

Densho Digital Repository
Naoko Wake Collection of Oral Histories of US Survivors of the Atomic Bombs Collection
Title: Yuriko Furubayashi Interview
Narrator: Yuriko Furubayashi
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
Location: Kailua, Hawai'i
Date: June 21, 2013
Densho ID: ddr-densho-1021-7-2

<Begin Segment 2>

NW: So, tell me a little more about what your life was like when you were growing up.

YF: When I was growing up. Well, it was in a plantation, and my father works in a field and my mother used to take care of the kids, I guess, and sometimes she would help some of the single workers, you know, with laundry and stuff. She was very hardworking person. And I just ran around, I was only, before ten, right, with my brother, you know, my friends around the plantation, other kids. I'm just carefree, running around, you know. But when my aunt and uncle who didn't have, this is who's pictured so I thought maybe, might be. My aunt and uncle who, two sets of them, auntie and uncle, didn't have any children. So, see, this is my uncle and my . . . no auntie.

NW: Is this in the ship? It looks like it maybe on the ship.

YF: Long time ago. Yeah, 19 . . .

NW: Sasama-maru. Yeah, it must be.

YF: They used to go on a ship, you know? Go back and forth Japan. And then my parents' plantation, nine kids, you know, well, as I say, it wasn't unusual to have kids. Next door had eight kids, across the street, the other Japanese family had seven, eight kids or ten kids, you know?

NW: So, were they all people from Japan? They were just Hawai'i to work for . . .

YF: Contract workers, I guess.

NW: Contract workers, right. Yeah.

YF: That's what I heard. They recruit in Hiroshima; Hiroshima has the port, you know? So it was easy to get people from Hiroshima, you know, the farmers' boy or whatever, go and apply to come to America and work because I guess that Japan was worse than here. They didn't have too much job. My father's father was a small town *kōchō sensei*.

NW: Oh, he was.

YF: Yeah, educator, but my father, I don't know, they must have had a lot of kids, I know of more than five in the family, and, you know, was, I guess, depression or something, and he had to, you know, get employment elsewhere. He didn't have too much education, but you know, a few years, because the father was educator. I'm surprised he didn't have too much, he used to go work for this brewer close by. That's how my father and my mother got together. Anyway, so that was my father's family.

NW: So, your father came to Hawai'i around what year, do you know?

YF: I can't remember but it's, my oldest sister was born around ten years before me, so must have been 192 . . . , maybe around 1915.

NW: Right, yeah, right. How about your mother's side family?

YF: She came after a while. They kind of, the family knew each other.

NW: So, did they know each other while they were still . . .

YF: No, I don't think so. They didn't know. In Japan, they didn't know.

NW: Okay. So they got to know each other here.

YF: Well, the families said "Oh, you should go and get married to," you know, my father. Because they knew my father. My father, the family knew my father or something like that.

<End Segment 2> - Copyright © 2013 Densho and Naoko Wake. All Rights Reserved.