

Densho Digital Repository
Japanese American Service Committee (JASC) and
Chicago Japanese American Historical Society (CJAHS)
Oral History Project Collection
Title: Hiroki Kimiko Keaveney Interview
Narrator: Hiroki Kimiko Keaveney
Interviewer: Anna Takada
Location:
Date: September 2, 2017
Densho ID: ddr-chi-1-3-3

<Begin Segment 3>

AT: 00:10:27 I'm wondering if we could, uh, because I love getting into the zone -

HK: 00:10:35 Oh to focus on family.

AT: 00:10:36 Well just, um, just to go through

HK: 00:10:37 Chronologically?.

AT: 00:10:39 Yeah. Kind of like where they were at and like who.

HK: 00:10:42 Sure.

AT: 00:10:42 And who your family is? So we, so we can have that and then get into the -

HK: 00:10:48 the bigger questions. Okay.

AT: 00:10:49 Yes, yes.

HK: 00:10:49 Yeah. Oh yeah. Cause it's, that's the whole purpose of this is to connect. Okay.

AT: 00:10:53 Well just, and so I know too, because I, yeah, I would love to have just some more context.

HK: 00:11:00 Sure.

AT: 00:11:00 So -

HK: 00:11:02 What camp they were in?

AT: 00:11:04 Yeah. So, so your grandmother and your grandfather, um -

HK: 00:11:08 They met in Japan. My grandma's an immigrant.

HK: 00:11:12 Yeah. So I'll just talk about my American family and then I'll talk about them being in Japan and then I'll talk about them coming to America, again. Okay, cool. Cool. Yeah, I know, I told you it's super complicated. And then my mom was adopted from Japan, so I'm just like, God I'm working it out like every day. I go to therapy, I go to - I have my crystal, like here I'll just like have it out now. But, um, yeah, it's hard when it's a complicated story and then being biracial too. But I think being biracial isn't that complicated in the Japanese American community because most of us are. But, um, but it wasn't going to say, so my family immigrated to the United States from Japan and I think in 1910 if I looked at the census information correctly, um, there was Anna, Arthur, um, Grace and Ben and those were the four siblings. And my grandfather's name is Arthur. And so my grandparents, or my great grandparents, I'm pretty sure my great grandfather was a landscaper and he made a lot of the gardens in Manzanar that they're like uncovering now, especially by the hospital and the hospital's where my grandfather worked. Um, and that's also where he worked in Tokyo. Uh, US military base too, was like in as a quarterly. I think that's what they're called, the people who clean up stuff in hospitals. Um, so anyways, so they were living in LA area. Um, I think it was, oh my God. Where were they living in LA. It will come to me - Whittier high school? So maybe in Whittier? I, I've tried to remember the different areas of LA.

<End Segment 3> - Copyright © 2017 Japanese American Service Committee (JASC) and Chicago Japanese American Historical Society (CJAHS). All Rights Reserved.