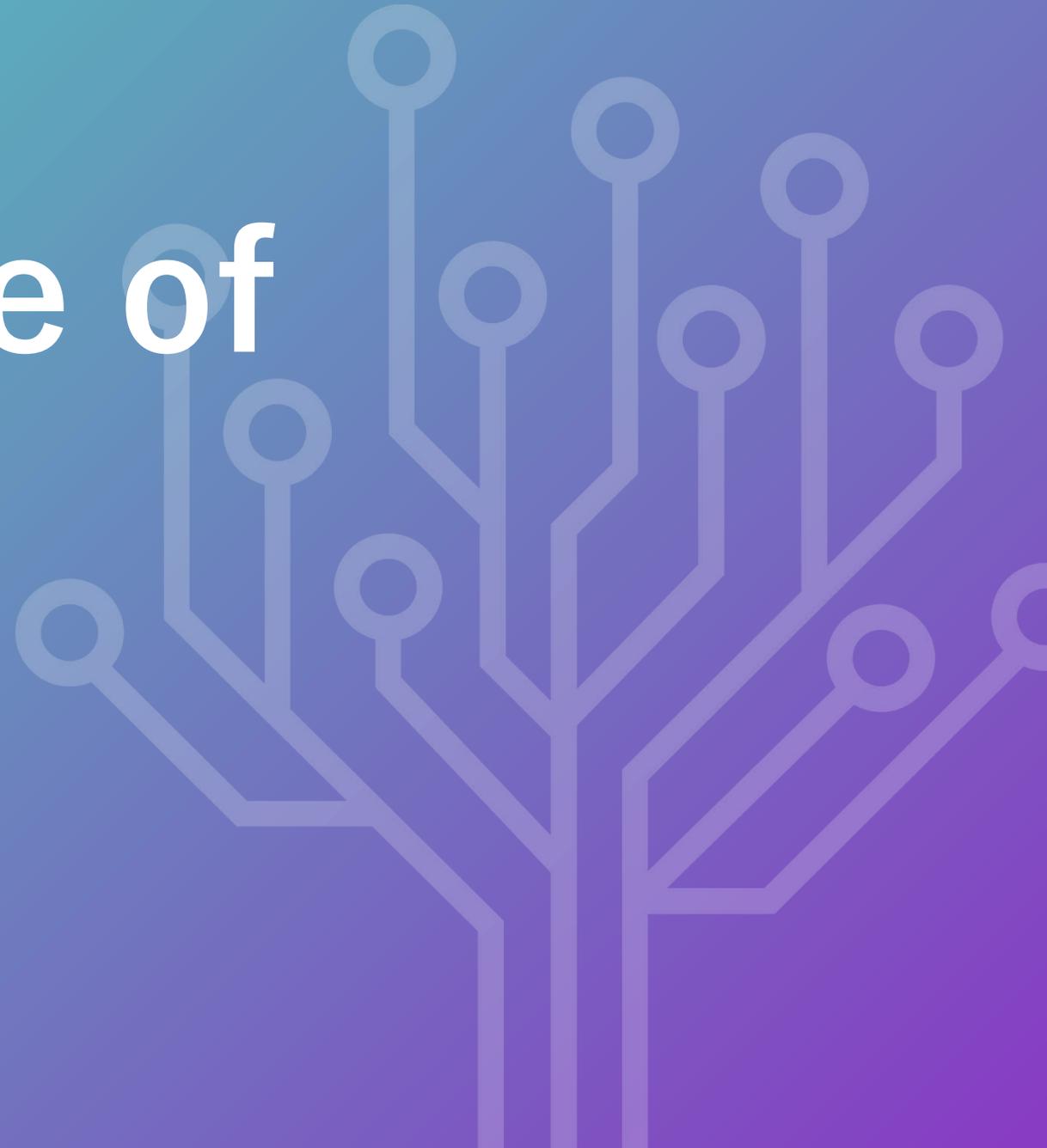


The Structure of Japanese Society

Martinus (Marty) E. Wolf (狼)



Japanese family history is significantly influenced by the overall structure of historical Japanese society



士農工商 shinōkōshō

- Originally occupation classification from ancient China
- Confucian thought adopted as rigid social structure in Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)

Picture of "Samurai on horseback. Wikipedia – public domain.



士農工商 shinōkōshō

- 士 (shi) – samurai
- 農 (nō) – peasants/farmers
- 工 (kō) – artisans/craftsmen
- 商 (shō) – merchants/traders

Picture of "Samurai on horseback". Wikipedia – public domain.



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Picture of “Samurai on horseback. Wikipedia – public domain.



士農工商 shinōkōshō

- Recent research (since mid-1990s) indicates social classification, but not ranking
- No longer in school textbooks

Picture of "Samurai on horseback. Wikipedia – public domain.



Pre-modern social

- structure
- 農 (nō)/工 (kō)/商 (shō)
- Others

Others? Who are these others?

