

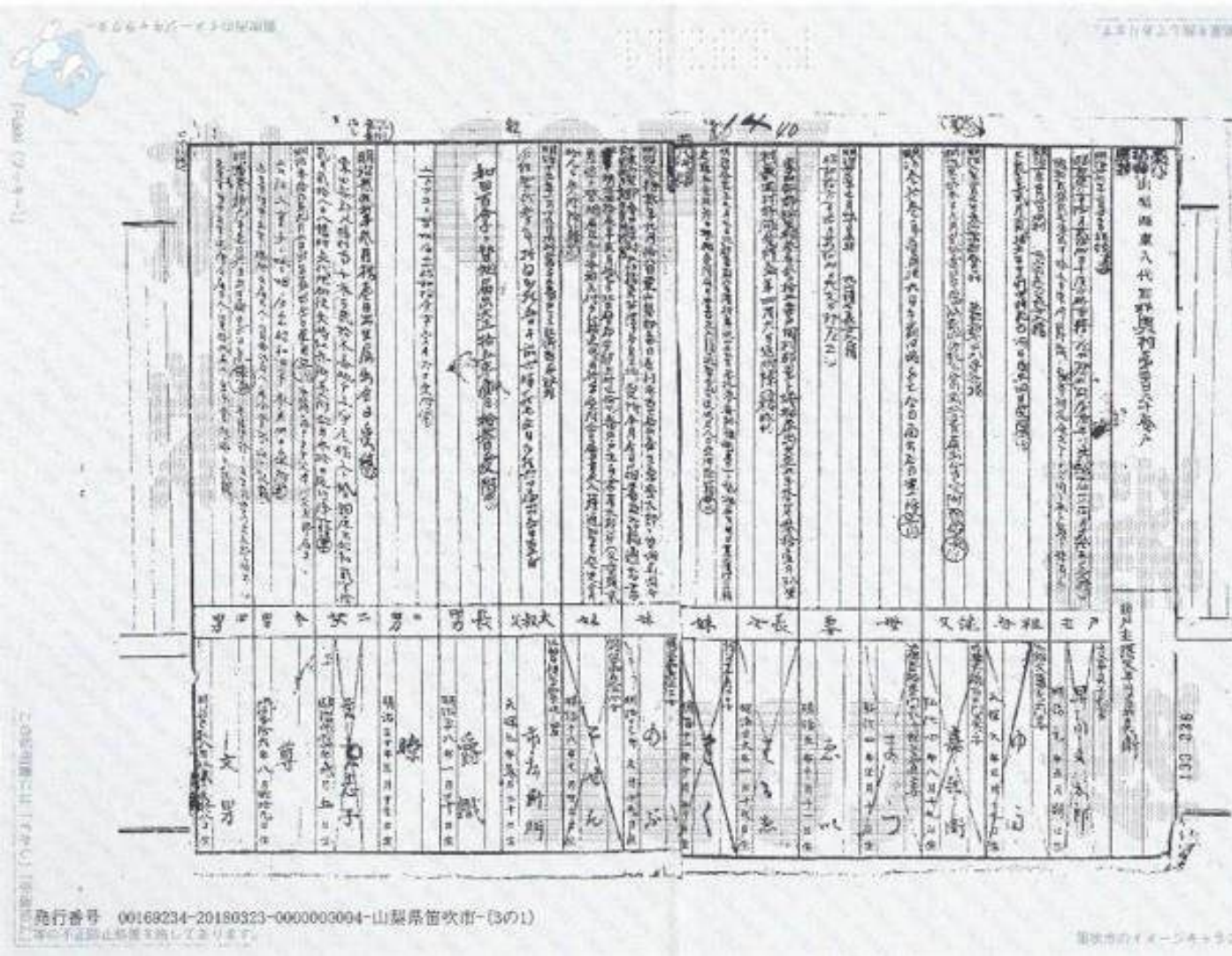
Challenges of Japanese Family History

Martinus (Marty) E. Wolf (狼)

**There are a number of
challenges associated with
Japanese family history.**

Definitions

Japanese family history – family history of non-Japanese nationals tracing back to ancestral Japan

