

Mrs. Theresa Hotoru Matsudaira

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To the Seattle JACL:

My name is Hotoru Matsudaira. My baptismal name is Theresa. I was born in 1902 and am now 79 years old. My husband, Thomas Tokuhisa Matsudaira, brought me to America around July 24, 1921. Since the time I was a little girl, I had had a great desire to see America. I breathed the air of the great land of America and considered my joys and sorrows as blessings.

Before I had children, to learn English I went to work as a waitress at the Matsuba Restaurant on Main Street so I could start to work as a chambermaid at a hotel. After I learned a little English, I worked at the Rose Cafe also on Main Street.

My eldest son, John, was born in 1922. Then Michael, Francis and James were born so I became very busy. Next, my eldest daughter, Paulene, was born. The year after Mary Elizabeth was born, that dreadful Japanese-American War (World War II) began on December 8, 1941, at Pearl Harbor.

Relationships between Japan and America had absolutely no connection between the Japanese and the second generation Japanese in America, but we became like people who fell off a cliff and wandered in the mud. We, with so many children, began our frightful and tearful life.

My husband worked as a foreman for a long time at the Codiak Company, a salmon cannery, and he was well known as Tommy. He was well loved by the white people of the town. He loved baseball, and as soon as a boat reached Codiak, he played ball with the people on the boat and the Japanese. When canning season was finished, he took four or five Japanese with him and worked for a Japanese oyster company as an opener on an Indian reservation.

With the beginning of the war, Japanese people were not permitted to leave Seattle, but an Indian chief came down for him. Tommy worked until the middle of March of the next year. One night, however, about seven big men with sticks came and told him to get out of there. Indians would suffer great losses because the oyster-opening season had begun, but Tommy did not want anyone injured, so he came home.

We learned that Japanese people in Alaska, Seattle and Bainbridge Island were to be moved and made to live a community life together in Puyallup, but at first we did not believe it. However, with an order from the United States Army, Japanese quietly took just small amounts of luggage and went into the Puyallup assembly center. My family with nine children departed beloved Seattle on May 18, 1941, and entered Puyallup. After that our happy family life was all broken up. We retired every night with the ten o'clock bugle, but I could not sleep from thinking of the children's future and the deep sorrow in my heart.

In the latter part of August my husband left with the children for a camp in the desert of Idaho. Mrs. Chiseko Nagaishi and I remained behind in Puyallup to deliver our babies. To deliver the baby fast, according to army orders I was given two little white tablets and castor oil every morning. I tried for three days, but there was no sign of the baby coming so the doctor decided to stop the medicine and for me to go to Idaho to have the baby.

However, the next morning, which was the day before serious patients and we were to move to Idaho, a nurse came with three pills and castor oil. So I told her the doctor told me to stop taking medicine, but the nurse said, "This is a military order, so you should take it." I explained to the doctor what had happened when he came. He said, "What shall we do?"

I was very much worried. I did not want the baby to be born on the train. I could not do anything - not even eat. So I went to the shower room. The fire was still smoldering so I added three shovelful of coal. I waited a while. Then I went into the shower and took a cold shower, then a hot shower. I repeated this three or four times. I went outside and ran for three blocks. When I passed in front of the hospital, everyone was looking at me, frightened.

About half past four, labor started. I ran into the hospital and checked on the frequency of the labor pain myself. I went to the delivery room a little before eight and had a baby girl at 8:15 p.m. I was very happy and thankful.

The next morning at 6:00, I boarded the train on a stretcher and went to Eden, Idaho. I was admitted to the hospital, but there was no bedpan and for that had to wait for three hours. I wondered if strong Indians did things like this, too.

Three years later we were allowed to leave camp if we wished. We had a house in Seattle, poor as it was, so on March 14, 1945, we came home with our new baby and a 90 year old may who came from Yamaguchi-ken Japan, whom we had met through our friend.

When we reached home, the house had been burglarized and there was not a thing left. All the beds were gone -- the rest of the furniture, the kitchen range, even the electric extension cords were all gone.

Father Clement, who brought us home, said, "This is really war."

Three daughters and I were taken in by Maryknoll Sisters. Mother Superior of Providence Hospital gave us a bed for the old man. My husband and the boys slept on the floor for three months.

There was no range to cook on, so I had to prepare meals on an electric plate burner which was very difficult.

The older boys and my husband searched for jobs only to find signs, "Object to Japs." So they went to the W.R.A. office for assistance.

I shall stop this letter here. If you do not approve of what I have written, please throw it away.

My eldest son volunteered for the 442nd RCT from Minidoka, and he received a serious wound in Italy. He was in the Veteran's Hospital in Chicago at this time. My second son, Michael, was in the occupational army in Japan. He pasted a Star 2 picture in the window and put a badge on his front, and finally started to work at Providence Hospital.

After the war, all nine sons served in the Navy, Army, or Air Force.

We sent all 12 children to Catholic school and taught them to keep their balance and stay on their course in peace as well as in troubled times. We as parents watched them carefully and prayed with them.

I am already 79 years old. My husband died 30 years ago.

My fervent wish is that without racial discrimination everyone who was born in this country love and help each other. May young people unite their strength and do their best for this great country.

Please continue the course the first generation took; that is, honesty, diligence, and patience. God will surely bless you.

