

## LESSON 1 SOURCE 1.18 THE KAGETSU FAMILY

**Family Name:** Kagetsu

**Family Members:** Eikichi, Toyo, Hideko, Kimiyo, Takako, Hiroshi, Akiko, Sachiko, Akira, and Tadashi

**Street Address:** 2867 West 37th Ave. Vancouver, B.C.

**Occupation:** Kagetsu Logging Company

**Location:** Vancouver, British Columbia



Vancouver sits on the coast of British Columbia's mainland, on the shore of the Pacific and near the mouth of the Fraser River. New arrivals to the region recognized the geographic advantage of a settlement in this place. The land on which it stands has long been home to people of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh nations (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh-ulh Temíxw (Squamish) and səilwətaʔt təməxʷ (Tsleil-Waututh) territory).

In 1939, Vancouver is the economic engine of the province. The Canadian Pacific railway carries timber, coal, and canned fish across Canada. The port delivers the same resources across the world. It is a time of optimism: this year has shown the first signs of economic prosperity since the Great Depression. Newcomers pour into the city hoping to take advantage of the province's natural wealth.

Powell Street is the heart of Japanese Canadian life in Vancouver. It is lined with Japanese Canadian-owned shops, businesses, restaurants, boarding houses, and food merchants catering to Japanese Canadians in and beyond Vancouver. Powell Street begins in the business centre of Vancouver and runs east toward the city's working-class districts. Shipyards and lumber mills lie north of Powell Street. Residential neighborhoods, with family homes, expand southwards. The streets bustle with millworkers, entrepreneurs, established families, and new immigrants.

Not all Japanese Canadians live in the Powell Street neighborhood. Some families have moved to different parts of the city. Successful entrepreneurs live in wealthier neighborhoods like Kerrisdale. Even as the community grows, however, Powell Street remains a vital centre to Japanese Canadian life. Only there can you find the home-turf of the beloved Asahi baseball team, uniquely Japanese cuisine, and the headquarters of community newspapers.

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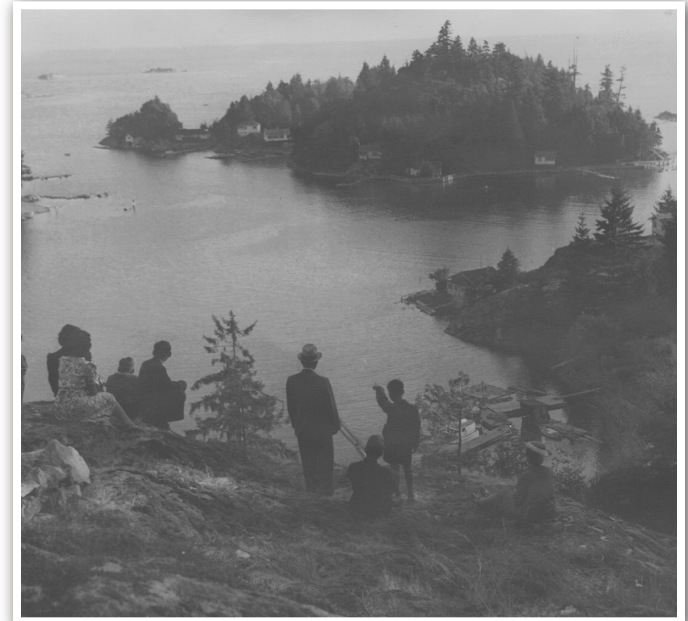
### ABOUT THE KAGETSU FAMILY

The Kagetsu family has lived in the Kerrisdale neighborhood, an affluent neighborhood of Vancouver, since 1918. They have a large family: Hideko (27), Kimiyo (22), Takako (19), Hiroshi (18), Akiko (17), Sachiko (15), Akira (12), and Tadashi (8).

When Eikichi first arrived in Canada, in 1908, he had little money to his name. He saw an opportunity in British Columbia's landscape: lumber. Over the course of three decades, Eikichi built a logging empire on Vancouver Island. Success, however, required hard work and determination to overcome failures along the way.

In 1939, Eikichi is a community leader. For several years, he has been the President of the Japanese Canadian Citizen's Association. During his leadership he laid a wreath for fallen Japanese Canadian soldiers at Vimy Ridge, France, in 1936. The next year, Eikichi, Toyo, and their children were on the dock to welcome the Japanese Prince and Princess Chichibu when they visited Vancouver.

Every so often, the family goes fishing in Fisherman's Cove, outside of Vancouver. On the way back to Vancouver, they stop at their favorite restaurant, Fuji Chop Suey, and have the chef prepare their freshly



Left: Eikichi, wearing a suit vest sitting on the ground, with his workers around a massive felled tree. Nikkei National Museum 2016.14.1.6.026

Centre: The Kagetsu family in the 1920s outside their home in Kerrisdale. Nikkei National Museum 2016.14.1.6

Right: The Kagetsus look out over Burrard Inlet. Nikkei National Museum 2016.14.1.14.002