and Yoso YOSHIDA, was born on 6 Oct 1903 in 719 Taga Honmachi Taga-cho Inukami-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan. He died by minor Stroke on 13 Apr 1997 at the age of 93 at Mt St Joseph Hospit in Vancouver BC Canada.

Ralph Tamitaka YOSHIDA and Sue Margaret TONOMURA had the following children:

- 16 i. **Jun YOSHIDA** was born on 9 Jun 1937 in Haney BC Canada.
- 17 ii. **Sumi Jane YOSHIDA** was born on 19 Jun 1939 in Haney BC Canada. She died by cancer on 11 Jun 2010 at the age of 70 in Hospis Burnaby BC Canada.
- 18 iii. **Emi Frances YOSHIDA** was born on 5 Nov 1940 in Haney BC Canada.
- +19 iv. **Victor Ko YOSHIDA**, born 12 Apr 1942, Haney BC Canada; married Yoko SAKATA, 26 Jun 1971, Unite Church 1st Ave and Renfrew St Vancouver BC Canada.
- 20 v. **Ben Tsutomu YOSHIDA** was born on 3 Dec 1944 in T Tashim BC Canada.
- 21 vi. **Tami YOSHIDA** was born on 18 Oct 1946 in 640 OazaKondo MinamiGokashoMura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan.

Fifth Generation

11. **George Shigeru TONOMURA** (Moichiro-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tonomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 28 Feb 1928 in Mission BC Canada. George Shigeru Tonomura immigrated to Japan after Second World War on 13 Aug 1946 with his parents and 2 sisters and grandmother Kuni Yamamura.

George Shigeru TONOMURA and Kinko YABUKI were married on 22 May 1950 in Nakagyo-Ku Kyoto-Fu Kyoto-Shi Japan. George Shigeru Tonomura returned to Canada in 1955 and employed at Woodward Department Store in New Westminster BC Canada until 55 yrs old and reemployed at Army Navy Dept store at downtown Vancouver BC Canada until Sep 2015. **Kinko YABUKI** was born on 10 Mar 1926 in Nakagyo-Ku Kyoto-Fu Kyoto-Shi Japan. She immigrated on 1 Aug 1963 to 4408 Fraser St Vancouver BC Canada.

George Shigeru TONOMURA and Kinko YABUKI had the following children:

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- +22 i. **Rieko Jane TONOMURA**, born 29 Jun 1950, Nakagyo-Ku Kyoto-Fu Kyoto-Shi Japan; married Hideo Sam KOBAYASHI, 1976, Vancouver BC Canada; married Hidetoyo Joe NISHIDA, 1989, Vancouver BC Canada.
- +23 ii. **Takashi TONOMURA**, born 6 Jun 1953, Nakagyo-Ku Kyoto-Fu Kyoto-Shi Japan; married Anna Hui Ping CHOW, 1987, Vancouver BC Canada.
- +24 iii. **Mitsuko Mary TONOMURA**, born 29 Aug 1954, Nakagyo-Ku Kyoto-Fu Kyoto-Shi Japan; married Reginald Elliott SHUM, 21 May 1978, Vancouver BC Canada.
- +25 iv. **Patricia TONOMURA**, born 20 Nov 1963, Vancouver BC Canada; married father CAPPO, 1994, Vancouver BC Canada.
- 26 v. **Brian TONOMURA** was born on 15 Feb 1965 in Vancouver BC Canada.

12. **Betty Tsuyuko TONOMURA** (Moichiro-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tonomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 29 Jul 1929 in Mission BC Canada. She immigrated on 13 Aug 1946-1952 to 640 OazaKondo MinamiGokashoMura Kanzaki-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan.

Betty Tsuyuko TONOMURA and Maurice A BARKSDALE were married on 30 Jan 1951 in Hyogo-Ken- Japan. **Maurice A BARKSDALE** was born on 27 Feb 1927 in Norwood GA USA. He died on 26 Oct 2009 at the age of 82 in Washington USA.

Maurice A BARKSDALE and Betty Tsuyuko TONOMURA had the following children:

- +27 i. **William Edward BARKSDALE**, born 12 Sep 1951, UA Army Host Kobe Hyogo-Ken Japan; married Beverly Jean CONRAD, 22 Oct 1977, Washington USA.
- +28 ii. **Betty Jean BARKSDALE**, born 7 Sep 1953, Sparta Washington USA; married Charles Mark FORSYTHE, 3 Jul 1979, Washington USA.
- +29 iii. **Lallie Clyde BARKSDALE**, born 16 Jul 1960, Ft Benning GA USA; married John Edward HUGHES, 9 Sep 1987, Washington USA.

13. **Jean Mitsuko TONOMURA** (Moichiro-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tonomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 4 Mar 1931 in Mission BC Canada.

Jean Mitsuko TONOMURA and Robert Bob M HERNDON were married on 25 Dec 1951 in Kyoto Japan. They were divorced on 21 Dec 1977. **Robert Bob M HERNDON** was born on 13 Dec 1927 in Fayetteville Carolina USA. He died in 1979 at the age of 52 in Fayetteville Carolina USA.

Robert Bob M HERNDON and Jean Mitsuko TONOMURA had the following children:

- +30 i. **Robert M Jr HERNDON**, born 5 Feb 1954, Fayetteville Carolina USA; married Cindy WILKINSON, Nov 1974, Washington USA; married Cindee , Nov 1974, Washington USA.
- +31 ii. **Bruce Alan HERNDON**, born 28 Dec 1955, Fayetteville Carolina USA; married Verginia RUPP, 1973, Washington USA; married Kim CASEY, 1983, Washington USA.
- +32 iii. **Lloyd HERNDON**, born 28 Dec 1955, Fayetteville Carolina USA; married Robin HERTSHOM, 1973, USA; married Ariene Rene BIGELOW, 1986, USA.

Jean Mitsuko TONOMURA and Douglas M MOORE were married on 21 Nov 1981 in Washington USA. **Douglas M MOORE** was born in Washington USA.

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15. **John Eiji TONOMURA** (Moichiro-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tonomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 8 Apr 1935 in Mission BC Canada. He graduated on 14 Mar 1955 at ShigaKenRitsu Echi High Sschool in Echgawa-Cho Echi-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan. He died by cancer on 18 Sep 2015 at the age of 80 in Hospis Burnaby BC Canada.

John Eiji TONOMURA and Marlene (adopted Beck) BYINGTON were married on 8 Dec 1979 in Vancouver BC Canada. **Marlene (adopted Beck) BYINGTON** was born on 4 Apr 1945 in Winnipeg Manitoba Canada.



19. **Victor Ko YOSHIDA** (Sue Margaret Tonomura-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tonomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 12 Apr 1942 in Haney BC Canada. He was educated on 14 Mar 1961 at Shiga-Kenritsu Echi High School in Echigawa-Cho Echi-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan. He graduated on 19 Aug 1965 at Tele Communication of Canada in Vancouver Vocational School Institute of BC. Victor retired on 30 Apr 2004 at Vulcan Automotive Eq Ltd in 2010 Cliveden Ave Annacis Island Delta BC Canada.

Victor Ko YOSHIDA and Yoko SAKATA were married on 26 Jun 1971 in Unite Church 1st Ave and Renfrew St Vancouver BC Canada. **Yoko SAKATA** was born on 29 Jul 1945 in Ishibatake Toyosato-Cho Inukami-Gun Shiga-Ken Japan.

Victor Ko YOSHIDA and Yoko SAKATA had the following children:

- +33 i. **Vincent Akira YOSHIDA**, born 23 Jul 1972, Grace Hosp Vancouver BC Canada; married Christin Sandra GOERLER, 27 Dec 2011, at Work shop, Burnaby BC Canada.
- 34 ii. **Alvin Masaki YOSHIDA** was born on 4 Jun 1973 in Grace Hosp Vancouver BC Canada. He died by Infection of bladder on 6 Jun 1993 at the age of 20 in Mt St Joseph Hospt Vancouver BC Canada.

Sixth Generation

22. **Rieko Jane TONOMURA** (George Shigeru-5, Moichiro-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tonomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 29 Jun 1950 in Nakagyo-Ku Kyoto-Fu Kyoto-Shi Japan. She immigrated on 1 Aug 1962 to 4408 Fraser St Vancouver BC Canada.

Rieko Jane TONOMURA and Hideo Sam KOBAYASHI were married in 1976 in Vancouver BC Canada. **Hideo Sam KOBAYASHI** was born on 13 Feb 1947 in Hiroshika-Ken Japan.

Hideo Sam KOBAYASHI and Rieko Jane TONOMURA had the following children:

- +35 i. **Renae Saori KOBAYASHI**, born 3 Mar 1978, Vancouver BC Canada; married Stephen SCHINDEL, 31 Aug 2008, Langley BC Canada.
- 36 ii. **Brent Yuki KOBAYASHI** was born on 16 Apr 1980 in Vancouver BC Canada.
- 37 iii. **Shaena Yuho KOBAYASHI** was born on 20 Jun 1985 in Vancouver BC Canada.

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Rieko Jane TONOMURA and Hidetoyo Joe NISHIDA were married in 1989 in Vancouver BC Canada. **Hidetoyo Joe NISHIDA** was born on 8 Jan 1955 in Sasebo-Shi Nagasaki-Ken Japan. He immigrated in 1973 to Alberta Canada.

23. **Takashi TONOMURA** (George Shigeru-5, Moichiro-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tonomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 6 Jun 1953 in Nakagyo-Ku Kyoto-Fu Kyoto-Shi Japan.

Takashi TONOMURA and Anna Hui Ping CHOW were married in 1987 in Vancouver BC Canada. They were divorced in 1988 in Surrey BC Canada. **Anna Hui Ping CHOW** was born on 30 Oct 1950 in Taiwan.

Takashi TONOMURA and Anna Hui Ping CHOW had the following child:

- +38 i. **Audree Jin Yin TONOMURA**, born 13 Feb 1988, Burnaby BC Canada; married name not known, Hilton Hotel at Metrotown in Vancouver BC Canada.

24. **Mitsuko Mary TONOMURA** (George Shigeru-5, Moichiro-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tonomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 29 Aug 1954 in Nakagyo-Ku Kyoto-Fu Kyoto-Shi Japan.

Mitsuko Mary TONOMURA and Reginald Elliott SHUM were married on 21 May 1978 in Vancouver BC Canada. **Reginald Elliott SHUM**, son of Toby Gim Too SHUM and Pinky Sho Ping CHOW, was born on 29 Aug 1953 in Vancouver BC Canada.

Reginald Elliott SHUM and Mitsuko Mary TONOMURA had the following children:

- +39 i. **Adrienne Regine SHUM**, born 29 Nov 1981, Calgary AB Canada; married Rick SANCHEZ, 20 Aug 2011, Vancouver BC Canada.
- +40 ii. **Ryan Reginald SHUM**, born 19 Aug 1983, Calgary AB Canada; married Sabriina, 27 Jul 2014, Vancouver BC Canada.
- 41 iii. **Laura Toby SHUM** was born on 13 Jan 1988 in Vancouver BC Canada.
- 42 iv. **Jasmine Remy SHUM** was born on 17 Apr 1990 in Vancouver BC Canada.

25. **Patricia TONOMURA** (George Shigeru-5, Moichiro-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tonomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 20 Nov 1963 in Vancouver BC Canada.

Patricia TONOMURA and father CAPPO were married in 1994 in Vancouver BC Canada. **father CAPPO** was born in Golden BC Canada.

father CAPPO and Patricia TONOMURA had the following children:

- 43 i. **Jarrett Tyla CAPPO** was born on 14 Jul 1994 in Vancouver BC Canada.
- 44 ii. **Jesse CAPPO** was born on 27 Mar 1996 in Vancouver BC Canada.

Seventh Generation

27. **William Edward BARKSDALE** (Betty Tsuyuko Tonomura-5, Moichiro-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tonomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 12 Sep 1951 in UA Army Host Kobe Hyogo-Ken Japan.

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William Edward BARKSDALE and Beverly Jean CONRAD were married on 22 Oct 1977 in Washington USA. **Beverly Jean CONRAD** was born on 27 Sep 1947 in Walla Walla Washington USA.

William Edward BARKSDALE and Beverly Jean CONRAD had the following child:

- +45 i. **Tamara Jean BARKSDALE**, born 11 May 1978, Walla Walla Washington USA; married Brandon Vicente SUAREZ, 3 Dec 1999, Washington USA.

28. **Betty Jean BARKSDALE** (Betty Tsuyuko Tonomura-5, Moichiro-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tonomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 7 Sep 1953 in Sparta Washington USA.

Betty Jean BARKSDALE and Charles Mark FORSYTHE were married on 3 Jul 1979 in Washington USA. **Charles Mark FORSYTHE** was born (date unknown).

Charles Mark FORSYTHE and Betty Jean BARKSDALE had the following children:

- 46 i. **Daniel Mark FORSYTHE** was born on 23 Jan 1981 in Overlake Bellevue Washington USA.
- 47 ii. **Stephen Alexander FORSYTHE** was born on 13 Oct 1982 in Overlake Bellevue Washington USA.

29. **Lallie Clyde BARKSDALE** (Betty Tsuyuko Tonomura-5, Moichiro-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tonomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 16 Jul 1960 in Ft Benning GA USA.

Lallie Clyde BARKSDALE and John Edward HUGHES were married on 9 Sep 1987 in Washington USA. **John Edward HUGHES** was born in USA.

John Edward HUGHES and Lallie Clyde BARKSDALE had the following child:

- 48 i. **Mackenzie Lynn HUGHES** was born on 26 Nov 1991 in Overlake Bellevue Washington USA.

30. **Robert M Jr HERNDON** (Jean Mitsuko Tonomura-5, Moichiro-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tonomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 5 Feb 1954 in Fayetteville Carolina USA.

