Reclaiming our story

using digital archives to preserve the history of Japanese American incarceration
Credits:
“Man digging potatoes,” Courtesy of Densho and Manzanar Historic Site Collection, https://ddr.densho.org/ddr-densho-153-4
INSTRUCTIONS
TO ALL PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

LIVING IN THE FOLLOWING AREA:

All that portion of the City of Seattle, State of Washington, within that boundary beginning at the point at which the northerly limits of said city, west Ashley Bay (three miles), and following the northerly limits of said city to Roosevelt Way; thence westerly and following Roosevelt Way, Eastlake Avenue, Fairview Avenue, Virginia Street, and Westlake Avenue to Fifth Avenue; thence southerly to Fifth Avenue to Union Bay; thence easterly to Union Bay; thence northerly to North Avenue; thence northerly to Maynard Avenue to Jackson Street; thence westerly on Jackson Street to Elliott Bay; thence northwesterly and northerly, and following the westerly limits of the City of Seattle, to the point of beginning.

Pursuant to the provisions of Civilian Exclusion Order No. 17, this Headquarters, dated April 24, 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above area by 12:00 noon, P.W.T., Friday, May 3, 1942.

No Japanese person living in the above area will be permitted to change residence after 12:00 noon, P.W.T., Friday, April 24, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the representative of the Commanding General, Northwestern Sector, at the Central Control Station Seattle.

2000 Second Avenue, Seattle, Washington.

Such permits may only be granted for the purpose of uniting members of a family, or in cases of grave emergency.

The Central Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
2. Provide services with respect to the management, storing, sale, or disposal of real estate, business and personal equipment, household goods, livestock, automobiles and livestock.

WCCA Seattle Exclusion Order No. 17
Credit:
Densho

- Founded by members of the Japanese American community in 1996
- Original purpose
  - Capture the stories before those who experienced the incarceration are gone
  - Use those stories to educate, promote, and advance the ideals of democracy and to encourage civic engagement
Credit:
Credit:
WRA Form 26 ("Individual Record")

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<th>Value</th>
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Form 26
REFERENCE COPY OF TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION FOR ACCESSIONED ELECTRONIC RECORDS
(Copied: May 11, 2005)
Records About Japanese Americans Relocated During World War II RecordGroup 210: Records of the War Relocation Authority
Credit:
Final Accountability Roster, Heart Mountain Relocation Center, 1946.
Issues with registry data

- Form WRA-26
  - Truncated and summarized data values
  - Transcription and reformatting errors
  - Electronic version created from incomplete, secondary dataset
- FAR
  - Legibility of originals
  - Schema and syntax differs between camps
  - Variable quality of microfilm transfer
  - Multiple versions of roster

Credit:
Names Registry FAR Data Prep Workflow

Names Registry data prep workflow
Names Registry Consolidation Workflow

Marshal raw CSV files

Create pseudo-ID, filter private data, and perform secondary QA

Index in ElasticSearch and publish cleaned CSV files to web
Names Registry v1

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<tr>
<th>Degree Achieved</th>
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<td>Marital Status</td>
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**Family Members**

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<th>Individual No.</th>
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<td>Civilian Ancestry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Back to results | New search
Names Registry:
looking ahead

- True name authority + family graph
- More data sources
  - Military service lists
  - DoJ, INS, US Army and other facility registers
- Integration with Densho Digital Repository, Encyclopedia and other website projects
- Public API and LOD service

Credit:
Processing at scale

- Acquiring raw data and determining “good enough”
- Finding better tools and novel approaches
- Cultivating different staff skills

Credit:
Privacy and ethics

- Evaluating regulatory and legal requirements
- Implementing privacy policies and managing access
- Balancing individual vs. community concerns

Credit:
Credit:
Thank you!

Questions or comments?

Contact me at:
Geoff Froh <geoff.froh@densho.org>
Slide 11:

Slide 13:

Slide 15:

Slide 16:

Slide 20:

Slide 21:

Slide 22: