

15:2

YAMAGATA, SHUNJI

1948-1961

78/177

C



em

Japanese American Community Council  
of Los Angeles  
258 E. First Street  
Los Angeles 12,  
California.

To: Mr. WAYNE M. COLLINS;

The undersigned SHUNJI YAMAGATA .....  
wishes to be included in the mass suit to restore my United States  
citizenship.

*Shunji Yamagata*  
.....  
Signature

Name: Shunji Yamagata

Present Address: Kitako Shinkai, Hiromachi, Kure City, Hiroshima Ken  
% Kure Liaison Hiro Field Office

Date of Birth: April 26, 1914  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

Place of Birth: Fowler Fresno County California  
(Township) (County) (State)

Place of citizenship renouncement: Tule Lake Internment Camp

Note: Received a letter of approval on citizenship renouncia-  
tion on 28 Dec, 1944.



623 Kabemachi, Asagun  
Hiroshima Ken, Japan  
June 2, 1948

Attorney Collins  
% American Civil Liberty Union  
216 Pine Street  
San Francisco 4, California.  
U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

The recent announcement which verified the reinstatement of United States Citizenship has brought a encouraging light to those who under the duress of nationalist-minded Japanese forced to conjure every privilege of citizenship. The few thousand Niseis who restored American Citizenship will profoundly express his or her appreciation toward your remarkable effort which brought favourable result.

I am one of the Niseis who was forced to affiliate with a organization and led to renounce my citizenship by coercion and persuasion. I am certain that there are number of persons who could not resist their temptation without further considering innumerable annoyances which may affect afterward regarding this matter. Do you surmiss that there may be a possibility to regain the lost privileges of citizenship ? If so, what legal precedence I must make to file in application to effect reinstatement ?

I will appreciate very much if you can afford relative information and advice in regard to aforementioned matter.

Yours very truly,

*Shunji Yamagata*



CM

Kitako Shinkai, Hiro Machi,  
Kure City, Hiroshima Ken.  
July 15, 1948

To Mr. M Collins  
c/o American Civil Liberty Union  
21 6 Pine Street  
San Francisco 4, California.  
U.S.A.

8/17/48

The undersigned YAMAGATA, SHUNJI wishes to be included in  
the mass suit to restore United States citizenship.

Name: YAMAGATA, SHUNJI

Present Address: Kitako Shinkai, Hiro Machi, Kure City, Hiroshima Ken.

Date of birth: April 26, 1914

Place of birth: Fowler, California.

Place of citizenship renouncement: Tule Lake, California.

Have you receive approval of renunciation from Attorney General?

Note: Yes, I have received an approval of renunciation.

Signature

Shunji Yamagata



WAYNE M. COLLINS  
Attorney at Law  
Mills Tower, 220 Bush Street  
San Francisco 4, California

January 5, 1949

AIR MAIL

Mr. Shunji Yamaguchi  
623 Kabemachi, Asa Gun  
Hiroshima Ken, Japan

Dear Mr. Yamaguchi:

At your request you have been joined as a party plaintiff in the suit to cancel the renunciation and restore citizenship to those who renounced U.S. citizenship at the Tule Lake center or other war relocation centers within the United States during the war.

IT IS URGENT THAT YOU ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IMMEDIATELY. These are the same questions contained in my letter of two months ago and which you have not yet answered.

IF THIS INFORMATION DOES NOT REACH ME BY JANUARY 28, 1949, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR ME TO DISMISS YOUR NAME FROM THE SUIT, and thereafter join you in a further suit, if requested.

1. Your full name, including middle name (also maiden name, if married woman).
2. Date of birth.
3. Place of birth.
4. Place and approximate date of renunciation.
5. NAME UNDER WHICH YOU RENOUNCED.
6. Whether or not you received a letter from the Attorney General approving your renunciation. If you have such a letter in your possession, I would thank you to send it to me by air mail.

IF YOU DID NOT RENOUNCE YOUR CITIZENSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES, I WOULD THANK YOU TO SO INFORM ME AT ONCE.

