

# Acts of Ownership Interview

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## “At least he had cash”

**Betty (b. 1925) recalls her father’s quick thinking in 1942. He withdrew his money from his bank accounts and insurance policies and gave the cash to Betty’s mother, who used it throughout the internment years.**

**Excerpt from a Landscapes of Injustice oral history interview with Betty Toyota and Joy Trapnell.**

JOY TRAPNELL

Tell the story about the money. About grandpa, your father and how he knew and he took all the money and gave it to grandma.

BETTY TOYOTA

Well I told you that didn’t – Oh the money, when the war started my dad knew right away. You know how rumors go around? That they were going to get all the Japanese nationals because they were enemy aliens and they were going to round them up and deport them. Japan. So naturally the first thing that my dad thought was the money. So he went [and] took all his money out of the bank; I think there were two banks he dealt with. Took all the money out of the bank and then he had three insurance policies on his life. Got all the money out of the insurance policy because he lost quite a bit too, right? But at least he had the cash. And then he was going to sell his house and get the money, but by that time, they had frozen all the Japanese [assets]; they froze the houses, right? So he couldn’t get the money. But what we didn’t know was that my mother, all during that time she carried all this cash with her. And that’s how we were able to buy a few things and all that.