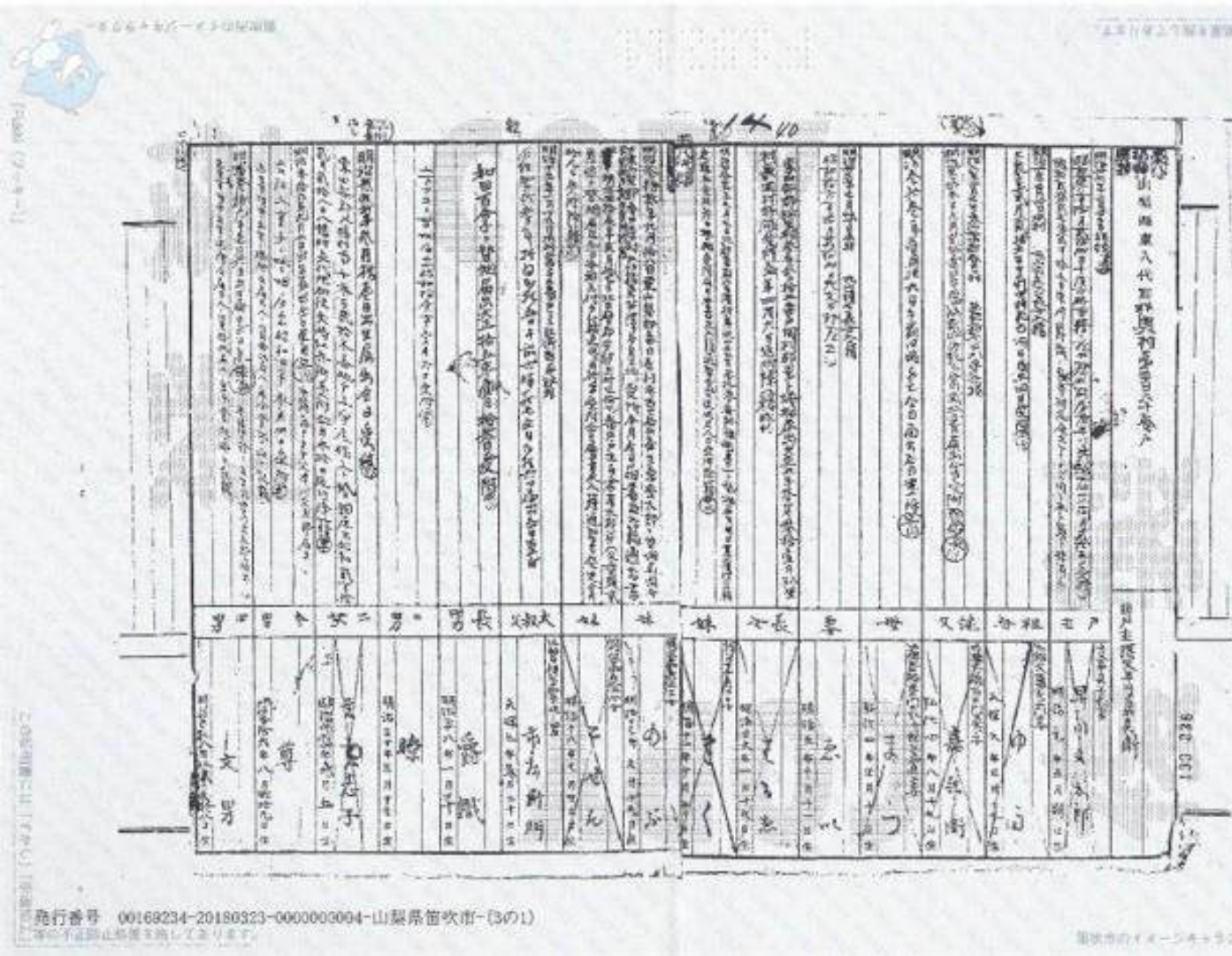


個人の山梨県笛吹市発行の除籍謄本 (Personal joseki tōhon issued by Yamanashi-ken, Fuefuki-shi). Used with permission.)

