Published Resources on Tule Lake

Note: The works highlighted below all have a specific focus on some aspect of Tule Lake. The list does not include general works on the incarceration that includes Tule Lake as part of some larger story. For a list of significant general works on the incarceration, see https://densho.org/additional-resources/.

Core Works


Shirai, Noboru. Tule Lake: An Issei Memoir. Translated by Ray Hosoda. Edited by Eucaly Shirai and Valerie Sampson. Sacramento, Calif.: Muteki Press, 2001. [Translated memoir by a younger Issei who played a role in Tule Lake community politics as the executive secretary of the pre-segregation community council that includes much rich detail on community life at the camp.]


Books, articles, and dissertations


Deschin, Celia S. "Tule Lake—Social Science in Inaction." *Journal of Educational Sociology* 21.6 (Feb. 1948): 368-81. [Essay by a Tule Lake welfare section counselor on the failure of social scientists to influence WRA policies that turned disastrous at Tule Lake.]

Fryer, Heather. "'The Song of the Stitches': Factionalism and Feminism at Tule Lake." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture & Society* 35.3 (Spring 2010): 673–78. [On Rosalie Wax, the main JERS fieldworker in post-segregation Tule Lake.]


Miyamoto, S. Frank. "The Career of Intergroup Tensions: A Study of the Collective Adjustments of Evacuees to Crises at the Tule Lake Relocation Center." Ph.D. dissertation, University of Chicago, 1950. [Miyamoto was a JERS fieldworker at pre-segregation Tule Lake who later became a professor at the University of Washington.]


Opler, Marvin K. "A 'Sumo' Tournament at Tule Lake Center." *American Anthropologist* 47.1 (Jan.-Mar. 1945): 134-39. [Opler was the community analyst at Tule Lake, and this and his other works stem from his work there.]


Thomas, Dorothy S., and Richard Nishimoto. *The Spoilage*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1946, 1969. [Influential early work on post-segregation Tule Lake and also the first monograph to come out of the JERS project.]


Wax, Rosalie H. *Doing Fieldwork: Warnings and Advice*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1971. [Wax, the main JERS field worker at post-segregation Tule Lake, draws on the lessons she learned from that experience.]


Memoirs, Diaries, Letters


Harkness, Thomas T. *Caucasian Boy at a Japanese Camp*. Redlands, Calif.: Tulahark Press, 2004. [Memoir by the son of Kenneth M. Harkness, who was the superintendent of schools and later chief of community services at Tule Lake, that recalls his boyhood impressions of the camp.]

Jacoby, Harold S. *Tule Lake: From Relocation to Segregation*. Grass Valley, Calif.: Comstock Bonanza Press, 1996. [Memoir by a sociologist who was the initial head of internal security at Tule Lake.]

Kashiwagi, Hiroshi. *Swimming in the American: A Memoir and Selected Writings*. San Mateo, Calif.: Asian American Curriculum Project, 2005. [The first of two memoirs by the playwright mostly focuses on the pre-war period though it does include his CWRIC testimony, his lengthy poem "A Meeting at Tule Lake" written for the 1975 Tule Lake Pilgrimage, and tribute to Wayne Collins, along with his 1990 play *The Betrayed*, which is partially set in Tule Lake.]


Kitagawa, Daisuke. *Issei and Nisei: The Internment Years*. New York: The Seabury Press, 1967. [Wartime memoir of a young Issei Methodist clergyman that covers his incarceration at Tule Lake, where he was an important inmate leader in the pre-segregation period.]

Lowery, Margaret. *39 Months at Tule Lake*. Xlibris, 2004. [Wartime diary of Tule Lake property officer J. Sheldon Lowery; includes introductory and background material by his daughter, Margaret Lowery.]


Shimonishi-Lamb, Mili. *And Then a Rainbow*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Fithian Press, 1990. [Memoir by a Nisei reunciant who spends thirteen years in Japan her incarceration at Tule Lake.]


Literary works

Charyn, Jerome. *American Scrapbook*. New York: Viking, 1969. [Japanese American family saga that mostly takes place in Manzanar, though one chapter is told from the perspective of a Nisei who ends up at post-segregation Tule Lake.]


Mueller, Marnie. *The Climate of the Country*. Willimantic, Conn.: Curbstone Press, 1998. [Novel whose protagonist is an idealistic young conscientious objector who becomes the director of community enterprises at Tule Lake and through whose eyes we see the unrest at the camp unfold. The novel is loosely based on the experiences of the author's father, Don Elberson, who held that position in real life.]

Roosevelt, Kermit. *Allegiance*. Regan Arts, 2015. [Historical mystery novel whose protagonist is a young Justice Department lawyer who ends up getting involved in Japanese American related cases. A subplot involves his going to Tule Lake to aid in the prosecution of draft resisters there.]


Templeman, Max. *Kibei*. Daimax Publishing House, 1979. [Family saga centering on a Kibei renunciant at Tule Lake that follows him to postwar Japan.]


**Film and video**

*American Fish.* Directed by Jesse Wine, 1995. 10 minutes. [Humorous short film about two Nisei women who meet at a market notes prevalent community attitudes towards Tule Lake.]

*Arnold Knows Me: The Tommy Kono Story.* Directed by Ryan Yamamoto, 2016. 27 minutes. [Biographical film on the Olympic champion weightlifter, who took up the sport at Tule Lake.]

*The Cats of Mirikitani.* Directed by Linda Hattendorf, 2006. 74 minutes. [Documentary film on artist Jimmy Tsutomu Mirikitani that covers his incarceration at Tule Lake and his renunciation of citizenship.]

*From a Silk Cocoon.* Directed by Emery Clay III, Stephen Holsapple, and Satsuki Ina, 2005. 57 minutes. [Documentary film that tells the story of a Kibei couple at Tule Lake.]

*Invisible Citizens: Japanese Americans.* Produced by Keiko Tsuno, 1983. 57 minutes. [Documentary film that highlights and wartime and post stories of six Japanese Americans. One segment, on Shiro Tokuno, takes place in part at a Tule Lake Pilgrimage.]

*Jimmy Murakami-Non Alien.* Directed by Sé Merry Doyle, 2010. 90 minutes. [Biographical documentary on artist and animator Jimmy T. Murakami that includes his incarceration at Tule Lake and his later return via a pilgrimage.]

*Meeting at Tule Lake.* Produced and directed by Scott T. Tsuchitani, 1994. 33 minutes. [Short documentary on the history of Tule Lake made for the 1994 Tule Lake Pilgrimage.]

*Rabbit in the Moon.* Directed by Emiko Omori, 1999. 85 minutes. [Influential documentary that highlights resistance and other lesser known stories of the incarceration.]

*Resistance at Tule Lake.* Directed by Konrad Aderer, 2017. 80 minutes. [Documentary film on Tule Lake that focused on the post-segregation period.]
To Be Takei. Directed by Jennifer M. Kroot and Bill Weber, 2014. 94 minutes. [Documentary film portraying George and Brad Takei includes George talking about his family's incarceration experience at Tule Lake.]

Children's books

