

Relocation Center Newspapers: A Source for Japanese American Genealogy

Speaker: Rebecca Sharp, Archives Specialist
April 15, 2010
Sixth Annual Genealogy Fair
National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

Additional Resources Relating to Japanese American Internment

Historical Background

Historical Works:

Countryman, Edward, ed. *Historians at Work: What Did the Internment of Japanese Americans Mean?* New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000.

Daniels, Roger. *Prisoners Without Trial: Japanese Americans in World War II.* Revised edition. New York: Hill and Wang, 2004.

Online Resources:

- The National Park Service publication, *Confinement and Ethnicity: An Overview of World War II Japanese American Relocation Sites* is available at:
http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/anthropology74/index.htm
- The Smithsonian National Museum of American History exhibit, "A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans & the U.S. Constitution," is available online at:
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/perfectunion/experience/index.html>
- For lesson plans relating to Japanese American Internment visit:
 1. NARA website,
<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/japanese-relocation/>
 2. National Park Service website,
<http://www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/89manzanar/89manzanar.htm>
 3. The Densho website, <http://www.densho.org/> Click on the "Learning Center" link

Assembly Center and Relocation Center Newspapers

Articles:

Friedlander, E. J. "Freedom of Press behind Barbed Wire: Paul Yokota and the Jerome Relocation Center Newspaper." *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 44, No. 4 (1985): 303-313.

Mizuno, Takeya. "The Creation of the 'Free' Press in Japanese-American Camps: The War Relocation Authority's Planning and Making of the Camp Newspaper Policy." *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly*, Vol. 78, No. 3 (2001): 503-518.

Sharp, Rebecca K. "How an eagle feels when his wings are clipped and caged': Relocation Center Newspapers Describe Japanese American Internment in World War II." *Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives and Records Administration*, Vol. 41, No. 4 (2009): 50-55. This article is available online at:
<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2009/winter/wra.html>

Library Collections:

- *Japanese Camp Papers* (Library of Congress Call Number: Newspaper Microfilm 2022)

This microfilm publication also contains some Assembly Center newspapers. For additional information about this microfilm publication, contact:

Mailing Address:

The Library of Congress
Microform Reading Room
101 Independence Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20540

To submit an electronic reference question, complete an "Ask A Librarian" form at: <http://www.loc.gov>

- *Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement Records, 1930-1974* (The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley)

Some relocation center newspapers are part of this collection. The finding aid is online at: <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/findingaids.html> (click on the "view manuscript and archival finding aids" link). For additional information about this collection, contact:

Mailing Address:

The Bancroft Library
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720-6000
e-mail: bancref@library.berkeley.edu

Online Resources:

- Denshō: The Japanese American Legacy Project, <http://www.densho.org/>

Denshō: The Japanese American Legacy Project digitized approximately 4,000 newspapers from the ten relocation centers. Researchers must register (registration is free) to obtain access to Denshō's "Camp Newspapers Collections" Digital Archive. To learn about Denshō's newspaper digitization project visit the website and click on "archive" then "From the Archive," followed by "June 2007-Free Press behind barbed wire. Newspapers Published in the Incarceration camps"

- Japanese-American Relocation Digital Archives (JARDA), <http://www.calisphere.universityofcalifornia.edu/jarda/>

This website is maintained by the University of California's Bancroft Library. Digital scans of some issues of the *Manzanar Free Press* are available through this website. Click on the link for "Personal Experiences" and scroll down to the list of "Selected Art, Writing, and Interviews." Click on the link for the "Manzanar Free Press (newspaper)" which appears under the "Internee Newspapers, Speeches, Publications" section, a subcategory of the "Words and Writing" topic.

- Manzanar National Historic Site (National Park Service), <http://www.nps.gov/archive/manz/home.htm>

Transcripts of a small number of *Manzanar Free Press* issues are available through this website. Click on the links in the following order: "History," "Historic Documents," and "Manzanar Free Press."

- University of Washington Libraries' Japanese American Exhibit and Access Project, <http://www.lib.washington.edu/exhibits/harmony/>

This website contains digital copies of records relating to the Puyallup Assembly Center (commonly referred to as "Camp Harmony"). Transcripts of and artwork from the *Camp Harmony News-letter* as well as Eddie Sato's Assembly Center drawings are available through the website.