Definitions

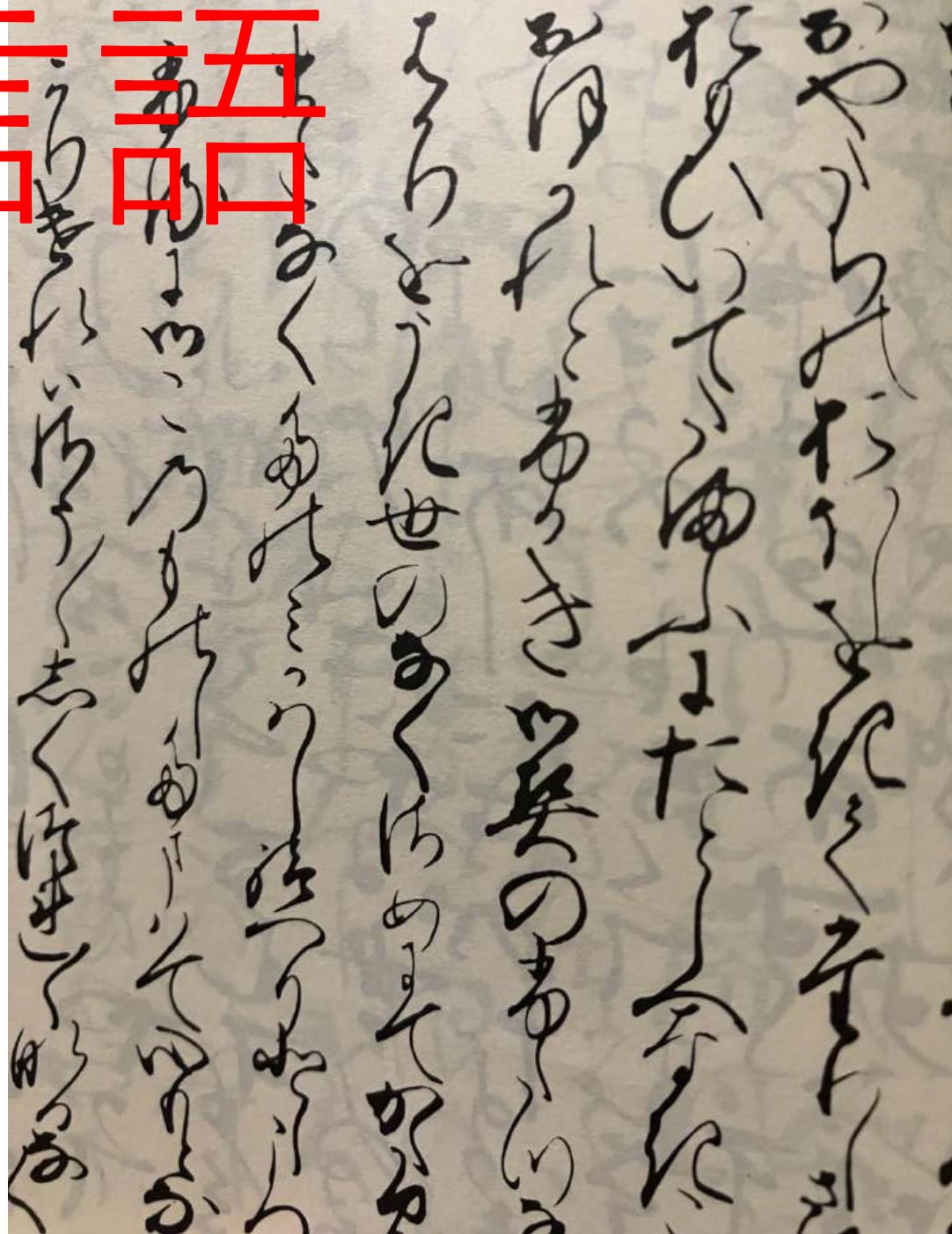
Koseki – Japanese family registers

- Fundamental starting point of all Japanese family history
- Kept at the household level
- Not available to general public; must have a direct relationship (biological or adoptive) to request



個人の山梨県笛吹市発行の除籍謄本 (Personal joseki tōhon issued by Yamanashi-ken, Fuefuki-shi). Used with permission.)