Robert M Jr HERNDON and Cindy WILKINSON were married in Nov 1974 in Washington USA. **Cindy WILKINSON** was born in USA.

Robert M Jr HERNDON and Cindee were married in Nov 1974 in Washington USA. **Cindee** was born in USA.

Robert M Jr HERNDON and Cindee had the following child:

- +49 i. **Robert M Second HERNDON**, born 10 Aug 1975, Washington USA; married Amy TOMPSON, Washington USA.

31. **Bruce Alan HERNDON** (Jean Mitsuko Tonomura-5, Moichiro-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tonomura-2, Tome's

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father-1) was born on 28 Dec 1955 in Fayetteville Carolina USA.

Bruce Alan HERNDON and Virginia RUPP were married in 1973 in Washington USA. **Virginia RUPP** was born in USA.

Bruce Alan HERNDON and Virginia RUPP had the following child:

- 50 i. **Angela HERNDON** was born on 23 Mar 1974 in USA.

Bruce Alan HERNDON and Kim CASEY were married in 1983 in Washington USA. **Kim CASEY** was born in USA.

Bruce Alan HERNDON and Kim CASEY had the following child:

- +51 i. **Alan B HERNDON**, born 28 Dec 1983, USA; married Tara WILDING, 28 Aug 1990, USA.

32. **Lloyd HERNDON** (Jean Mitsuko Tonomura-5, Moichiro-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tonomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 28 Dec 1955 in Fayetteville Carolina USA.

Lloyd HERNDON and Robin HERTSHOM were married in 1973 in USA. **Robin HERTSHOM** was born in USA.

Lloyd HERNDON and Robin HERTSHOM had the following child:

- 52 i. **Kecia HERNDON** was born on 23 Dec 1974 in USA.

Lloyd HERNDON and Ariene Rene BIGELOW were married in 1986 in USA. **Ariene Rene BIGELOW** was born in USA.

Lloyd HERNDON and Ariene Rene BIGELOW had the following children:

- 53 i. **Megan HERNDON** was born on 1 Jul 1987 in USA.
54 ii. **Melissa HERNDON** was born on 18 Jun 1989 in USA.
55 iii. **Dain Jamegon HERNDON** was born on 2 Nov 1994 in USA.

33. **Vincent Akira YOSHIDA** (Victor Ko-5, Sue Margaret Tonomura-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tonomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 23 Jul 1972 in Grace Hosp Vancouver BC Canada.

Vincent Akira YOSHIDA and Christin Sandra GOERLER were married on 27 Dec 2011 in at Work shop, Burnaby BC Canada. **Christin Sandra GOERLER** was born on 12 Jul 1981 in Havell Brandenburg germany.

Vincent Akira YOSHIDA and Christin Sandra GOERLER had the following child:

- 56 i. **Misa Jolin Elisabeth YOSHIDA** was born on 10 Dec 2012 in Vancouver Children's Hospt Vancouver BC Canada.

Seventh Generation

35. **Renae Saori KOBAYASHI** (Rieko Jane Tonomura-6, George Shigeru-5, Moichiro-4, Senjiro-3, Tome

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Tonomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 3 Mar 1978 in Vancouver BC Canada.

Renae Saori KOBAYASHI and Stephen SCHINDEL were married on 31 Aug 2008 in Langley BC Canada.

Stephen SCHINDEL was born on 2 Mar 1981.

Stephen SCHINDEL and Renae Saori KOBAYASHI had the following children:

- 57 i. **Milla SCHINDEL** was born on 24 Dec 2014 in Vancouver BC Canada.
- 58 ii. **Emi SCHINDEL** was born in 2015 in Vancouver BC Canada.

38. **Audree Jin Yin TONOMURA** (Takashi-6, George Shigeru-5, Moichiro-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tonomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 13 Feb 1988 in Burnaby BC Canada.

Audree Jin Yin TONOMURA and name not known were married in Hilton Hotel at Metrotown in Vancouver BC Canada. **name not known** was born.

name not known and Audree Jin Yin TONOMURA had the following child:

- 59 i. **Baby** was born in Sep 2015 in Calgary AB Canada.

39. **Adrienne Regine SHUM** (Mitsuko Mary Tonomura-6, George Shigeru-5, Moichiro-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tonomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 29 Nov 1981 in Calgary AB Canada.

Adrienne Regine SHUM and Rick SANCHEZ were married on 20 Aug 2011 in Vancouver BC Canada. **Rick SANCHEZ** was born (date unknown).

Rick SANCHEZ and Adrienne Regine SHUM had the following child:

- 60 i. **Liakm SANCHEZ** was born on 30 Dec 2013 in North Vancouver BC Canada.

40. **Ryan Reginald SHUM** (Mitsuko Mary Tonomura-6, George Shigeru-5, Moichiro-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tonomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 19 Aug 1983 in Calgary AB Canada.

Ryan Reginald SHUM and Sabriina were married on 27 Jul 2014 in Vancouver BC Canada. **Sabriina** was born (date unknown).

45. **Tamara Jean BARKSDALE** (William Edward-6, Betty Tsuyuko Tonomura-5, Moichiro-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tonomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 11 May 1978 in Walla Walla Washington USA.

Tamara Jean BARKSDALE and Brandon Vicente SUAREZ were married on 3 Dec 1999 in Washington USA. **Brandon Vicente SUAREZ** was born in USA.

Brandon Vicente SUAREZ and Tamara Jean BARKSDALE had the following children:

- 61 i. **Diego Edward Vicente SUAREZ** was born on 3 Nov 1999 in Kirkland Washington USA.
- 62 ii. **Antonio Alexander SUAREZ** was born on 3 May 2002 in Kirkland Washington USA.

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49. **Robert M Second HERNDON** (Robert M Jr-6, Jean Mitsuko Tomomura-5, Moichiro-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tomomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 10 Aug 1975 in Washington USA.

Robert M Second HERNDON and Amy TOMPSON were married in Washington USA. **Amy TOMPSON** was born in USA.

Robert M Second HERNDON and Amy TOMPSON had the following children:

- 63 i. **Devan HERNDON** was born on 25 Jun 1995 in Washington USA.
- 64 ii. **Andrew HERNDON** was born on 13 Mar 1997 in Washington USA.
- 65 iii. **Morgan HERNDON** was born in Washington USA.

51. **Alan B HERNDON** (Bruce Alan-6, Jean Mitsuko Tomomura-5, Moichiro-4, Senjiro-3, Tome Tomomura-2, Tome's father-1) was born on 28 Dec 1983 in USA.

Alan B HERNDON and Tara WILDING were married on 28 Aug 1990 in USA. **Tara WILDING** was born in USA.

Introduction

This book contains the life and times of the Tonomura family.

The characters in this story are real and centred around my late husband John's family.

This is the story about a family who not only inspired me, but captured my senses to write their stories.

