

Kame Oshiro Audio Interview Transcription

Audio Time: 4min34seconds

Recording Date: May 18, 1978

Recording Place: Campo Grande, Brazil

Interviewer: OSHIRO, Tatsuhiko

Interviewee: OSHIRO, Kame (DOB

Language: Japanese, Shimakutuba (Okinawan)

Edited by Okinawa Prefectural Library

*The original audio(75mins) is available at Okinawa Prefectural Library.

(Summary of full audio)

Kame Oshiro was one of the Kasato-Marun immigrants who migrated to Brazil from Japan for the first time in 1908. She talked about her life and experiences as an Issei immigrant in Brazil; including her life before migration, as a plantation worker, a railway laborer, as well as of the wartime experience.

Tatsuhiko Oshiro(T): (When is your birthday?) July, 1890...

Kame Oshiro(K): 5th (07/05/1890)

T: 5th?

K: Yes

T: Where were you born?

K: I was born in Tomigusuku.

T: Tomigusuku. Which hamlet?

K: Ueta

T: Ueta. When did you migrate to Brazil? Which ship did you embark?

K: 1st

T: 1st. Kasato-Marun? Did you migrate in Meiji 41?

Man(unknown): 1908

T: So, could you start to talk about the period of time? How old were you when migrated to Brazil?

K: 19 in old counting rule.

T: 19. Did you get married before migration? It is said there were many paper-marriage cases at that time.

K: I don't know about it.

T: What is your husband's name?

K: Koki Oshiro

T: How is it spelled in Kanji?

Man(unknown): 幸喜

T: Did you go to school then?

K: I graduated from a 4-year elementary school and...

T: Did you finish an elementary?

K: and went to secondary school a few years.

T: Secondary school?

K: Yes.

T: Your family was supposed to be wealthy.

K: I went to a secondary for 3 years.

Man(unknown): It was exceptional at that time.

T: You went to a secondary school, were you? That means your family must be wealthy.

Man(unknown): Are there high schools in Okinawa?

T: There was few who went to a secondary then.

Man(unknown): You are still intelligent.

Man(unknown): Secondary school at that time would be equivalent to a current high school level.

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K: I was always thinking about Okinawa and crying day and night.

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T: Regarding reasons for your migration, I heard that your husband wanted to avoid conscription. Is it true?

K: Yes, it is true. It was the year Meiji 41(1908) when we migrated.

T: Yes.

K: The Russo - Japanese War happened around Meiji 37-38(1904-1905).

T: That's true.

K: During the war, two of my cousins died at a young age. So, my in-laws were so concerned that my husband would pass a conscription test, since he was healthy. He had to take the mandatory test when he turned to 21.

T: Yes.

K: Due to their parental love, they recommended him to migrate to a foreign country before turning 21 years old. While working in a foreign country, he was able to postpone conscription if he submitted a deferral application every year.

T: Umm.

K: This is the reason we migrated.

(END)