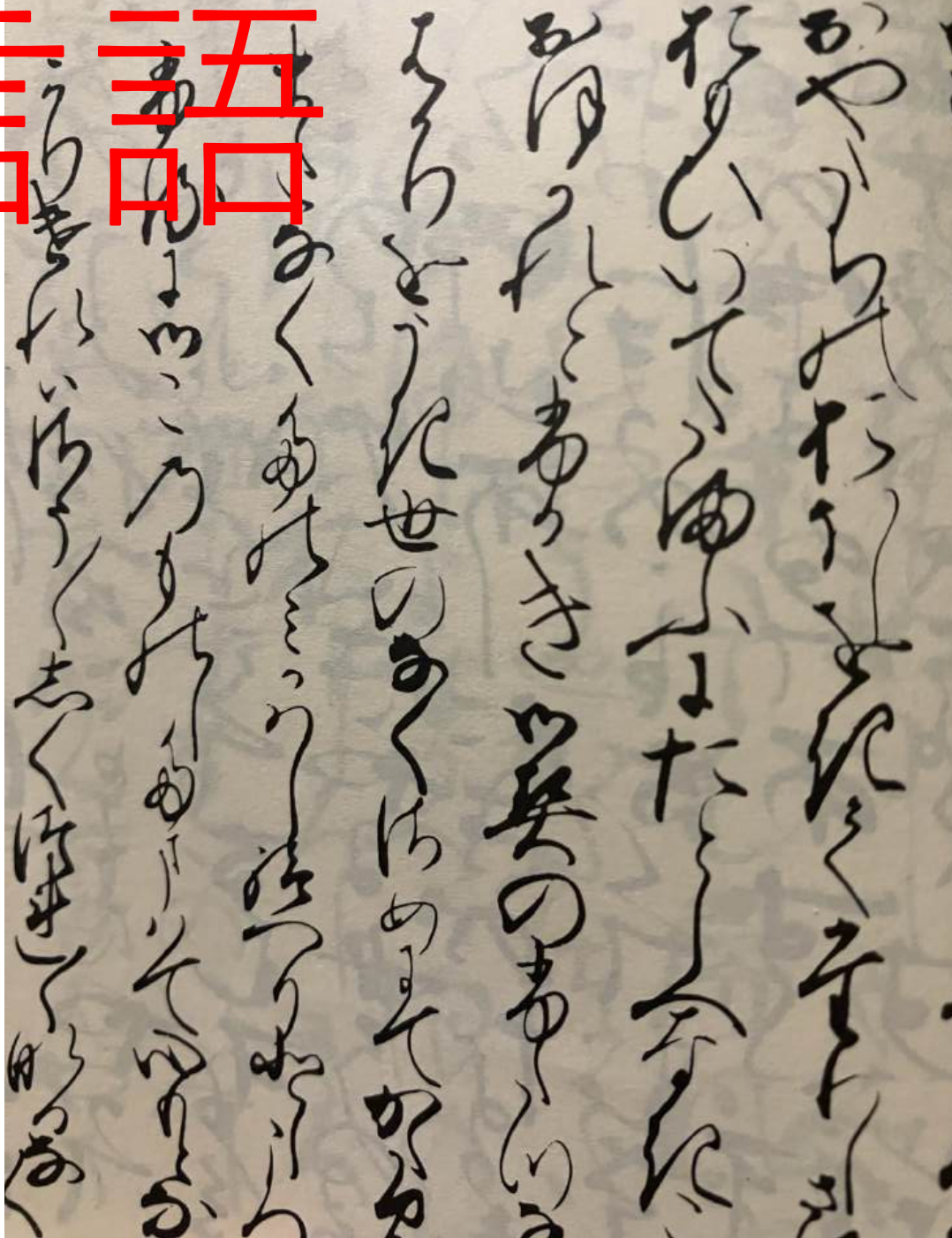
言語



Language Challenges

- Communication with municipal offices
- Koseki translation
- Communication with potential relatives