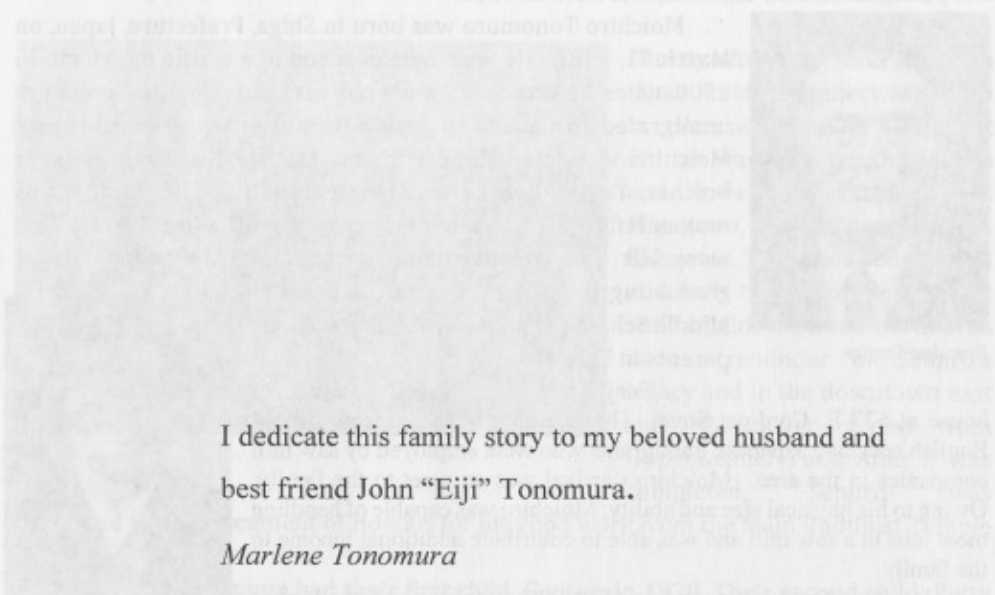
This book was mainly written to capture the true essence of a family who survived and their tremendous courage to come back.

My wish is that this book inspires you as much as it spired me to write it. My hope and prayers are for this booklet to be passed down through the generations of our extended family.

Marlene Tonomura

*I dedicate this family story to my beloved husband and
best friend John "Eiji" Tonomura.*

Marlene Tonomura



I dedicate this family story to my beloved husband and best friend John "Eiji" Tonomura.

Marlene Tonomura

The First Tonomura Arrival in Canada

In 1897, Senjiro Tonomura married Kuni Yamamura. Senjiro and Kuni had four children—Moichiro, was born 1898 and Teiji, born in 1891, both born in Japan. Their two other children were born in Canada—Gaichi was born in 1910 and only daughter Sue Margaret, the youngest of their children, was born in 1912.



Grandpa Senjiro

Moichiro Tonomura was born in Shiga, Prefecture, Japan, on March 21, 1898. He was the eldest son of a textile merchant. In 1900, when he was only 2 years old, his father Senjiro Tonomura immigrated to Canada to seek adventure, wealth and fortune. Moichiro was left behind with his mother Kuni and younger brother, Teiji. When he was ten years old and in grade 4, his mother left to join his father in Vancouver, BC. Moichiro and Teiji were left with relatives to continue their schooling. After graduating in 1913 from the Commercial Middle School at the age of 15, he joined his parents in Vancouver BC.

Senjiro had established a boarding house at 527 E. Cordova Street. The boarding house catered to non-English speaking Japanese immigrants who were employed by saw mill companies in the area. Moichiro's arrival was an asset to the family. Owing to his physical size and ability, Moichiro was capable of handling most jobs in a saw mill and was able to contribute additional income to the family.

However, Senjiro was seeking further adventure and challenges and wanted to do better in his life. Around the time Moichiro arrived in Vancouver, he decided to move to Mission B.C.



Grandma Kuni

The Mission Farm

Like many immigrants, the Tonomuras were pioneers who worked diligently in sawmills and boarding houses to earn and save money so they could purchase land. Senjiro used his family's money to purchase 25 acres of treed land in Mission City and the family started another new life. They planned to start a fruit farm.

By 1915, after clearing most of the rough land of stumps and trees, they were ready to start their new venture. For years Senjiro and his family worked hard and finally they started to see the fruits of their labor and they started to make a little money. In 1928, Moichiro went back to Japan to take a wife. Her name was Tsuma.

Tsuma Okuno was born on September 8, 1898, at 556 Oaza Hichiri, Miname, Gokas cho Mura, Kanzaki-Gun, Shiga-ken, Japan. We know very little about Tsuma's upbringing. She never really talked about her life, not even to her family. What we do know it is that she lost her mother around nine or 10 years old. Her mother apparently stepped on a

rusty nail and died of tetanus poisoning. She never talked about her father so we don't know what happened to him. All we know is that she was left an orphan at an early age. She had one married older sister and a brother. They were not close.

Moichiro and Tsuma had an arranged marriage. Their first date was over a cup of Japanese tea. They married in Japan. Moichiro returned to Canada with his new bride to start a family of their own.



Mission Farm

Shortly after they returned from Japan, another project was born in Vancouver. The Buddhist Church was organized by Senjiro and three of his friends, Mr. Miyagawa, Mr. Kodama and Mr. Kitagawa. The three constructed and built the church in 1930. It still remains the Buddhist Church and a reminder of Senjiro's legacy and in the downtown east side, Vancouver, across from Oppenheimer Park. After it was completed, Senjiro was

presented with a Document of Honour for his good work from the Main Buddhist Temple in Kyoto, Japan.

Moichiro and Tsuma had their first child, George, in 1928. Their second child, Betty was born in 1929. That same year Moichiro's younger brother, Teiji died of cancer. Jean, their third child was born in 1931. Senjiro died in 1932. He was only 61 years old. He is buried in Hatzic Cemetery, Mission, B.C. Moichiro and Tsuma had two more children, Yoshio in 1933. Yoshio died shortly after birth. John was born in 1935. In 1938, Moichiro's younger brother Gaichi also died of cancer.

Moichiro was now the head of the family and it was his job to run the farm his father had worked so hard to build. Determined to carry on his father's legacy, he, Tsuma, Kuni and his sister Sue, worked hard to make the family farm a success.

The Evacuation (1942)

The Tonomura family's world was turned upside down on March 4, 1942. After the bombing of Pearl Harbour, the Canadian Government decided that all Japanese Canadians were to be removed from the West Coast. Their businesses and properties were confiscated and sold by the government. Moichiro, Tsuma, their four children and Kuni were told by the R.C.M.P to pack up whatever they could carry and leave their home in Mission within forty-eight hours.

Along with 21,000 other Japanese Canadians in BC, they were rounded up and sent to Hastings Park on the PNE grounds. Their only beds now would be haystacks in a cattle stall. They stayed there for as long as it took for the Canadian Government to make enough accommodation for the 21,000 homeless people to relocate. Later, every one of Japanese descent was moved to internment camps, most of these located in the interior of B.C. and Alberta. Some went to Manitoba to sugar beet farms. Moichiro's family was sent to Lemon Creek, near Slocan, B.C. Sue's family was relocated to Tashime, B.C. While the internees waited for houses to be built in Lemon Creek, they lived in Indian tee pees.