~~Signed,~~

(signed in original, untranslated statement)

Hotoru Matsudaira

シヤトル市 JACし

私は松平ほとりと申し申す洗礼の名は

ツリーヤと申し申す一九〇三年生れで七十九才

丁卯一九一〇年七月辛酉良人松平徳久

に連れられアメリカにまゐり申す小女の故上

りあこがれ居たアメリカ大陸的空氣をいつば

胸に受けし苦ししみも七世にも申すに思ふ居

りあこがれ居た居た頃ホテルメートスタート

に英語が出来ないからメレストリートの松葉食

店にウエトレス少い言葉がわかるように存せらる

同をストリートのロースカフエーに御きまゝに

一九二〇年長男ジャックが生れ次はニオアマイ

が生れ三男フランシス生れかうジエリス大い

しく成り長女ポーリン次女ナリーザベスの生れ

年おそろしい一九二二年十月日米戦争と真

球湾に初あり在米日本人は国と国とあかんけ

いは何も日本人及び二世も関係ないので崖から

れ落ち土沼の中をさまよふ計じぬ民となりは

多くの子供を持つた私たちは嬉しき泣の生活が初

まり申す主人松平は長年アラスカ鮭キャナリー

コイヤグ会社つきシヤワクペーのホームを

タミで白人にも愛されベースポール好き

タミはアラスカスカー4気船がつくと船

日本人と遊ばし

4.5.人連れてインディアンのリザベ

日本オシターのオプナーとして御ソ

まゝに開戦と共に日本人シヤトルより

なかつたのがインディアンのキープが

翌年三月中旬御きまゝにたがある

な体格の七人くらい皆ステッキ持

タウンとの事インディアンはオシター

りて日本人やめられたら困るが怪我

大変だからオライナーやめり帰る

やアラスカベブリキ等に住む日本人

らあピヤロツプに一時集団生活させ

事初めはほととろにせなかつたの

名令によろし静かな人なぞわす

てキヤブエ行初め我家も9人の

の身重な私と十一人家族下5月

かしいシヤトルと別れピヤロツプ

り楽しい家延生活もろろれを

軍のラッパで寝入るが悲しみ身

子供たちの行末を考へ自命の身

共に眠られたい日がつじきま

頃アラスカ州のサハラの中に

皆移住する事になり主人は

先きに出発私と二世と長

着き病院に入りありたが便器がなかりある時

程より之を借りまゝに強いのびでい

な事しをせうか三年後帰りたい人は出所

してせむいとの事になりヤハルに合点しいながら

家がありありたから三月十日頃キヤンプで友達

から紹介された90歳の山口果人のおじいさんをキ

ヤンプに残しし出発するのにお愛をうけやうに

に連てキヤンプで産れたべいしをたりに出発しま

したあつたしい我家へ着きまゝ左う家の中は何

もなく8室にあつたベッドもろくつウクストーブ

もウクンから清之電気のシートもなはずしし

カーテンもあつたこの皆盗難にあいキヤンプから心配し

て一緒についできこ下まつたクレマント神文称は

これほよとくに事戦争でまねと云はれまゝ左私

と娘三人とべいしはメリールリスターカレベントに

休ませて頂き90歳のおじいさんはプロビデンス病院の

マアサーニスター称よりベッド頂き老人を休ませ

主人ボレー達フロワで三月寒夜を休みまゝ左

ストップがなかり小さいナイターフルフウリストロ

皆の食事をもこゝろ之儀に大変でゝ左又大き

名命により早くお産させるため毎朝

小さい白の薬とキヤヌキカイムをのみ三日

つてみなが少しもお産けつかないためドクター

薬のむのやめんアイン木へ行つてお産す

きめられまゝ左がよよく明日朝重症

と私をウチでする前朝3個の薬とき

イル持つて着産婦より左故ドクター

やめると云はれたと申したりこれ軍

名命ながら飲むお産との事私はおそれ

なく飲ませたがドクターこうられたから

申したり困りまゝ左と云はれ病院

出発のためその用意に忙しく私は少しも

つかない明朝気車の中や子供が産

は大変と云はれ心配倉庫も何もせな

ルークに行火がまゝ左ストーブにあつたから

フルで3ヤツル入れしはううまあ

にひつて初め水をかぶり次あつくあつた

をかぶり三四度くり返してそれから外

3つうわ程を走り病院の前を通

さん驚いて見えていつのしやまゝ左や

羊過ころ産けを感じて病院へかけ

タイリを着してル時近くに手術室

に

ナカ合にかールベビーをれ誠にうれしく感

新の長男は、ニドカキカクより42に  
 入隊、イタリヤへ重傷を受け、當時病院  
 シカゴに居り、ある二男は、陸軍へ  
 日本に進駐する為、~~カク~~（スター）に  
 ビックヤを、インゴトに、胸に、147  
 リン、おち、プロビンス、病院に、御き、初め  
 主戦、戦場の子供、九人、海軍、陸軍、空軍  
 とつとめ、おし、た、子供、十二人、カトリック、学校  
 に、入学、平和な時、如何なる事、おき、この自  
 分の、コース、を、おま、ら、な、機、教育、に、逆意  
 深く、親、此、緒、にお、祈、り、た、し、た、る、利、も、う  
 七、九、大、至、人、は、十、三、年、前、の、世、を、去、り、た、ら、れ  
 の、願、い、は、人、種、偏、見、な、く、こ、の、國、に、生、れ、た、人、は、お  
 互、に、愛、し、あ、い、助、け、あ、い、た、ら、せ、よ、こ、の、お、ま、ら、い、國  
 の、た、め、に、力、を、合、せ、一、生、命、を、争、つ、た、る、意、思  
 て、共、に、考、察、力、を、願、い、た、一、世、が、途、お、み、た  
 正、直、勤、勉、忍、耐、愛、の、心、を、下、さ、い、神、様、を、祝、し、祝  
 福、を、お、ま、せ、り、  
 杉、平、ぼ、と、る

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