Very truly yours,

REPLY AIR MAIL



WAYNE M. COLLINS  
Attorney at Law  
Mills Tower, 220 Bush Street  
San Francisco 4, California

October 19, 1948

Mr. Shunji Yamaguchi  
623 Kabemachi, Asa Gun  
Hiroshima Ken, Japan

Dear Mr. Yamaguchi:

On August 23, 1948, you were joined in the suit to cancel your renunciation of U.S. nationality and to restore your American citizenship. However, the Department of Justice informs me that it is unable to locate any record of your application for renunciation or of any approval that issued thereon by the Attorney General.

I would thank you therefore to send me immediately answers to the following questions:

1. Your full name, including middle name (also maiden name, if married woman).
2. Date of birth.
3. Place of birth.
4. Place and approximate date of renunciation.
5. Name under which you renounced.
6. Whether or not you received a letter from the Attorney General, or any of his assistants, approving your renunciation.

If you have such a letter in your possession, I would thank you to send it to me immediately.

Very truly yours,

BRIGHTWATER

DELICATE ONION SKIN

RAG CONTENT



161, 2-chome Nakacho  
Idogaya, Minami-ku  
Yokohama, Japan  
February 11, 1949

Mr. Wayne M. Collins  
Attorney-at-Law  
Mills Tower, 220 Bush St.  
San Francisco 4, California

Dear Mr. Collins:

The undersigned, Shunji Yamagata, wishes to file  
a further request of the suit to restore his United States  
citizenship.

Shunji Yamagata  
Signature

1. Full Name: James Shunji Yamagata
2. Date of Birth: April 26, 1914
3. Place of Birth: Fowler Fresno California  
(Township) (County) (State)
4. Place & Approximate Date of Renunciation: Tule  
Lake Center, California, December 28, 1944
5. Name Under which I Renounced: Shunji Yamagata

Shunji Yamagata



YAMAGATA, SHUNJI  
(Yamaguchi - misspelling)

No. 161, 2-chome Nakacho  
Idogaya, Minami-ku  
Yokohama, Japan  
February 11, 1949

Mr. Wayne M. Collins  
Attorney-at-Law  
Mills Tower, 220 Bush St.  
San Francisco 4, California

Dear Mr. Collins:

In response to your letters dated October 19, 1948 and January 5, 1949, I have already submitted to you the required information in my letter of October 10, 1948. I also reported to the Japanese American Community Council of 258 E. First Street, Los Angeles 4, California in October, 1948 to that effect. Therefore, I believe that these letters must have been misfiled among thousands of similar requests which poured into your office files. Besides, your above two letters had arrived considerably late due to the wrong surname shown on the address. As it was, the letter was opened by some third person or persons, and after ten days of the deadline you set, January 28, 1949, it reached me.

In the letter dated October 19, 1948 you have informed me that my name does not appear in the file record of the Department of Justice, but I have formally renounced my United States citizenship as described on the attached sheet. To clarify the probable clerical mistake heretofore having been made, I shall make a further request to the suit to restore my citizenship.

Your kind consideration in realizing the numerous troubles I have encountered and also filing a further request of the suit will be most sincerely appreciated.

*Shunji Yamagata*

P. S. My address has changed in the meantime, as you will note above.



Aug. 4, 1954

Re: Shunji YAMAGATA

Please send another set of affidavit forms to Shunji Yamagata at his new address.

DP

*Re-sent  
8/4/54*



July 30, 1954

Dear Mr. Wayne Collins,

I have received your letter dated June 23, 1954 just recently because I have moved from the address shown on your mail to me to new residence written on left hand corner of this envelope.

Referring to your letter of said date, you have mentioned that you sent me a letter early this year requesting me to fill out five Affidavit forms. Unfortunately, by some reasons the required Affidavit forms have not reached me to date. Apparently, it is an error in my part for not informing you of the change of address but, through repeated exchange of correspondences and informations I gathered from reliable sources since repatriation to Japan in 1945, I have arrived to a conclusion that it is hopeless to materialize the reinstitution of the U. S. citizenship. But, now you have sent me a letter harboring some hopeful future if we are to act accordingly to regain U.S. citizenship. This change of situation has brought my attention to make another attempt by complying your generous instruction.

For aforementioned reasons, it is deeply appreciated to forward me your required Affidavit forms as soon as possible.

Thanking you very much in advance.

