

Kentsu's Chronology

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|---------------|--------------------|---|----------------|
| 1896 | S.F. | Tôki Higa one of first to enlist in non-commissioned officer school in Jpn army. Sent to front in Sino-J. war. Old army friend of Kentsu, gave him sword given to him by Sun Yat Sen, C in C. of revolution. K. said to have ret. OK "a few years ago." | k. o.p.14 |
| 1902 | S.F.,
Sausalito | Seijô Nakaza also early OK military man, hero of Sino-J. war. Strong in marital arts. | Kenden, o.p.17 |
| 1921,
July | Fresno area | <p>"On Sunday towards the end of July 1921, a sumo match was held in Kissen Higa's camp in Wahtoke Park, 20 miles northeast of Fresno [This would have been near Centerville, which was near Sanger, which was northeast of Fresno]. Many OK migrant farm workers in the Fresno area had gathered in late July and the beginning of August for grape-picking. The prime mover of the sumo meet was Kentsu Yabe (father of Kenden Yabe), who was living at Shogyu Asato's farm, which was about 5 miles away from Higa's camp. Shogyu Asato (the father of Shoichi) had a 240 acre vineyard. 'Sergeant' Kentsu Yabe was a great fan of sumo. In Okinawa, he had been so enthusiastic that he got involved in every match that came up. His talking of sumo fired up all the younger men, and they decided to hold a big match "</p> <p>"Before the start of the grape-picking season in the Fresno area in August 1922, another sumo contest was held in Asato's camp at the urging of Kentsu Yabe. " The sumo tournament was a great success "</p> <p>[T. Higa didn't say this, but elsewhere it's been explained in the OK book that OK sumo (<i>tegumi</i>) is different from Edo sumo. In OK sumo, there is no <i>dohyo</i> (a ring), and to win a match, a contestant must either cause another to fall, or must pin the opponent's shoulders.]</p> | t.higa.o.p.339 |

1940, L.A. (Cont.)
Aug

naka.o.p.74,
75

"As for his ceasing to be a Christian, this was certainly a revolution in his beliefs, but it was a revolution which was brought about by his deep study of science and from real life. As far as he was concerned, a man might declare himself a Christian or deny it. It was all right either way. For him, to be a Christian or a Buddhist had no significance. He wanted only to continue to live steadily as a man. His ideal was to live honestly and steadfastly as a man, one who, for his own individual happiness as well as the happiness of all mankind, thought about Christ's cross and the sufferings of Buddha."

"The truth is he was a man who progressed step by step towards his ideal, wrestling with each obstacle on the way. Having reached fifty, resigned to his fate, he tried to live on the basis of his growing convictions, until his illness cruelly robbed us of him."

"Our sorrow and loss is greater than ordinary; indeed, his passing, which has come before its time, is greatly regretted. At least, we have his spiritual legacy to carry on with, especially for our nisei. May it shine ever more brightly in our hopes and aims."

"May the soul of Yabe Kenden rest in everlasting peace."

translated for Chiyo Nakamura
from *Ryuku* No. 7, (1941)[sic]
by Ben Kobashigawa
June 4, 1986

- 1927 L.A. ? "There was a time, around 1927, when a number of young people were displaying their martial arts skills at a banquet. Kentsu Yabe, one of the onlookers, praised the karate of Nakamura [Koji] as 'the real thing'."

"Kentsu Yabe was called over in 1927 by his son, Kenden Yabe, and came to Los Angeles. He was a second lieutenant, the first OK military person. People honored him as 'Sergeant Yabe.' After his retirement from the military, he had been a physical education instructor in a normal school, where he provided training in karate. The school teachers who were taught by him at the normal school, gave instructions in schools all over the prefecture, laying the cornerstone for the modern development of karate. His son invited him to leave the normal school and come over to the United States, but with the condition, so it is said, that he not "wear his sword."

"Once Kentsu Yabe arrived here, he abandoned his samurai (a feudal warrior in Japan) garb and took pleasure in doing farm work with the younger people. No one here learned karate from Yabe directly, but on his return to OK, he stopped off in Hawaii for a short visit and took charge of leading the karate [kata] exercises. Although we digress a bit, Yabe learned a great deal about samisen (the stringed musical instrument) and the performing arts in Hawaii from one of his students there, Ryokin Nakama. Once in Okinawa, he began collecting samisen, starting with the Nishihira Kaisho. Many famous instruments were saved from damage during the war by him."

acc. to
s.tam.o.p.341

- 1927 Hawaii & mainland Ret. Rear Adm. Kenwa Kanna OK military man also

Seiyei Wakukawa,
u.142
Also, photo
Uchinanchu

- 1930 U.S. mainland Adm. Kanna goes to mainland.

Chron. u.565

- 1930, June Hawaii Adm. Kanna (memb. Jpn. House of Rep) arrives to raise funds for Ok Emigrants Hall in OK. Big controversy.

Chron. u.565

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- 1939 L.A. [In *Ryukyu*, Vol. 6, Kenden wrote an article with the class of a lyric poet, a eulogy for the late Tokuta Nishime.] k.o.p. 481-82
- 1939, L.A. Evergreen Cemetery Dedication of monument to Tokuta Nishime by OK community. naka.o.p.73
- 1940, L.A. *Memories of Kenden Yabe* written by Shingi Nakamura published in OK Kenjinkai journal, *Ryukyu*, Volume 7, dated 1940: naka.o.p.74, 75

"Yabe Kenden, who suffered from high blood pressure these last four or five years, died on the evening of November 21, 1939, leaving behind his beloved wife and three daughters. Born around the 21st year of Meiji (1888), he cannot have been more than a year or two past fifty.

