

Vital Statistics
DEATH
Mar. 9: Takiye Kondo,
63-2-C.

Gila River News-Courier, March 14, 1945

Birth to Death

Takiye Kondo

Midwife

January 3, 1885 • March 9, 1945

Photo: Takiye Kondo poses with her grandson, Hisashi "Doug," in Gila River incarceration camp in 1944. It is the only photo known to exist of Takiye. Her birthdate comes from WRA documents. Other sources place her birthdate in 1886.

Funeral for Takiye Kondo, Gila River Incarceration Camp 2



Yage Furuzawa's time had finally come. Her son, Hidetoshi, was about to be born. So the Oakland, CA, resident got herself to 2328 Buena Vista Avenue, where an Alamedan lived.

On May 2, 1912, Hidetoshi Furuzawa was born, under the experienced eye of **Takiye Kondo, midwife.**

Kondo likely birthed many dozens of Nisei babies in Alameda, CA. No one knows how many.

Her experience as a medical professional came well before she arrived in America. She lists herself as a nurse on the shipping manifest of the S. S. Kaga Maru, the vessel that first brought her to the United

States in 1908 (page 4).

Her education did not stop there, however. She graduated from the Chicago (Illinois) College of Medicine on May 30, 1916.

Two years later, the State of California listed her as a credentialed professional at 2212 Encinal Avenue in Alameda.

At a time when Japanese may not have had access to mainstream healthcare, or may not have felt comfortable in an unfamiliar environment, the value of a midwife in the community was immeasurable.

A midwife like Takiye provided mental and physical comfort beyond medical care, someone an expect-

Elaborate funerals were expensive to produce. The WRA allotted up to \$87 to pay for such things. Koden was also discouraged by the camp administration but also by the incarcerated, given the low wages they were paid while working at Gila and other incarceration camps.

How did they pay for the flowers above? Some may have been made from crepe paper. For more about camp funerals, click [here](#) to go to Densho.

This photo was made in front of the camp's Buddhist Temple. When it was printed in a darkroom, the sides were likely cut off, perhaps to better fit it into an 8x10. The sides were not cut off in the scanning or design process. Photo March 1945, photographer unknown.



Kimiko Sato
 When Kimiko's son, Kazuyoshi, and daughter, Kiyoko Sato, were born, Takiye was the midwife. The Satos were close with the Kondos.

Goro Sato of Alameda, CA.
 Kimiko's husband

Haruno "Eleanor" Kondo
 Wife of Henry, Takiye's daughter in law, Doug's mother

Hajime "Henry" Kondo
 Takiye's son & Doug's father

Toshio Sato
 Goro's older brother

Etsuko Sato
 Toshio's wife

Hisashi "Doug" Kondo
 Takiye's grandson

Kiyoko Sato
 Goro's & Kimiko's daughter

Kazuyoshi Sato
 Goro's & Kimiko's son

This photo is not the same as the picture on the previous page. The photographer moved up and made a close up.

ant mother could trust and confide in.

For an Issei woman to graduate from a major medical institution in America is an accomplishment beyond rare.

To simply call her highly educated would do her a disservice. The roadblocks set by men to keep women from accomplishing any-

thing requiring higher education were formidable.

Credit goes to her husband, Umetaro, who supported his wife's calling. As a gardener, he was the default breadwinner of the family... or was he?

Unfortunately, Alamedans would have to learn to do without her services. With the outbreak of World War

II, the Kondo's were taken to Gila River Camp 2, in Arizona.

While there, she suffered an aortic aneurism and died in Rivers Community Hospital on March 9, 1945. She lived just an hour and a half after being admitted. She never saw freedom again.