言語

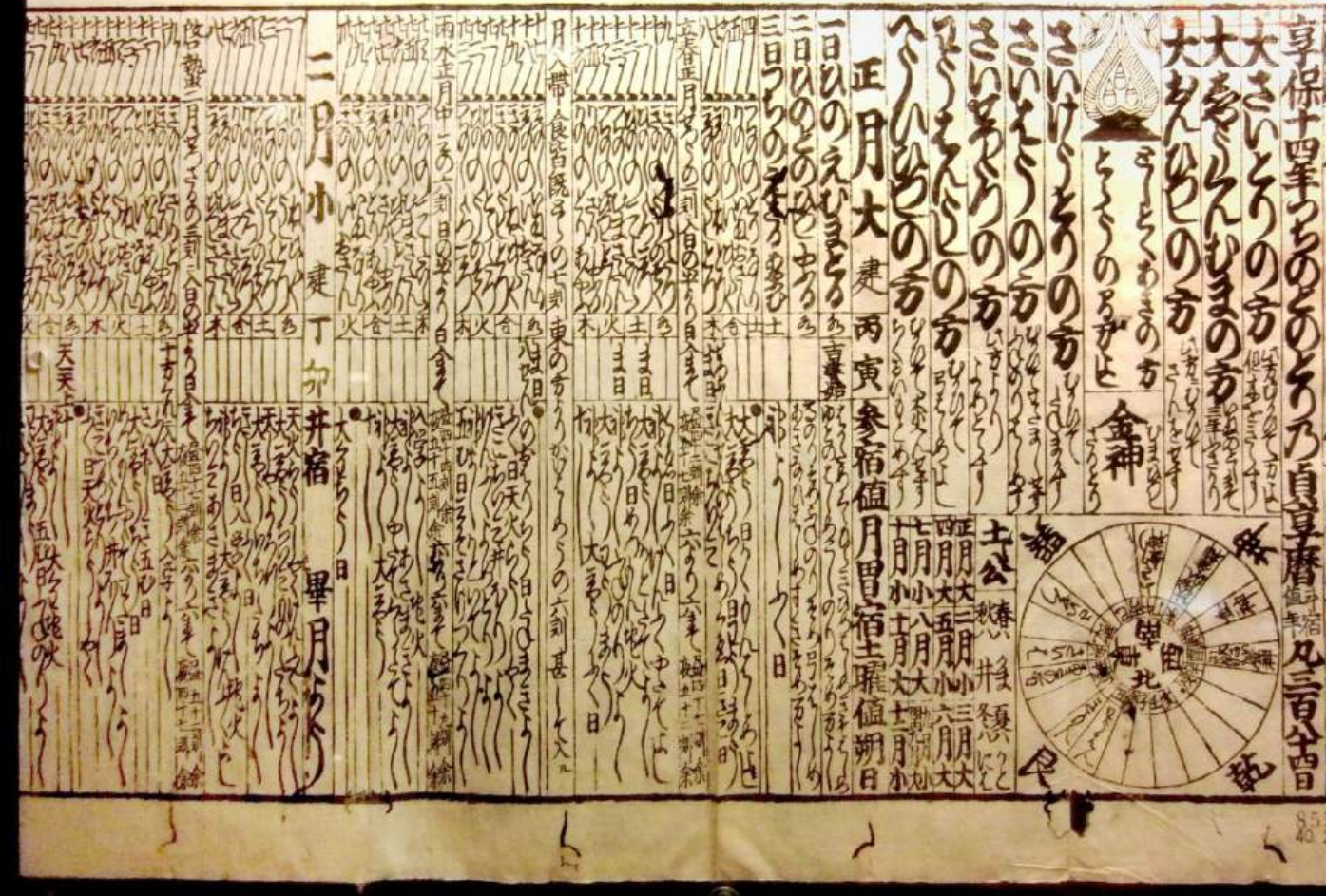


Language Solutions

- Tools
 - Google Translate, DeepL
 - Optical Character Recognition (OCR)
 - Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Language experts
 - Friends, Facebook
- Japanese language self-study
 - Hiragana, katakana, simple kanji
- Simple English

源氏物語書写 (Image of *Genji Monogatari* from 「字典かな一出典明記」、笠間書院 (*Jiten Kana – Shuttenmeiki*, published by Kasama Shoin, 1972; revised 1991))

