

ASAMEN

FATHER

ZENTARO

Generation

Issei

Date and place of birth

November 29, 1880

Kami Ijuin-mura, Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan

Date and place of death

October 7, 1971 Brawley

Educational background

Elementary school (3-4 years)

Date and place of arrival in U.S.

1903

San Francisco

Year of arrival in Imperial Valley

1912

MOTHER

EDA (née OYAMA)

Generation

Issei

Date and place of birth

June 20, 1899

Kami Ijuin-mura, Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan

Date and place of death

February 24, 1989 Indio, California

Educational background

High school

Date and place of arrival in U.S.

November 17, 1919 Seattle, Washington

Year of arrival in Imperial Valley

1919

Date and place of marriage

August 8, 1919

Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan

Picture bride marriage

No

CHILDREN

Nisei Generation

(Names in order of birth)

- George, born August 15, 1920
- Kumiko, born November 11, 1921
- Keigi, born August 17, 1923
- Michiko, born January 15, 1926
- Tatsuo, born March 1, 1928
- Masako, born July 13, 1930
- Joe, born February 9, 1933
- Toshiko, born August 16, 1936
- May Hiroko, born May 9, 1940

Places of residence en route to Imperial Valley

Wilmington, California

Reasons for coming to America or Imperial Valley

Zentaro Asamen immigrated to America because of depressed economic conditions in Japan. He intended to make money and return to his home village.

Places of residence in Imperial Valley

City of Westmorland (1919 - 1930)

Rural Westmorland (1930 - present)

Employment/Occupation

Zentaro Asamen was a farmer and produce shipper. He was the owner of the Asamen Produce Company in Brawley. Crops grown included cantaloupes, honeydew melons, watermelons, lettuce, cabbage, carrots, and alfalfa. Within the local Japanese American community, Z. Asamen was dubbed the “Cantaloupe King.”

Church membership

Brawley Buddhist Church and Brawley Japanese Methodist Episcopal Church

Clubs/Organizations/Community Activities

Zentaro Asamen was a supporter of the Brawley Judo Club in which his sons participated.

Place of incarceration during World War II

Zentaro Asamen was interned in Justice Department Internment Camps in Bismarck, North Dakota and Santa Fe, New Mexico. The rest of the Asamen family was incarcerated in the Colorado River Relocation Center (Poston) – Unit I, Arizona.

Place of resettlement after World War II

Westmorland

Other information (contributions/awards/memories/comments)

In 1953 the Zentaro Asamen family donated the 50-foot flagpole, which stands at the Westmorland Union Elementary School. Zentaro Asamen was awarded a commendation by Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of U.S.-Japan relations in 1960.



**Zentaro and Eda Asamen
1919**