Husband Umetaro is

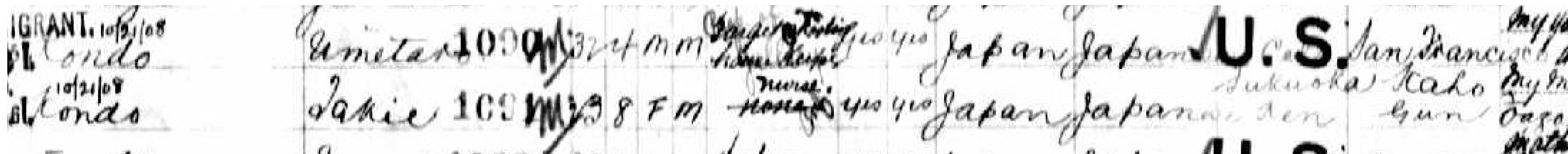
not in her funeral photo. From August 1942, he was at Hillcrest, a tuberculosis sanatorium in Southern California. It appears he spent the war there. He does not show up in WRA documents or in any of the camp or detention center rosters during the war. It is possible he never saw his wife again.

Decades after Takiye's un-

timely death at age 61, the Japanese community of Alameda still values her amazing determination, skill and service to others.

Japan to America. Birth to death. Takiye may have been a casualty of the war, but she will be forever remembered for giving comfort, and life, to so very many. Arigato, Takiye.