Moichiro and Tsuma

Moichiro tried to defy the Government's order. He was determined not to leave the home his father Senjiro had built. His daughter, Jean remembers her father being handcuffed in front of his family and taken away to a prison camp, in Angler, Ontario for four years. The women and children were left to fend for themselves. Seventy years later, Jean, their second eldest daughter still gets emotional whenever she speaks of it. The images of that day still very much embedded in a little girl's mind as she watched her father being taken away.

In March, 1942, the British Columbia Security Commission in charge of the Internment decided that all male Japanese Canadians eighteen or older would be sent to a road camp. They were separated from their families and sent off to remote locations to perform forced labor. It was a worry about what would happen to their families that led Moichiro and other men to fight for their rights, even if it meant going to prison. It must have been hard for everyone, including the Tonomura family to leave friends and neighbours behind in Mission but they had no choice.

The Internment Camp: Lemon Creek 1942 to 1945

The Lemon Creek Internment camp, located about five miles from Slocan City, was built from scratch on a cow pasture. Lemon Creek got its name from a small picturesque lake that ran into the Slocan Lake. Lemon Creek supplied the water for the camp and great fishing for rainbow trout. The lake also offered cool respite in the summer and an ice rink in the winter. On the East side of the camp, Anderson's Hill formed a natural boundary separating the camp from other surrounding farmland. It was used as a ski and toboggan hill in the winter by all the Japanese kids in the Internment camp. The surrounding

mountains also provided plenty of wood for the Japanese men to cut to use as fuel for their homes, in the camp.

Tsuma had to endure the hardships of life caring for her four children and her mother-in-law. The six of them lived in a tiny three room shack on 56-Gillian Ave. The house was made out of wood and tar paper. There was no electricity and water was shared. It had to be pumped out of a reservoir from the outside, and then hauled back to their house in buckets. They had an outhouse.

Cooking was done on a wood stove. There was a stove in each of the rooms to keep the rooms warm during winter. Everyone knew John's mom was alone without her husband so some neighbours living in the camp shared their food. There was one grocery store in the camp, where they could buy their supplies. However, Tsuma could hardly make ends meet on the forty-dollars a month she received from the Government. She was able to make bread, cook fish and rice. In the summer things were a bit easier as they were able to grow some of their own vegetables, such as radishes and beans.

The winters were harsh and cold. The mattresses were filled with straw. Imagine the fear the families felt knowing that they did not stand a change if one spark from the wood stove got loose.

The summers can be very hot in The Kootanays. The children swam in the nearby Slocan Lake every chance they got. John recalls, one day in the summer of 1942 he and two of his friends decided to take a dip in the lake to cool off wearing nothing on but their birthday suits. Suddenly, a bear swam up behind them. They didn't notice the bear at first, but when they did they got so scared they all grabbed their clothes and ran as fast as they could down the railroad tracks still only wearing their birthday suits.

There was a school in the Lemon Creek Camp. John attended grade one to grade five in Lemon Creek before the war ended in 1945.



Lemon Creek School

The War Ending

Moichiro returned to join his family from the road camp in Angler, Ont. He came home with a suitcase that he was proud to have made in camp. It didn't go over very well with Tsuma, since she was the one who had to take care of the children and face all the hardships by herself for four years while he was away.

It wouldn't be until 1949, four years after the war ended, that the Japanese families were released and could live anywhere they chose. They were given two choices. They could stay in Canada or go back to Japan.



Aunt Sue

Moichiro chose to take his family back to Japan. They had nothing left here in Canada and Grandmother's house was still standing in bomb-stricken Japan. His sister, Sue, and her family also decided to return to Japan.

The family gathered up the little dignity they had left and boarded a big ship for the long journey back to Japan. It took a month to get there. John was twelve years old.

Life in Japan

Life wasn't going to be easy for the Tonomura family. They left with nothing to start over with. They arrived in Japan only to find more hardship facing them.

John remembered when they arrived in Japan young men and women from the Japanese Government were giving out rations', which consisted of a hard

cookie and a bowl of rice to the Japanese families as they disembarked from the ship.

The Tonomura family had to board a train to get to their village in Kondo, Japan, where Grandma's house was. Even the train was a mess, with all the windows of the train bombed out. They had to cover their faces with scarves and handkerchiefs, as the soot from the coal's black smoke came into the train.

John's siblings, George, Betty and Jean all found work shortly after arriving in Japan. John still



Grandma's House in Kondo, Japan

had to finish school. Jobs were plentiful as everything had to be rebuilt. George, Betty and Jean were lucky to all find work at the US Occupational Army Base. Betty and Jean found work as secretaries. They also found their perspective husbands. Betty fell in love with Maurice Barksdale, a First Class Sergeant, in the US Army. Jean met and fell in love with Bob Herndon. He was a Corporal in the US Army.



Betty and Barky

Before they were married George, Betty and Jean would often bring their new friends home after work. They would invite, Maurice Barksdale, Bob Herndon and their other friend Alex home for dinner at the Tonomura house. (Mama) Tsuma would make Sukiyaki for dinner, since it was a cheap beef and vegetable hot pot, it went a long way when feeding a crowd. Life was slowly becoming normal for the family once again. There was laughter once again. Still, there were many more challenges to come. In time, George, Betty, and Jean were all married in Japan before coming back to the United States and Canada. George married Kinko Yabuki, they have five children, two sons and three daughters. Betty married Maurice Barksdale, nicknamed (Barky) from Georgia. They have three children, one son and two daughters. Since Barky

was still in the US Army, he was stationed all over the US. Therefore, all three of their children were born in various States in the USA. When Barky finally retired from the US Army, sometime in the 1950s, the young family decided to settle down in Redmond, Washington State. Jean married Bob Herndon from North Carolina; they have three boys including a set of twins. Their family also settled in the Seattle, Washington. Kinko returned to Canada with her family to be reunited with husband George in 1957.



Family Photo shortly after the War

John's Life in Japan

John was the youngest of his siblings. John was like an only child at home with Mama and Papa when his older siblings left home and were busy working in Tokyo. He was very close to his Mama and Papa while he was growing up, especially his Mama.

Mama and Papa made sure their younger son, John, would not have to suffer the monstrosities they did. They decided to put the past behind them and started to rebuild their lives again after the Second World War.

As a young man Moichiro studied to be a merchant in his little town of Kondo, Japan, a skill he would eventually need to help him survive in his own life. Moichiro tried to provide for his family best he could. He mostly was self-employed. Moichiro started a small grocery store. He kept employed by anything from stringing pearls to making yogurt, often just making enough to keep the wolves away from the door. Many times his creditors came knocking at the door.

John started Junior High School the same year they went back to Japan. It was very hard for him to start school, in a strange country that he didn't grow up in. Although he could converse in Japanese, he wasn't used to writing it. He was Canadian born. He only knew how to write in English. Math was also difficult for him, as he wasn't used to the Japanese version. It would take a lot of courage and perseverance to get through his high school years.

