



## Guide to Genealogy Research in the Densho Encyclopedia

Genealogy research is about more than finding your ancestors in old documents, just as important is knowing the historical events, places, and social factors that affected their lives. Understanding the context within which your ancestors lived will help you identify record collections to explore. It also enriches the stories you can tell about their lives.

With over a thousand articles about the Japanese American experience, the Densho Encyclopedia is an essential tool in your genealogical research. These articles were written by scholars and experts who have vast knowledge on the subjects. Topics range from concentration camps to legal cases to influential Japanese Americans. While you will likely not discover your ancestors in these articles, they will provide those contextual clues you need.

### Where to Start Your Research

With the amount of research you can do in the Densho Encyclopedia, it can be overwhelming to know where to start. Here are some articles that are good places to begin:

#### Immigration and Prewar Communities

- “Alien land laws” by Cherstin M. Lyon (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Alien%20land%20laws>)
- “Immigration” by Emily Anderson (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Immigration>)
- “Picture brides” by Kelli Y. Nakamura (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Picture%20brides>)
- “Plantations” by Kelli Y. Nakamura (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Plantations>)

#### World War II Incarceration

- “Assembly centers” by Konrad Linke (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Assembly%20centers>)
- “Executive Order 9066” by Brian Niiya (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Executive%20Order%209066>)
- “Loyalty questionnaire” by Cherstin M. Lyon (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Loyalty%20questionnaire>)
- “Newspapers in camp” by Takeya Mizuno (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Newspapers%20in%20camp>)
- “Records about Japanese Americans relocated during World War II” by Brian Niiya (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Records%20about%20Japanese%20Americans%20relocated%20during%20World%20War%20II>)
- “Sites of incarceration” by Brian Niiya (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Sites%20of%20incarceration>)
- “War Relocation Authority” by Greg Robinson (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/War%20Relocation%20Authority>)
- “Wartime Civil Control Administration” by Brian Niiya (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Wartime%20Civil%20Control%20Administration>)

#### World War II Military

- “442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team” by Franklin Odo (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/442nd%20Regimental%20Combat%20Team>)
- “100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion” by Franklin Odo (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/100th%20Infantry%20Battalion>)
- “Draft resistance” by Eric L. Muller (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Draft%20resistance>)

- “Japanese Americans in military during World War II” by Brian Niiya (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Japanese%20Americans%20in%20military%20during%20World%20War%20II>)
- “Japanese American women in military” by Marie Sato (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Japanese%20American%20women%20in%20military>)
- “Military Intelligence Service” by Kelli Y. Nakamura (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Military%20Intelligence%20Service>)

## Resettlement

- “Hostels” by Brian Niiya (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Hostels>)
- “Resettlement” by Megan Asaka (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Resettlement>)
- “Return to the West Coast” by Brian Niiya (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Return%20to%20West%20Coast>)

## Postwar and Redress

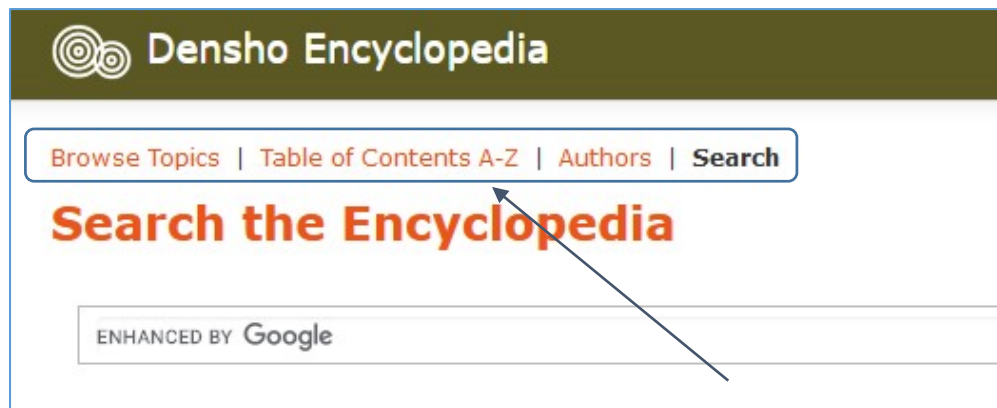
- “Camp pilgrimages” by Martha Nakagawa (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Camp%20pilgrimages>)
- “Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians” by Sharon Yamato (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Commission%20on%20Wartime%20Relocation%20and%20Internment%20of%20Civilians>)
- “Coram nobis cases” by Brian Niiya (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Coram%20nobis%20cases>)
- “Days of Remembrance” by Martha Nakagawa (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Days%20of%20Remembrance>)
- “Redress movement” by Alice Yang (<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Redress%20movement>)

## Tips on Using the Densho Encyclopedia

### Searching

There are multiple ways to find articles in the Densho Encyclopedia. Clicking on “Search” in the upper right hand corner allows you to do a keyword search and will pull results from the titles and text of the articles. Boolean operators will work (i.e., OR, AND, NOT). However, wildcards will not (i.e., \* or ?).

You can also browse by topic, look at a table of contents, and by author. The easiest way to access these options are by clicking on “Search” in the upper right hand corner. Once in the main search page you can select from 4 options.



## Article Features

In each article you will find a number of features:

- Links to other articles in the Densho Encyclopedia. These links show up as orange text.
- On the right hand side, you may find links to oral history segments, photographs, or documents held in the Densho Digital Repository (DDR). Click on “More info” for additional ways to interact with these materials.
- Some articles have a “For More Information” section at the bottom of the page. This section contains links or citations to other resources that would be helpful for additional research.
- At the bottom of the right hand column you will find links to additional, helpful features:
  - “From the Densho Digital Repository” -> “See more” takes you to relevant items from the DDR.
  - “About the Incarceration” provides a short introduction to the history of incarceration.
  - “Do Words Matter?” is Densho’s statement on terminology.
  - “Historical Timeline” is a timeline of relevant dates in Japanese American history.
  - “Map” takes you to Densho Sites of Shame, an interactive website of the World War II incarceration.



## Use of Articles

A link to Densho's policy regarding use and citation of article content can be found at the bottom of each page under “Using and Citing Articles.” Where possible Densho shares these articles under a Creative Commons license (Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License). You can find the copyright status at the end of each article.

To properly cite articles and primary source content, be sure to include the name of the article, the author(s), the publication name, "Densho Encyclopedia," the url of the article page, and the date/time that you accessed the page.