

GETTING STARTED

The early Japanese immigrants, the majority of them young males, came between 1880 and 1910. They came with little in their pockets, but with stout hearts and burning ambitions. Many found their first employment in sawmills, such as those at Port Blakey, Mukilteo, Kerestone, and Snoqualmie. Others joined railroad gangs and farm crews. Still others remained in the cities as domestics or helpers in hotels, restaurants, and other trades run by earlier Issei arrivals. Everywhere, the new arrivals worked long hours for meager wages. They sometimes experienced cruel adversities. And in this frontier, experiences of prejudice and discrimination were common. The Issei immigrants were buoyed by the hope and ambition of someday owning a farm or city business.



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