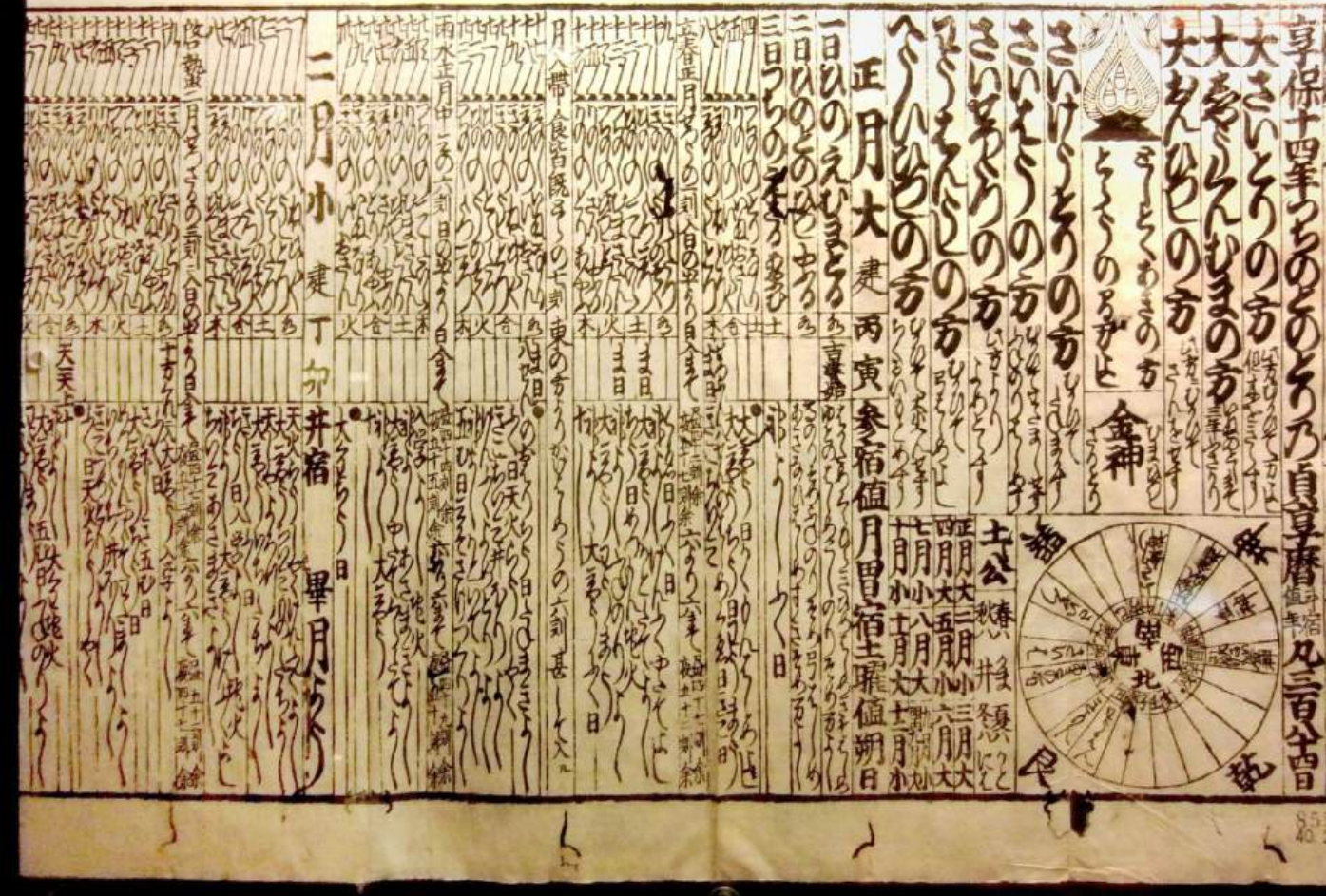
時間



Time Challenges

- Passage of time
- Passing of issei (1st) and nisei (2nd) generations
- Lost memories
- Mandated koseki storage periods

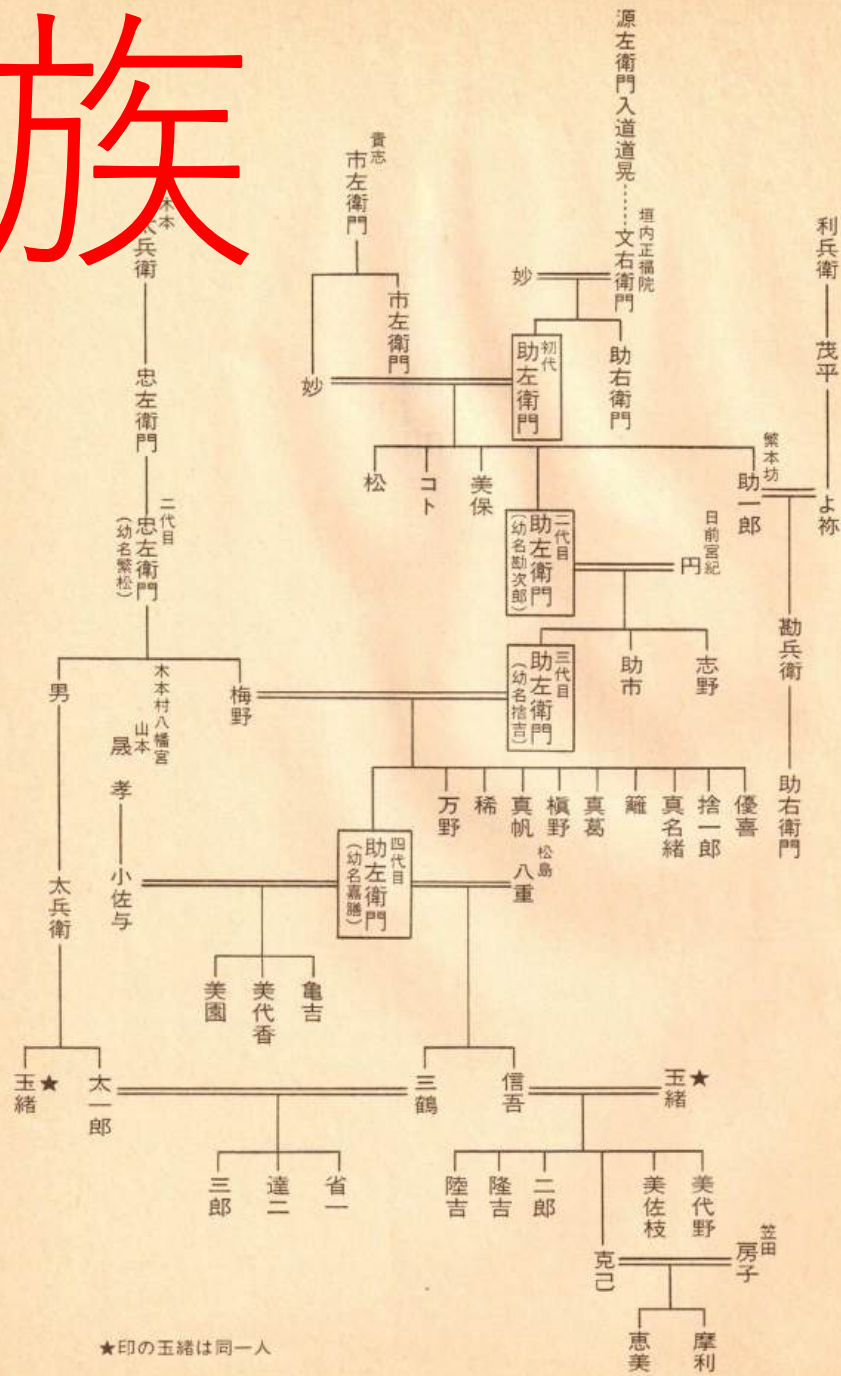
時間



Time Solutions

- Talk with oldest relatives – immediately
- Request koseki – as soon as possible