He started in grade seven. All the children wore uniforms, but not all wore the same uniforms. There were different uniforms for the rich families and uniforms for the poor or middle class families. John's family fell into the later. The rich kids wore expensive warm woolen uniforms, while the poor kids wore cheap brown and thin not so warm uniforms. They all wore black caps on their heads as part of their uniforms. The rich kids were a little snobbish and made fun of the poor kids.

Some of his classmates made fun of John, laughing at him when he didn't understand what the teacher was asking him in Japanese. That changed when it was their turn to learn English. He was the head of the class.



Tadaka and John



John's High School Picture

One day after school in the playground, during break time, a bigger rich boy pushed John down in the snow. He got up and as the boy was walking away laughing, John came up behind him and push him in the snow. Everyone was watching, including a boy named Tadaka.

Tadaka was in the same class as John. After that day in the playground, no one messed with John again. Tad and John developed their own circle of friends. Their friendship would take them all through their high school years. They were always visiting each other houses. Both families knew each other well through the boys. Their friendship would remain intact for another seventy years. They are still friends today and even in their golden years they talk and laugh about when they were young students and how much fun they had in Japan so very long ago.

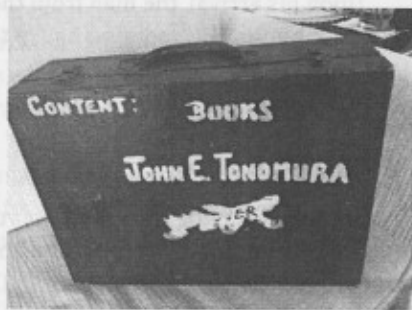
John graduated from Echigawa High School, in Shiga, Japan, in 1954.

Returning to Canada

One day a man came to Japan for a visit. John's dad knew this man and asked him over for a visit to his home, in Shiga, Japan. They started talking about John going back to Vancouver. It turned out that the friend knew of someone who owned a Trading Company on Powell Street who could maybe help John out with a job and a place to stay. The plan turned out to be very successful.

His sister Jean sent him five hundred dollars for the ship's fare and this shy Japanese man, just twenty-one years old, left Japan to set out on a journey to discover his homeland and birthplace. Leaving his mama was the hardest. When he left he made a promise to her and his papa that he was going to send for them as soon as he was able. Now, he was all alone to take on the task of finding his own path in life just like his grandfather Senjiro did before him. No doubt John could handle it and he proved he could, as we will learn through his story.

John remembers the day he left Japan and boarded the Ship that would bring him back home, to Vancouver BC, Canada, the place where he was born and forced to leave. With one suitcase and little money in his wallet he was Canada bound.



John's Suitcase

The ship John boarded was not like the luxury cruise ships we travel on today instead they were very low standard. The first-class ticket passengers were put on the upper decks, whereas the economy ticket passengers, such as John were put on the lower decks. The first-class passengers could afford more of the luxury of having better and more comfortable accommodations. John and his fellow passengers were quite the opposite, they didn't have good accommodations, but he remembers they could still go to the same dining room as the first-class people, just not at the same time. The trip itself, took about two weeks.



John and George

The past is the past and what is important is that the Tonomura family survived. John was returning to Canada to finish what his grandfather Senjiro intended. John never met his grandfather, he died before John was born, but John has some of his traits.

One in particular, Grandfather, Senjiro always was known to have a broom in his hand, always sweeping the city sidewalk in front of his property, sweeping the inside of his boarding house he owned on Powell St. John's aunt Sue, told us the story about her father, Senjiro's trait and then everyone realized, that John too had the same trait as his grandfather. Just like his grandfather he was pretty handy with a broom, always keeping things tidy and clean. I remember his favourite broom was a corn broom. He used to tell me it worked the best for sweeping the sidewalk.

Upon his arrival, the man from the Trading Company met John at the Vancouver Pier and took him to the rooming house they owned on Powell Street. That was the start of John's lifelong stay in Canada.

Life in Canada

It wasn't easy having the world on your shoulders at twenty-one. John had one mission that was to keep his promise and to make enough money to buy a house in hopes of bringing his Mama and Papa back to Canada, so they would all be together again.

His first job was a Glove factory. He was making gloves. It didn't pay much and was too repetitious for him, but it gave him some work experience. He now had a little money to move out of his friend's rooming house on Powell Street.

John moved to Carolina Street in East Vancouver, a little basement suite apartment he rented, it wasn't much to write home about, but it was a place he could call his own. After a few more dead end jobs, he was offered a job at Coleman Furniture, a furniture factory in 1961. While working there he gained experience as a spray painter, painting

furniture. He soon found out he was pretty good at it. It certainly was more lucrative and more satisfying than making gloves.

One day while still working at Coleman Furniture, a man by the name of Terry Harvey a paint representative for all the factories at that time, told John of a Kitchen Cabinet Factory just starting up in Richmond, BC. They were looking for a painter. John followed that lead.

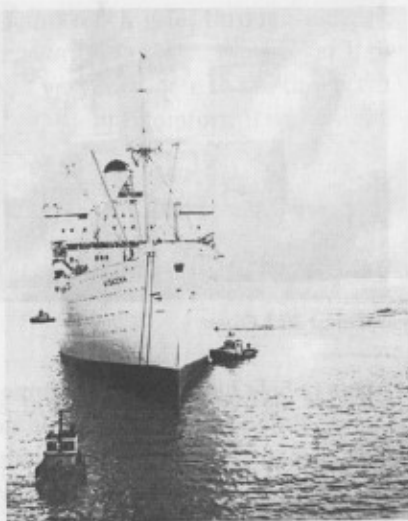
It became the best move he ever made. He started working at Enterprise Woodworking in 1966. The name was later changed to Citation Cabinets. The company became one of the largest Kitchen Cabinet Industries in the 1970s.

He worked diligently to make enough money to bring his parents back from Japan. In the meantime, George, his older brother came back to Vancouver in 1967, to find work and to build a life for his family here. John and George decided to buy a house on Fraser Street. They would share all the expenses. With George's help, John now had the foundation he needed to fulfill his dream and commitment of what he was working so hard to achieve. The two brothers could now finally call their parents over from Japan.

Back in Japan John's parents were just starting to make money from a yogurt business they had started. They were getting older and it was time to stop work and join their family in North America. They sold the yogurt business and came back to Canada.

The year was 1968. They arrived by ship, the Arcadia. Moichiro was still in his sixties and not ready for retirement. Tsuma, in her sixties, was still able to cook for her family. The four of them would live in the little house on Fraser Street until George's family could come to join the growing Tonomura family.

John still wanted to find a forever home for him and his parents. John was still single at thirty years old. One day, Moichiro decided to go for a walk around the neighbourhood. He came across a house being built on 30th Avenue, not far from Fraser. He thought, "That's a mighty fine looking house."



Ship Arcadia

He couldn't wait for dinner time to announce his find to the family. John got interested too and made an inquiry into the new house. It looked like it was going to be a pretty big house when finished. There were three bedrooms, living room, dining room kitchen and one bathroom upstairs and an unfinished basement down with a carport. He asked the builders who to get in contact with. The next day, John went to the bank to see if he qualified for a mortgage. They said he did. He was now a homeowner at the age of thirty.