My new address:

Shunji Yamagata  
c/o Sakaye-So Ap't  
No. 13, Nakacho, Nakano-ku  
Tokyo, Japan

Sincerely yours

I *Shunji Yamagata*  
SHUNJI YAMAGATA

*Balance - \$300*

*Re-print  
8/4/54*

*new  
add  
note  
8/4/54*



This space is also for correspondence.

す

こゝにも通信

From Shunji Yamagata I  
c/o Sakaye-So Ap't  
No. 13, Nakacho, Nakano-ku,  
Tokyo, Japan

new  
add  
note  
8/4/54



AEROGRAMME

Mr. Wayne Collins  
Mills Tower, 220 Bush St.,  
San Francisco, 4. Calif  
U. S. A.

RECEIVED

AUG 4 1954

PAR AVION

航空

この郵便物には何物も封入又は添附できません

Nothing may be contained in or attached to this letter.

折込線

折込線

こゝにも通信文を記載すること

This space is also for correspondence.



Re: Shunji Yamagata

States he voted in an election - but did not realize the effect of voting on his citizenship status. Consequently, he feels he must cancel plans to regain citizenship and will remain in Japan.

DP



*add page*  
No. 13, Nakacho, Nakano-ku  
Tokyo, Japan  
August 28, 1954

Dear Mr. Wayne Collins,

I acknowledge with thanks the receipt of six copies of Affidavit forms, Outline of events leading to renunciation of citizenship, Memoranda and your printed letter addressed to Plaintiff Renounciants on Aug. 23, 1954. Upon receipt, I have scrutinized each of them with careful attentions and wish to make the following comment.

When I read your printed letter to Plaintiff-Renounciant on second page and third paragraph where how "A CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY" will be denied for issuance by U. S. Consul I had to make a decision to cancel my plan to regain the citizenship as I fall in that category. I voted for the first national election held in 1946 without a least knowledge of this act which automatically deprive me of right of U.S. citizenship.

I remember then that the Supreme Commander of Allied Powers, General Douglas MacArthur himself issued out a memorandum to encourage each and every eligible voter to cast a ballot to concrete the foundation of democratic nation. All the major newspapers as well as Supervisory Election Committees also emphasized its importance by press and other means and supported the voice of SCAP and I felt that I was obligated to respond to their requests. No one then ever thought or warned me of this act which will deprive me of the right of citizenship. However, the U.S. Law prohibit this act I have nothing to mention but to abolish and forget about the plan to regain citizenship or even go to the United States unless I am included in the small limited number of "Immigration Quota".

It is for this aforementioned reason, I will and has to cancel my plan altogether to regain citizenship and will remain in Japan. Will you therefore please delete my name off the list of Plaintiff Renounciants and drop the matter for me.

In conclusion, I want to thank you for your generous advice and guidance in the past and wish good luck for others who are making their best efforts for their regaining U. S. citizenship.

Your very truly,

SHUNJI YAMAGATA



This space is also for correspondence.

こゝにも通信文を記載することができます

From Shunji Yamagata  
c/o Sakaye-So Ap't  
No. 13, Nakacho, Nakano-ku,  
Tokyo, Japan



AEROGRAMME

Mr. Wayne M. Collins  
Attorney at Law  
1701 Mills Tower  
220 Bush St.  
San Francisco 4, Calif., U.S.A.

RECEIVED  
AUG 30 1954

PAR AVION  
航空

この郵便物には何物も封入又は添附できません  
Nothing may be contained in or attached to this letter.

折込線

折込線

こゝにも通信文を記載することができます

This space is also for correspondence.



WAYNE M. COLLINS  
Attorney at Law  
Mills Tower, 220 Bush Street  
San Francisco 4, Cal. U.S.A.  
Garfield 1-1218

April 8, 1955

Via Air Letter

Mr. Shunji Yamagata  
No. 13, Nakacho, Nakano-ku  
Tokyo, Japan

Dear Mr. Yamagata:

I suggest that you fill out one of the affidavit forms that I sent to you, writing therein your proposed answers and send it to me for examination.

In addition thereto, I am sending to you under separate cover, a questionnaire which you should fill in and return to me promptly.