家族

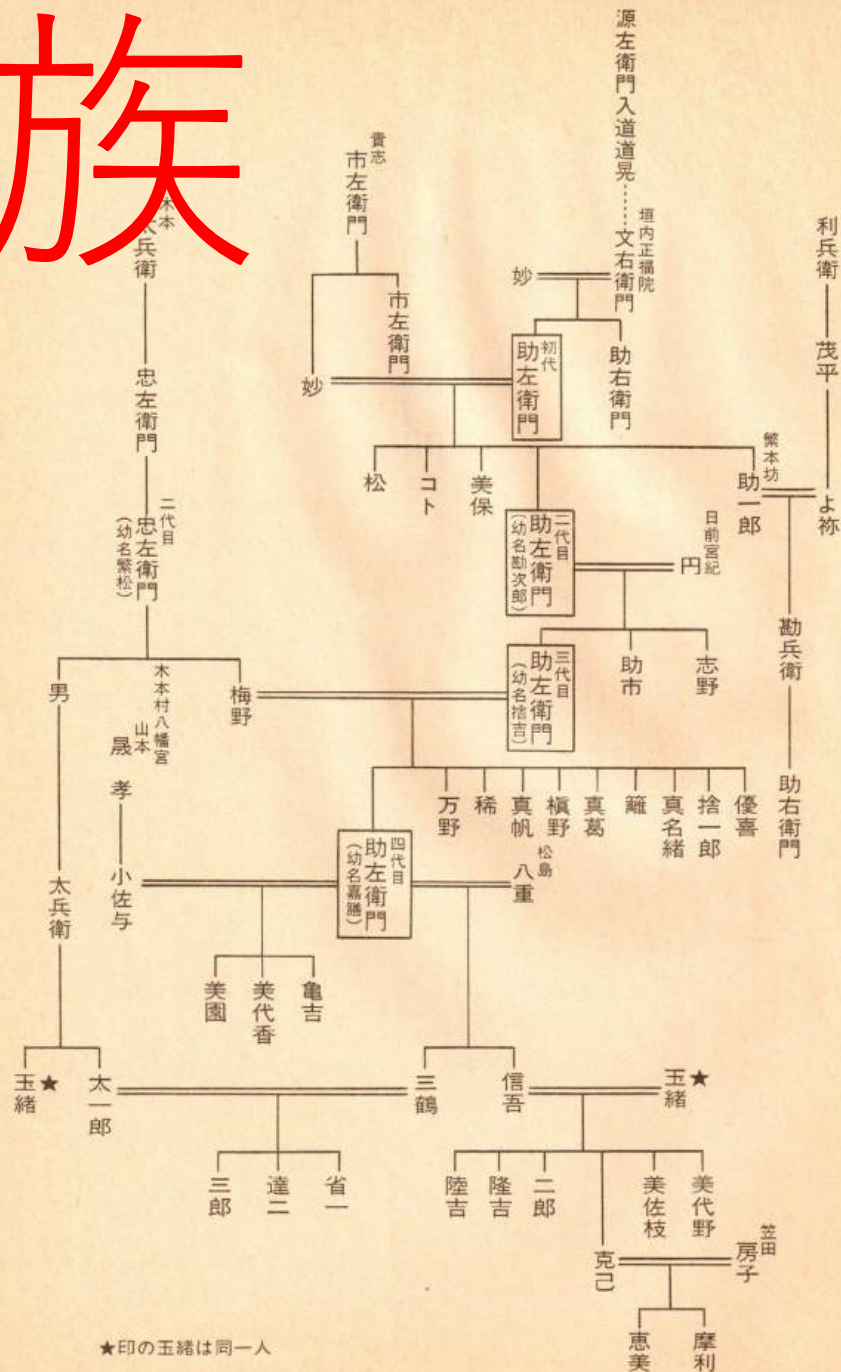


Family Challenges

- Ongoing disputes
- Intergenerational trauma
- Post-immigration assimilation
- General distrust