971 East 30th Fraser

Just before they were to move into the new house, Tsuma got sick. She had a stroke, at the age of sixty-four. She was hospitalized for a while. John went to see her every day. She was not happy. Father and son arranged to bring her home to take care of her. John and his dad would have to make huge adjustments in their lives. Mom always did the cooking and cleaning. Now they had to learn how to cook under mom's teachings. It was hard on both of them. John went to work all day and came

home to help his dad. They became pretty good cooks and cleaning the house too.

As time went on mom could no longer get by without John and her husband's help. This was an amazing family. Together just the two of them looked after her. John devoted his life to his mom. His father never left his wife's side. She was confined indoors for fourteen years, until her death at the age of seventy-eight. She died at home in her sleep.

John took his mom passing very hard. He had his mom every step of the way throughout his life.

I remember her as a kind and gracious lady. She couldn't speak or understand English, but she and I conversed in our own language, through gestures and smiles. We got along very well, I think she saw me as a good choice for her son. In fact, before she died she gave John her blessing to marry me. That was the best wedding gift we could ever have received.

After everything she's been through, the war, the internment years and the suffering she endured, they tell me they never once heard her complain of any of it. She was a pioneer, a grand lady and an inspiration to us all.

Moichiro's comfortable retired life from 70 years of age was very short, owing to his wife's lengthy illness, he was occupied 24 hours a day in caring for her until her passing in 1976. During that time, he started attending church. That is when he met Rev. Yokohama who had moved from Toronto to Vancouver to be a minister. Reverend Yokohama started a Japanese speaking congregation of the Vancouver Gospel Church. The Sunday morning service was held at Sunday school hall of the Reformed Episcopal Church.

The congregation started out with only two members, Mr. Soga and Mr. Tonomura. Moichiro accepted God as his personal saviour and was baptized at the Ward Memorial

Baptist Church in 1965. Tsuma had intended to be baptized at the same church, but she was in the Holy Family hospital and had to be baptized there on the same night.

It is quite rare for Japanese people to convert from another religion to Christianity after the age of 60, but spiritually had grown in him so fast. Until the age of 90, he attended the morning services almost every Sunday. Rev. Yokohama once said, "He was a model Christian and a spiritual hero in our church."

No doubt he experienced many, many hardships and much grief through difficult times, socially, domestically, and economically through World War I and World War II to this technically advanced age. You could say that he was very fortunate to see the world mature into a place where most people are able to live in peace and comfort. It was always his dream.

We will truly miss him, but we know we can meet him again in heaven. Jesus said that "I am the resurrection at the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die".

Our Story

John and I met in 1968, on the job at Citation Cabinets, in Richmond, BC. We got married on December 8, 1979.

I met John on the job site at Citation Cabinets. It was my first day on the job. My girlfriend Iris had recommended the job to me, as I was always at dead end jobs. Iris took me under her wing and showed me around the work shop during coffee break and introduced me to all her co-workers, one of them was John.

I could see right away that he stood out from the rest. He was working in a booth all by himself. The rest of the people were all working on an assembly line like me and Iris. John had a sweet smile as my friend introduced us. He shook my hand, real gentleman style. He was a little overweight, but he was rather cute. He looked like a little butter ball. He was a shy person and couldn't quite look me in the eye. I think he liked me though. He was wearing blue coveralls for protection from the painting he was doing. John was the chief painter Iris told me. But he didn't look like a painter, his coveralls and hands and face were clean as a whistle. All the painters, I met in my life had more paint on themselves than on the product they were painting. This man was a professional, I thought to myself. First impressions usually last forever.

Iris, my best and only friend at the time, was a cute twenty-five year old woman with naturally red curly hair, a slim build and a nice personality. I loved being around her as she would bring out the best in me. I was proud to be seen with her. Iris already was going steady with a tall good looking man named Ken. They eventually got married and had two children.



John

I was just twenty-three years old when I started this new job at Enterprise in 1968. On my first day of work, I showed up wearing a mini dress and black stockings. It was the first job I had working in woodworking factory. At all my other jobs, I had I worked in clothing or fabric shops so I always wore a dress to go work. However, this was a different kind of work and I was about to find out, not from the bosses, but from my co-worker John, what I should dress like when coming to work here. He didn't tell me himself, rather he told Iris to let me know to wear slacks or jeans the following work day. Suddenly, I was a little turned off by my freshly found friend, John. Over the weekend, I thought it over and wore the appropriate apparel. John later told me that mini dress and black stockings won him over. We often looked back on that moment and laughed about it.

As the days continued, John and I became very good friends and co-workers. I had a lot of problems in my life at that period. I was going through a separation from my first husband. I had a little girl to raise. Sometimes, my life seemed like it was spiraling out of control. It was fate that brought me to that job I'm sure, fate because I met John. I had no idea how my life was about to change from that day forward. I liked it there, eventually, although sometimes I felt like quitting. It wasn't an easy job, but I hung in there. All my fingers were bleeding the first week I was there, sanding those doors. I thought my fingers were going to fall off. Iris was pregnant with her and Ken's first child and was going to quit work. Around that same time, I was on the lay-off list. Iris being the good friend she was suggested to our boss that she take the lay off and they keep me in her place. They agreed and it worked out fine. We came up with new ways to save my fingers from bleeding, like taping them with masking tape every few hours as now they were cutting off my circulation. I and my fingers toughened up and survived in that old kitchen cabinet shop for twenty long years.

John and I worked side by side sometimes. I was his helper most of the time after getting promoted from my assembly line duties. I would sand the kitchen cabinets doors and other components for John to paint. We were a pretty good team and he would tell me what a good worker I was. He gave me confidence and gave me self-esteem. There were times when I was down on myself, a lot.

John was a good listener. We got along like two peas in a pod. He just didn't quite know how to ask me out on a date though. He was overly shy in that department when it came to women.

We came up with a plan though, we found out our birthdays fell in the same month and five days of each other. So we decided to go out on our birthdays which were in April. Only trouble was, something always came up every time we wanted to go. It took five

years before that date came around. Finally, one April we celebrated our birthdays together.

I got a divorce from Fred in 1976. I was on my own now with my daughter Kim.

John and I decided to see each other more regularly, but each of us had responsibility with looking after our two families. It was hard to get together, relax and talk. Most of our talking was at work on lunch hours and coffee breaks. With half-hour lunches and fifteen-minute coffee time, there wasn't much talking going on. We both smoked and we had to get our cigarette in that half hour as well. John had a heavy load at home. His mom and dad were getting older and his mother was not well from having her stroke. John was their caregiver and main support. I was a single mom and had my responsibilities as well.

He brought me home one day to meet his mom and dad. I fell in love with this humble Japanese family. I understood John more and grew to know how caring and kind this person really was. His mom and dad were kind to me. They made me feel comfortable in their home on 971 E. 30th Street.