Picture of "Samurai on horseback. Wikipedia – public domain.

穢多



穢多 Eta

- “Much uncleanness”
- Occupations that violated ritualistic purity in Shinto and Buddhism
- Originally falconry and later tanners, executioners, etc.

Picture of "Edo Eta". Wikipedia – public domain.

非人



非人 Hinin

- “Nonhuman”
- Beggars, hermits, criminals, lepers, entertainers, etc.

Picture of "Beggar". Wikipedia – public domain.

部落民



部落民 Burakumin

- “People of the village”
- Discrimination based on occupation, village, and/or surname

Picture of “Edo Eta” and “Beggar”. Wikipedia – public domain.

新平民



新平民 Shinheimin

- “New commoners”
- Starting with Meiji Restoration, civil rights efforts to end discrimination
- New privacy laws

Picture of “Edo Eta” and “Beggar”. Wikipedia – public domain.

**Japanese privacy laws
associated with civil rights
have impacted some
aspects of family history
research**

壬申戸籍

壬申戸籍 Jinshin

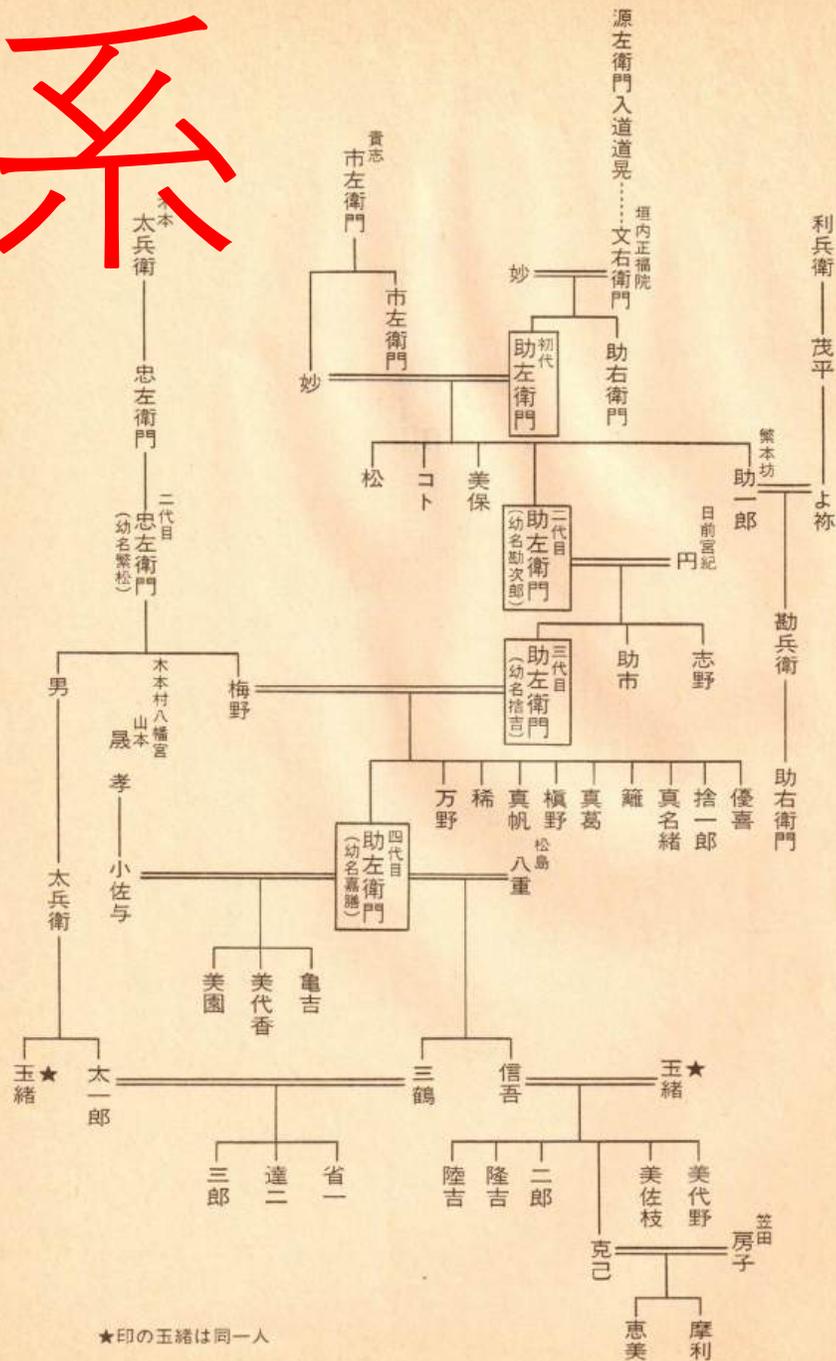
Koseki koseki in 1872

- Basis for Japanese population (1873-1919)
- Discriminatory identifiers found
- Viewing of Jinshin koseki banned in 1968
- Locked and sealed
- Next earliest available koseki 1996

The image shows a page from a historical Japanese household register (Jinshin Koseki) from 1872. The document is a grid with multiple columns and rows, containing handwritten Japanese text. The columns represent different family members, and the rows represent different pieces of information. The text is written vertically, reading from right to left. The document is titled '壬申戸籍' (Jinshin Koseki) and includes a reference number '130-236' at the bottom right. The document is a page from a larger volume, as indicated by the page number '130-236' at the bottom right.