Family tree from 有吉佐和子、「助左衛門四代記」、新潮文庫
(*Sukezaemonyondaiki*, Sawako Ariyoshi, published by Shinchōbunko, 1965)

家族



Family Solutions

- Passage of time
- Ancestors' family history = own family history
- Share findings and results
- Letters instead of calls and drop in visits

Family tree from 有吉佐和子、「助左衛門四代記」、新潮文庫
(*Sukezaemonyondaiki*, Sawako Ariyoshi, published by Shinchōbunko, 1965)

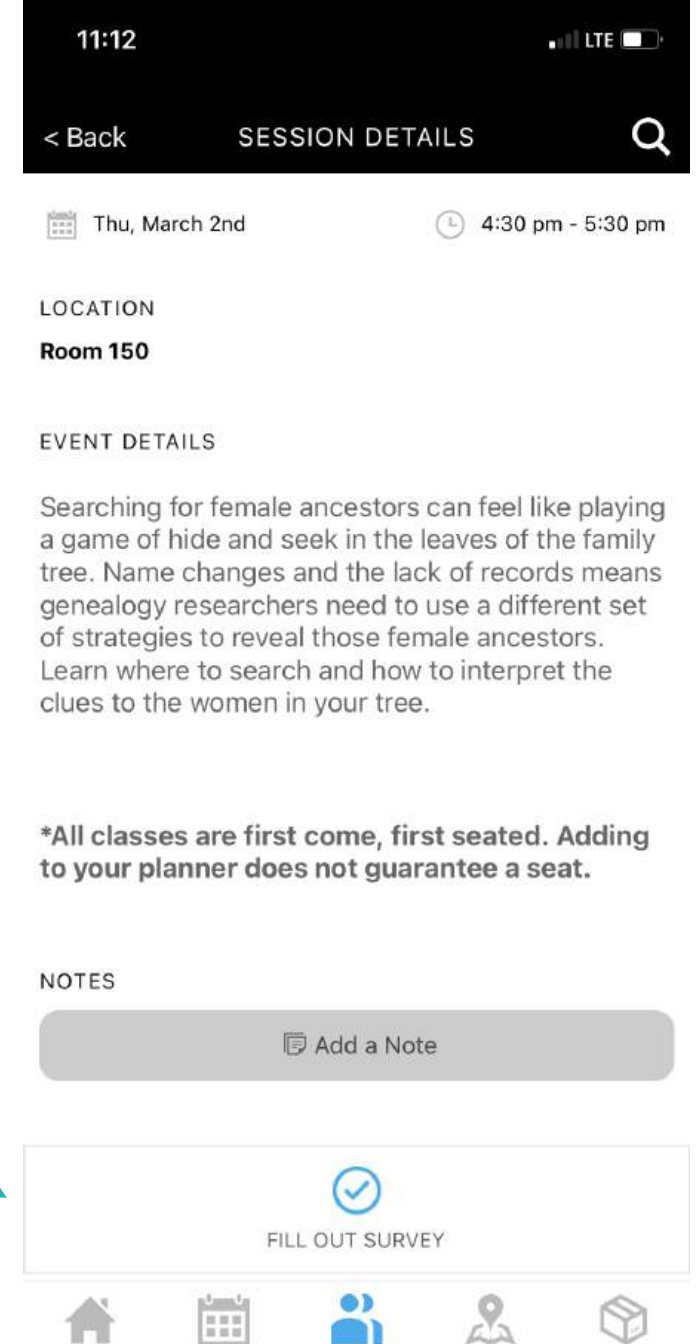
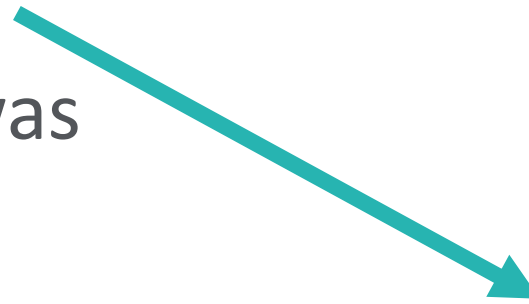
**There are a number of
challenges associated with
Japanese family history.**

**In spite of these
challenges, incredible
success is possible!**

Feedback

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2. Scroll down to Fill Out Survey
3. Let us know how this session was



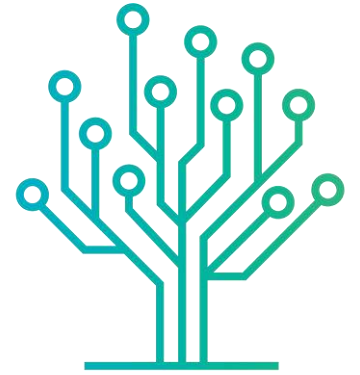
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