When John's mom died in 1976, his world changed forever. For the first two or three years, he grieved every day. That's the kind of person he was. I felt bad for him. His mother was his whole world. I don't think he ever got over her.

During that time, I stood by him. I was there the moment I learned of his mother's passing. I stood outside my apartment one morning and wondered why he wasn't picking me up to go to work. I went back up to my apartment to phone him, there were no cell phones in those days. John picked up and that's when he told me the news. I knew he was in a bad way by the sound of his voice. I called work for the two of us stating we were taking the day off. Our boss was very sympathetic and gave me and John all the time we needed. When I got to their house, I found both John and his Dad in shock.

Now it was just John and his dad sharing the house. Dad was getting older. It was getting hard for him to get around since his bad knee was giving him the business, ever since that sawmill accident when he was a kid. I remember him always wearing an apron in the house. That was his trade mark, and when he went outside he wore a gentleman's hat. I thought John's dad was very cool, especially when he suggested me and John move in together, when we finally announced we were getting married. Dad said we could save money for our wedding.

Soon I met the rest of the family, his sisters Betty and Jean and brother, George and his family who just lived around the block. I remember meeting Betty and Jean for the first time, I was pretty nervous, but they made me feel welcomed. To this day, I am proud to be their sister-in-law and best friends. I always felt that at last I had a forever family with the Tonomura family.

Six months later we had saved enough money to have our wedding. The ceremony took place at Ruth Morton Baptist Church, December 8, 1979. The reception was at the house we lived in on 30th Ave. It was a moment I shall not forget as long as I live. After saying our vows, Rev. Yokohama barely finished what he was saying before John took me by the hand and ran with me as fast as he could out the church doors, with me trying to keep up in my high heels.

Our honeymoon in Hawaii was memorable. It was like a fairytale come true.

Our life began like any other newly married couple. We had more dreams than money could afford. Lucky we were mature enough to figure out what we were doing. With both of us working we paid off John's first house on 30th and Fraser Street.



Our Wedding Day December 8, 1979

Around 1980 we were introduced to a little job called home stay. It had just started taking off in Canada. Young people from Japan and other countries would come to Canada to study English. They could come and stay in people's homes in Canada for a year providing they had a Working Holiday Visa. We offered them a place to board and room.

So in the fall of 1980, we got our first home stay, his name was Hiroshi. He was only nineteen years old and it was his first time away from his homeland of Japan. He was a nice boy, very humble and polite. We enjoyed his stay with us so much that we decided to make this home stay business our life's work. We decided to take it one step further sell and buy another house so we could take in more students. We needed more space for them.

Soon we had a whole house full. We balanced our work at Citation and were still able to run a tight ship at home. It took lots of work. Honestly I don't know how we did it.

We didn't have any children of our own, so becoming a Host Family fulfilled our lives in many ways and brought us much happiness. We mostly took in girls after Hiroshi and two other boys. We became very close to most of them and brought them into our home as part of our extended family. We pride ourselves on being a good host mom and dad. It kept us young and happy. To this day we keep in touch with many of them. They never forget their time they spent with us and all the fun we had. Through the years there were more birthday cakes went through that house and more turkeys than we could count. We celebrated everything and everyone. We learned a lot from one another by having long

conversations and group sessions, in English of course. Four of our home stay girls stayed in Canada and married Canadian men. We now have one big happy family.

John's Interests

John didn't have any hobbies to speak of, but he had a lot of interests. John loved cars. A passion he and his uncle Gaichi shared.



John's Beetle

He had about seven or eight different cars in his lifetime. His first car when he was in his twenties was a corvette, John always used to tell me it was his dream car. His dream car turned into a nightmare soon after he got it when the engine failed him on his way home one day. Next he bought a Volkswagen Beetle. He loved that car and used to take his mom and dad all over whenever they needed to go, shopping and church. He then bought a Datsun truck, that's when I met him.

He used to pick me up and take me on a date or for dinner or just drive around on the weekends. One winter in the seventies, we had lots of snow in Vancouver. We got feeling a little mischievous and did donuts in the snow on a hilly deserted road. The back of the truck was light weight so it could spin around easy. We never did it again though for fear next time we could get caught. It was against the law to do that. Young people! We had lots of fun with his little green Dotson truck. It also transported us to work and back. It was very reliable. After we got married he gave up the old Datsun truck which was seeing its days come to an end. He then bought a Mazda truck. It was brown with an orange trim. It too served us well for a few years. He got tired of it and traded it in.

We thought it would be cool to own a camper and go camping trips. Neither one of us were campers, but this camper was unique. It was just new on the market the in 1990 and we just had to have it. John especially liked it and I liked it too when we first saw it in the Volkswagen showroom. It was all white and inside it had all the comforts of home, a fridge, stove, even captain chairs that could turn around if you want to eat at the table. That was my idea of going camping. It had a pop-up roof. We never used the stove. We went out to eat. Our friends laughed at us. We went camping twice and with the price of gas rising we soon realized it didn't suit our needs at all. We sold it to a well to do couple from Alberta, because it was expensive. They gave the right asking price and even came to hand us the cheque in person arriving in a limo no less. I often wonder if they still own it, not that I want it back. Or maybe it is worth a lot more money these days as they discontinued making that model camper awhile back.

Followed by a couple of Ford Escapes, one of them we owned until this year 2015. Another interest John had—he was a very good sketcher; I just couldn't get him to pursue it further

The other interest he liked was fishing, not game fishing. He used to go to Daisy Lake up near Whistler BC. It was just a small lake, well known at that time for fishing and not too busy. He would take up his little nine-foot aluminum boat and spend hours there. He took me once. He also liked to take me smelt fishing down at Jericho Beach. I just to love watching him fish for smelts with his big wader boots and coveralls. After filling up his bucket with smelts we would take them home to fry up and have a feast of smelts and cohon (Japanese rice). That's how I got introduced to eating all kinds of fish.

He took up dancing when he was about 30 years old. It is said and remembered by his sister Jean that he took up dancing for two reasons, one was to get up his confidence and to overcome his shyness and the other maybe most important of all was for my benefit, so he could ask me out to go dancing. We did go out on the weekends to dances. He was a very good dancer, me not so much. He took up ballroom dancing but I still liked to dance rock & roll. He tried to show me some ballroom dancing steps, but I could never get it right. He worked his way up to a Bronze certificate from Fred Astaire Studios. He confessed he went through hell to get there. He had to dance with professional lady dancers and put on shows late at night and still go to work the next day. I feel really privileged to be part of his plan for taking the lessons. Next we went for lessons to take up Disco. We had a lot of fun.

John and I kept our vows, commitments, our love, our faith for 36 years. Sadly, John lost his fight with Esophagus Cancer at age 80 on September 18, 2015

He had ability to show kindness to others. To treat people in a way he liked to be treated. He is remembered for his humbleness, generosity, honesty, compassion and his caring towards his family and all who knew him. He will be forever loved by his family and friends. He was and always will be my HERO, MY JOHNNY.

ANGEL "May His Spirit Live within all of us who knew and loved him.

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