If the Justice Department is convinced from your affidavit that you renounced your U.S. citizenship because of fear, duress or coercion, it will consent to cancel it. Thereafter, under a new law passed by Congress, you will be able to appear before a U.S. Consul and take the oath of allegiance to the United States. Such a procedure will restore you to full citizenship rights.

Very truly yours,



WAYNE M. COLLINS  
Attorney at Law  
Mills Tower, 220 Bush Street  
San Francisco 4, California

---

November 1, 1955

Mr. Shunji Yamagata  
c/o Sakaye so Apt.  
No. 13, Nakacho, Nakano-ku  
Tokyo, Japan

Dear Mr. Yamagata:

I would thank you to fill out one of the affidavit forms that I sent to you some time ago as a sample form and in addition thereto fill out the personal questionnaire that I also sent to you. The sample affidavit and the questionnaire will enable me to prepare a proper affidavit for you to submit to the Justice Department in an endeavor to clear you administratively.

I believe there is a good chance that you may recover your U.S. nationality in the pending suits either by administrative remedy or by court decision.

However if you are no longer interested in recovering your U.S. nationality and you wish to be dismissed from the suits, I would thank you to inform me thereof by return mail.

Very truly yours,



DATA SHEET

Name: YAMAGATA, Shunji

Judgment: 5/2/58 Doc. Japan  
(Date & kind)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Folder: ☒ \_\_\_\_\_

*Fowler  
b. (Fresno)*

Address Information:  
(Phone bk., C/D, etc.)

Japan .

*not in J/D La, Fowler, Fresno*

*located ph/bk  
10/24/60*

*Shunji Yamagata  
3631 8th Ave  
La*

Letters, contact, judgment  
order, etc.:

-----  
Payment information, billing:

-----  
Cross reference:

*Brother: Goro Moriyama FJ  
Add. unknown as of 6/17/60*



WAYNE M. COLLINS  
Attorney At Law  
Mills Tower, 220 Bush Street  
SAN FRANCISCO 4, CALIFORNIA  
GARfield 1-5827

October 24, 1960

Mr. Shunji Yamagata  
3631 8th Avenue  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Mr. Yamagata:

If you wish to receive your individual certified copy of the "Final Judgment" of the Court that cancels your wartime renunciation of citizenship and that declares you to be a U.S. citizen, you can obtain it from me by sending to me the \$ 300.00 balance due on your account. Sometime in the future you may need this document to prove your citizenship, to obtain a passport, to establish your right to vote, in applying for employment, Social Security benefits, various licenses, loyalty checkup, etc. If it presses you too much to pay your balance in a lump sum, you can let me know and arrangements can be made for you to pay the balance by installments. I am enclosing a stamped envelope for your reply.

Very truly yours,

*W.M. Collins*

Enc.



Feb 13, 1961

Mr. Wayne M. Collins  
Attorney at Law  
Mills Tower 220 Bush St  
San Francisco 4, Calif

Dear Mr. Collins

Received your letter with regard to balance due you in the amt of \$300 concerning acquisition of certified copy of Final Judgment relating to U.S. citizenship which I lost during the war.

In this connection I wish to point out that sometime in early 50 (1950-1954) I sent you a letter requesting to withdraw from group plaintiff because of no immediate solution in regaining citizenship was in sight at then. I believe you have file record of my letter if you have received it.

In January 1959 I was issued with U.S. Passport from American Consulate at Nagoya after my application for U.S. citizenship and passport to the U.S. was approved by State Department. As it is I acquired the citizenship by my own application and not through other sources.

If you think that I should pay the balance regardless I may pay them after I received your answer to paragraph 2 of this letter.

Sincerely yours  
Shunji Yamagata



NOV. 7, 1961

Mr. Wayne M. Collins  
Mills Tower, 220 Bush St  
S. F., 4, Calif.

Dear Mr Collins,

As requested in your letter dated  
Nov. 2, 1961 I enclosed herewith the  
address of Mr. Goro & Shigeo Moriyama.

If in the event they injured you &  
how you got their address please refrain  
mentioning my name.

I would like to find out the result  
of inquiry I sent few months ago with  
regard to your request of remitting you  
of \$200.

Yours truly,  
Shunjo Yamagata



joined

8/23/48

9/18/61

He asked for  
dismissal in 1954

Refuses to pay,  
unless we insist

Pal \$300