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.)

直系



直系 Chokkei

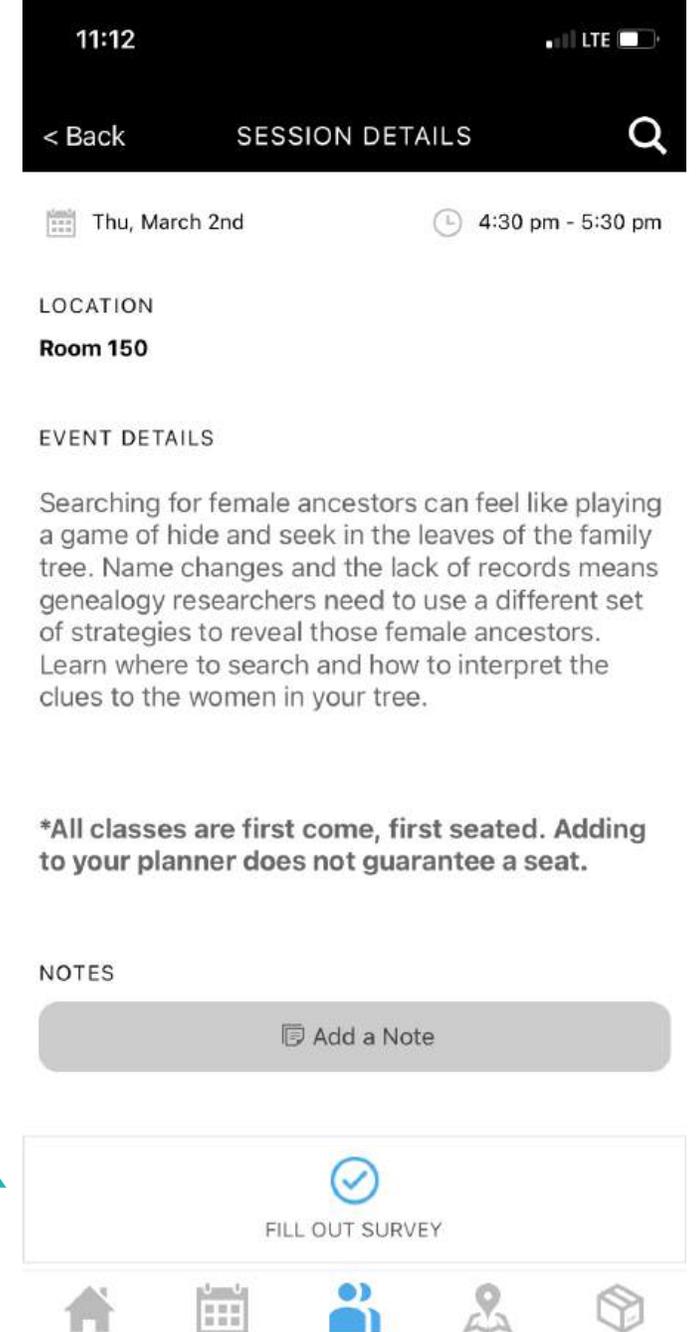
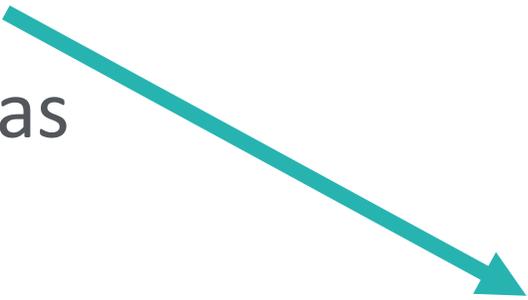
- Originally, anyone could request a koseki
- Beginning in 1976, only a direct relative could request ancestors' koseki
- Direct relative – either blood or adoptive

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)

Feedback

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



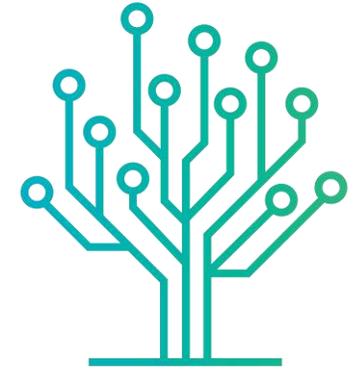
Presenter Contact Information



japanesefamilyhistory@gmail.com



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