"I believe I met him for the first time around the end of 1925, very soon after I came down to L.A. from S.F. My days were spent working at the boardinghouse, cleaning up one day and the next day, working in the garden. Kenden and Ryôkô Uesato would come visit me there, and the 3 of us would talk, either sitting or lying on the single bed.

"The Kenjinkai had just dissolved in May of that year [1925] to become the Nanka OK Kaigi Kyokai (Okinawan Overseas Association) and Yabe was elected secretary. I had not been much involved with the other OKs up until then, and was not connected with any of the OK organizations. Eventually, I began to receive invitations & visited the Kaigai Kyokai. Later, I took over Yabe's position, and we worked together for the next 3-4 years in the Kaigai Kyokai.

"Kenden came from Shuri. He emigrated to Hawaii when he left middle school. He harvested as well as ate plenty of millet on the plantations in HI until he came over to the mainland in 1912. I once saw on his visa that he was here to study theology. It appeared that he was a Christian from the time he was in OK.

"He belonged to a church for a number of years after he came to America, but I never heard that he went to a seminary. Nevertheless, he seemed to have studied it a great deal and was well versed in religion and philosophy. He had a good mind and, above all, a strongly developed spirit of inquiry, a man of broad knowledge and deep understanding.

"While he spent some time in S.F. after his arrival, it was really L.A. that had the central place in his life. Although he stayed in the city [L.A.], he often worked on the farm. He used to go out to Imperial Valley to pack melons in the

LIST OF PASSENGERS OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ENROUTE TO THE UNITED STATES

S. S. "SHIMAZU MARU"

Sailing from YOKOHAMA, JAPAN

MARCH 17TH 1919

ALL ALIENS, in whatever class they travel, MUST be fully listed and the master or commanding officer of each vessel carrying such passengers

No.	HEAD TAX EXEMPTIONS	HEAD TAX DEPOSIT	NAME IN FULL	Age	Sex	Calling or Occupation	Married or Single	Adm. to	Nationality	Country of which citizen or subject	Rate or People	Last Permanent Residence	City or Town	The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came.
1			Yachihiro	25	M	Student	Yes	Yes	Japan	Japanese	Tokyo	Kaiti-garacho	15 Hironaka, Kaiti-garacho, Tokyo	Minamotake Yimura father
2			Moto	26	M	House							Yamagataken Taitokacho, #3382 Taitokacho, Yamagataken	Yamagataken Taitokacho, #3382 Taitokacho, Yamagataken
3			Yoshihiko	34	M	Laundry							California Oakland	Sanjichi Ito (father)
4			Kin	20	M	House							Albionken Asahiura	#87 Asahiura, Albionken
5			Yoshi	33	M								California Oakland	Danpasa Fukuda (brother in law)
6			Yukuda	6	F	None	No	No						#12 Kinura, San Francisco
7			Kichiro	32	M	Fisher	Yes	Yes					Shigaken Hayasimura	Elje Hayashi (brother)
8			Moye	25	F	House							California Buena Park	Hayasimura, Shigaken
9			Hiroshi	29	M	Farmer							California Buena Park	Kimago, Karim (brother)
10			Hide	17	F	House							Kochiken Oshimura	Oshimura, Kochiken
11			Yotoku	19	M	S. Home							Kagoshimaken Isaka	Kyuzuro Sakoda (father)
12			Taraburo	33	M	Grocery							New York New York City	Shy, Kamekichi (brother)
13			Kichizo	30	M	Farmer							Colorado Denver	Elje Hayashi (brother)
14			Kin	24	F	Wife							Puuhimaken Arakura	Arakura, Puuhimaken
15			Hana	18	F	S. Home							Toriawamura	Kin, Abe (brother)
16			Kontou	51	M	Teacher							Okinawaken Yamakawamura	Kainu, Iwaki (wife)
17			Akihiro	50	M	Farmer							California Berkeley	Makino, Iwaki (wife)
18			Fusa	18	F	House							Puuhimaken Komuro	Makino, Iwaki (wife)
19			Badasuke	34	F	Farmer							California San Mateo	Makino, Iwaki (wife)
20			Hijiro	27	M	Journalist							Ozaka	Makino, Iwaki (wife)
21			Shintaro	32	M	Farmer							California Los Angeles	Makino, Iwaki (wife)
22			Tokio	31	M								California Fresno	Makino, Iwaki (wife)
23			Takayoshi	38	M	Printer							San Francisco	Makino, Iwaki (wife)
24			Ichiji	34	M	Merchant							Montevia	Makino, Iwaki (wife)
25			Kimi	19	M	House							Kishimaken Kishimura	Makino, Iwaki (wife)
26			Richichi	36	M	Photographer							California San Francisco	Makino, Iwaki (wife)
27			Bunji	27	F	Wife							Tokyo	Makino, Iwaki (wife)
28			Robu	39	F								Fukuimaken Saito	Makino, Iwaki (wife)

