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Kyuhachi Nishii Papers

西井久八文書

**Filmed from originals in the possession
of Kenjiro Nishii, Yawatahama, Ehime, Japan**

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**Microfilmed by Image Tec Inc.
Ehime, Japan**

March, 1999

Kyuhachi Nishii Papers

Microfilm Inventory / Guide

Kyuhachi Nishii Papers consist of four series:

- I Biographies of Kyuhachi Nishii
- II Papers
- III Newspapers
- IV 52 photographs

All these papers and photographs are kept by Kyuhachi Nishii's grandson, Kenjiro Nishii, at Hirose, Yawatahama-city, Ehime prefecture, Japan.

Kyuhachi Nishii was born in Mukainada, Yanozaki-village, Nishiuwa-county (now Yawatahama-city, Ehime) on August 2, 1856. He died in Mitsukue-village, Nishiuwa-county on December 1, 1931.

Although the year of Kyuhachi's first arrival at the United States is unknown, he returned to Yawatahama temporarily in 1889. During his stay in Yawatahama, he married Miyo Ohashi and encouraged many young men to emigrate to the United States and lent them assistance. His action is regarded as an important stimulus to emigration from the Yawatahama area to the United States.

Kyuhachi had two daughters: Koyono and Hisako, born in the United States. Koyono was born in 1890 and returned to Japan to go to school. Koyono who was an heiress of Nishii family, married Kenzo.

After Kyuhachi came home in 1924, he lived with Kenzo and Koyono's family. Kenzo worked for a bank and their family moved around the Yawatahama area. Kyuhachi died at Kenzo and Koyono's home, Mitsukue-village, Nishiuwa-county in 1931.

The main biography was written by Kenzo Nishii. Because Kenzo had heard his father-in-law's stories of his life, he remembered them well and wrote them down in 1939, several years' after Kyuhachi's death.

As Kyuhachi's distinguished donations and contributions for emigration were highly admired, a statue of Kyuhachi Nishii was constructed at Shikokuyama, Yawatahama in 1927. This statue was offered for military use during wartime in 1943, but Kenzo Nishii rebuilt it at the same place in 1958.

Most of Newspapers were published in the Yawatahama area. These articles on Kyuhachi Nishii and emigrants from the Yawatahama area were kept by Kenzo Nishii.

All items which grandson Kenjiro Nishii has about his grandfather Kyuhachi Nishii have been microfilmed.

February 1999,

Compiled by Tazuko Kobayashi

Chronology of Kyuhachi Nishii

- 1856.8.2 Born in Mukainada, Yanozaki-village, Nishiuwa-county, Ehime prefecture, Japan
Second son of Father Bunpei Nishii and Mother Koyono Nishii
- 1877 Works for the army in Kyushu, Japan
- 1878? Departure from Yokohama working as a cabin boy on a foreign boat. Reaches Europe via Hong Kong.
- 1879? Arrives at Portland, Oregon , the United States
- 1885 Day Laborer in Portland, Oregon
- 1886-1888 Lumber Handler at Port Blakely Sawmill on Bainbridge Island, Washington
- 1889 Proprietor, Star Restaurant in Seattle
Returns to Japan and marries Miyo Ohashi (born in Yawatahama, Ehime prefecture)
Encourages many young men in Yawatahama area to go to the United States
- 1890 daughter Koyono was born in the United States. Kyuhachi goes to California
- 1891-1892 Proprietor, Grand Cafe, Union Laundry, Grand Hotel in Tacoma, Washington
- 1897 Proprietor, Klondike restaurant and Grocery Store in Alaska
- 1898-1908 Proprietor, Restaurants and Main Hotel in Seattle
- 1909 Kyuhachi returns to Japan temporarily
- 1909.10.23 Wife Miyo dies in the United States
- 1911 Goes to the United States again. Works at Sawmill in McKenna, Washington
- 1912-1916 Farmer at Nakamura & Yamamoto Farms in Fife, Washington
- 1917-1918 Laundry Worker in Seattle
- 1919-1924 Co-Owner, Nishii & Enami Sign Company
- 1924.11 Returns to Yawatahama and lives with daughter Koyono Nishii's family
- 1927.8.14 Ceremony of unveiling the Statue of Kyuhachi Nishii at Shikokuyama, Yawatahama
- 1931.12.1 Dies at daughter Koyono's house, Mitsukue village, Nishiuwa-county, Ehime
- 1943.3 Statue is offered for its metal for military use
- 1958.4.13 Ceremony of unveiling the Statue of Kyuhachi Nishii rebuilt by Kenzo Nishii

February, 1999

Compiled by Tazuko Kobayashi with assistance of Ronald Magden

西井久八の略年譜

- 1856(安政3)年8月2日 愛媛県西宇和郡矢野崎村大字向灘で出生。
父・西井文平、母・西井コヨノの二男
- 1877年 西南の役で軍夫として働く。
- 1878年? 横浜で外国船のボーイとなり、出国。香港を経て、ヨーロッパに滞在する。
後、渡米を決意する。
- 1879年? アメリカ合衆国オレゴン州ポートランドに上陸。
- 1885年 ポートランドで日雇い労働。
- 1886-1888年 ワシントン州ベインブリッジ島ポート・ブレイクリーの製材所で働く。
- 1889年 シアトルでスター・レストランを経営。
この年、一時帰国し、八幡浜出身の大橋みよと結婚。
帰国中、八幡浜周辺の若者に渡米を勧める。
- 1890年 アメリカで娘こよのが生まれる。妻みよとの間に生まれ、成人した子どもは
娘二人(こよの、久子)。この年、久八は、カリフォルニアへ行く
- 1891-1892年 ワシントン州タコマでゴールド・スター・レストラン経営
- 1893-1897年 タコマでグランド・カフェ、ユニオン・ランドリー、グランド・ホテル経
営。グランド・ホテルとグラン・カフェは1900年代初めまで所有。
ユニオン・ランドリーの共同経営は、1915年まで続く。
- 1897年 アラスカ州ノームでクロンダイク・レストラン、キッチンカンでグロサリ
ー・ストア経営。
- 1898-1908年 シアトルで、三つのレストランとメイン・ホテルを経営。
- 1909年 一時帰国
- 1909年10月23日 帰国中に、アメリカで妻みよ逝去。
- 1911年 再渡米。マッキーナで製材所で働く。
- 1912-1916年 ファイフで、農業(中西・山本農場で)。
- 1917-1918年 シアトルのクリーニング店で働く。
- 1919-1924年 シアトルで、ニシイ&エナミ看板店を共同所有。
- 1924年11月30日 帰国。愛媛県八幡浜周辺に住む。
- 1927年8月14日 八幡浜の四国山にて西井久八翁寿像除幕式
- 1931年12月1日 愛媛県西宇和郡三机村の西井健蔵宅で逝去。
- 1943年3月 戦時体制のもとで像を金属供出する。
- 1958年4月13日 西井久八銅像再建除幕式

1999年2月作成・小林多寿子
(ドナルド・マグデン作成資料参照)

Kyuhachi Nishii Papers

Microfilm Inventory

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1. Biography written by daughter's husband Kenzo Nishii in September, 1939 and list of donators for the Statue
2. Life history Statement of Kyuhachi Nishii written by Kenzo Nishii
3. Handwritten Statement of Kyuhachi Nishii's life
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5. Handwritten Note on Kyuhachi Nishii's business in the United States and his late life
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Reel No. 2

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