Umetaro and Takiye Kondo arrive in America in October 1908



Kondo

Umetaro & Takiye

**Occupation:
Nurse**

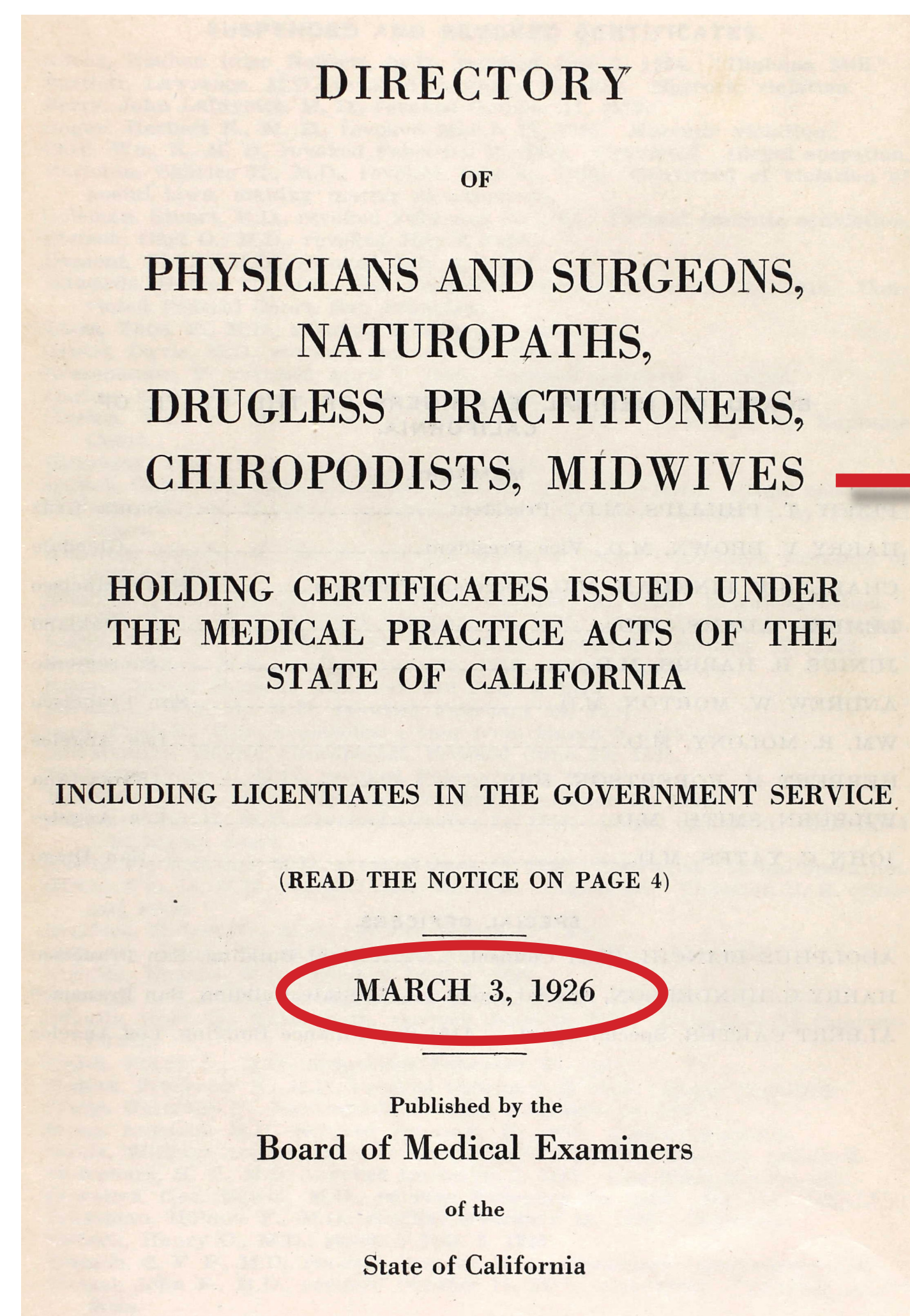
Japan

**Final Destination:
San Francisco**

The same year that Hidetoshi Furuza-wa (front page) was born in Alameda in 1912, the Federal Children's Bureau was founded to investigate birth mortalities.

With the economic growth of the United States in the 1920s, middle and upper-class families moved away from midwives to doctors, as midwives were now considered lower class. 30 to 50% of American women were now giving birth in hospitals.

Rates for Japanese births using midwives versus hospitals in America are unknown, but Japanese were often not allowed into hospitals due to the racism of the times. Alameda midwives such as Takiye Kondo (and the much less known Kiyo Isozaki) would continue to play an important role for expectant mothers in the Japanese community for some time.



County.	Name and address.	County.
San Diego	Kolligs, Anton (5)	San Francisco
Francisco	Komatsu, Tome (6)	San Francisco
Kern	Konantz, Orion F. (1)	Los Angeles
Francisco	Kondo, Takiye (6)	Alameda

March 3, 1926

ALAMEDA COUNTY—Continued	
Kondo, Takiye, credentials (FX-54) 1918. 2212 Encinal ave., Alameda.	Timeus, Mina B., (2162 Harrington
Sasakura, Chiye, Kyoto Training School for Midwives, Japan, 1915 (F-99) 1930. 1707 Grant st., Berkeley.	Yamasaki, Shimo, 1917. 165 6th st., Oakla
Taketa, Katsu, credentials (FX-91) 1918. 232 9th st., Oakland.	

1918 US Occupational Licenses, Registers and Directories

NAME	ADDRESS	DIPLOMA FROM
Kondo, Takiye	Alameda	Chicago Coll. of Med. & Surg.

Above: The handwritten notice that Takiye graduated from the Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery.

Courtesy the California State Archives, Sacramento, California, Board of Medical Examiners Registers of Licensed Physicians 1901-1939. It was edited for clarity for use in this document.

Takiye graduated on May 30, 1916, but her certificate would not be granted until March 14, 1918.

The Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery began in 1901. In 1917, it was absorbed into the Loyola University School of Medicine.

Left: Takiye's Death Certificate while incarcerated in Gila River, Arizona.

**ARIZONA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS**

State File No. 532
Registrar's No. 2

1. Place of Death: (a) County Pinal (b) City or Town Rivers (c) Location Rivers Community Hospital
(If outside city limits also write RURAL) (St. & No. (or) Name of Institution)

(d) Length of Stay: In Hospital or Institution 1 1/2 hours; In Community 2 yrs. 6 mon. 23 d. Arizona 2 yrs. 6 mon. 23 d.
(Specify whether years, months or days)

2. Usual Residence of Deceased: (a) State California (b) County Alameda (c) City or Town Alameda
(If outside city limits also write RURAL)

(d) Street No. 2212 Encinal Avenue, Alameda, California; (e) Citizen of foreign country (Yes or No) Yes
If Yes, which country Japan

3. (a) FULL NAME TAKIYE KONDO (b) If Veteran name war - (c) Social Security No. None

4. Sex Female 5. Race White Indian Negro Oriental 6. (a) Single, married, widowed or divorced Married

7. Birthdate of deceased January 3, 1885
(Month) (Day) (Year)

8. AGE: Years 60 Months 2 Days 6 hrs. - min. -
If less than one day

9. Birthplace Fukuoka Ken, Japan
(City, town or county) (State or Country)

10. Usual Occupation Midwife

11. Industry or Business -

Father { 12. Name Nisoji Mizoguchi
13. Birthplace Fukuoka Ken, Japan
(City, town or county) (State or Country)

Mother { 14. Maiden Name Toki Kondo
15. Birthplace Fukuoka Ken, Japan
(City, town or county) (State or Country)

16. (a) Informant's own signature Elean Kondo
(b) Address 63-2-C

17. (a) Burial, Cremation or Removal Removal
(b) Place Phoenix, Arizona Date 3/15/45

18. (a) Embalmer's Signature Mary V. Plenz
(b) Funeral Director Fisher Funeral Home
(c) Address Casa Grande, Arizona

19. (a) 3/15/45 Date received Local Registrar
(b) Edgar W. Brown Registrar's Signature

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION

20. DATE OF DEATH (Month, day and year) March 9, 1945
TIME (Hour and minute) 8:10 P. M.

21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from March 9, 1945 to March 9, 1945
that I last saw her alive on March 9, 1945
and that death occurred on the date and hour stated above.

Immediate cause of death Hemorrhage

Due to Amnionitis of descending aorta (rupture)

Due to -

Other conditions (Include pregnancy within three months of death) -

Major findings: Of operations -

Of autopsy As above

PHYSICIAN
Underline the cause to which death should be charged statistically

22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:
(a) Accident, suicide or homicide (specify) -
(b) Date of occurrence -
(c) Where did injury occur? (City or Town) (County) (State) -
(d) Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place? (Specify type of place) -
While at work? (e) Means of injury -

23. Signature R. K. Hanson M. D.
Address Rivers Comm. Hospital Date signed 3/14/45

40M-107a Reg.-6-10-44

Alameda Girl Weds in Japan

ALAMEDA, Aug. 9— Friends of Mary Hisae Kondo were pleasantly surprised to learn of her marriage in Japan to Dr. Torao Yuge.

The wedding took place on June 30 at Miyaji Dake shrine in Fukuoka, near Fukuoka city, according to word received here this week. The couple honeymooned in Kyoto.

Mrs. Yuge is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Umetaro Kondo of this city and has been in Japan since her graduation from the University of California in 1937. While here she was an active YWBA member.

Dr. Yuge, who was born in Alameda, is a graduate of the Kyushu Imperial university and is now connected with the surgery department of the school.

The couple reside in Fukuoka shi at Hirao Mukaeda 83.

Nichibei Shinbun • August 10, 1941

Umetaro and Takiye had one daughter, Hisaye “Mary” Kondo.

She does not appear in the funeral photo as she had been living in Japan since October 1937. She married Torao Yuge in Japan in 1941. Both were from Alameda, CA., and their wedding was a pleasant surprise to their Alameda friends.

It appears Mary never came back to live in America. She was not in Gila with her family. After her marriage, did Mary ever see her mother again? Regardless, she and Torao would have experienced World War II from the Japanese side of the Pacific.

Takiye’s oldest son, Hajime, and his wife, Eleanor, would settle in the Los Angeles area after the war. Married in 1933, Eleanor Kanzaki was also from Alameda. Umetaro would live with them in Southern California, probably until his death.

Thanks to Brian Niiya, content director of Den-sho, Duncan Ryūken Williams, Irei monument director & Soto Zen Buddhist priest and also the Turlock Historical Society.

Thanks to Kazuyoshi Sato, Kiyo Sato Masuda, Carol Sato Witt and Jo Takata for photos and their invaluable assistance in the production of this story.



Alameda High School graduation, 1937



Douglas + grandmother
Gila Relocation Center
Arizona, U. S. A.

ALAMEDA
Japanese
American
HISTORY PROJECT

1944

