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## Tradition-Blue

Professional Family History Research Firm & Offer Professional Family Trees

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We are a family history research firm based in Japan. We specialize in translating old Japanese/Chinese into modern Japanese, and to English as well as conducting family history research, and creating traditional Japanese-style and original Western-style family trees. Our family history researcher is a respected specialist in his field and has had experience in over 1,800 family history research cases. We would be greatly honored to have you seek our services. Please do let us know if there is anything we can do to assist you in tracing your family lineage.

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## Our Business

Our name, Tradition Blue consists of two parts. Tradition, the translation of the Japanese “Densho”, and Blue, the color of “Hope”. TB also stands for “Transmission Business of values from generation to generation”. There are certain values we should pass down to the next generations. We believe that our parents and ancestors whose existence led to our existence today, also our children and grandchildren are the people who mean the most in our lives and the precious values. To strengthen “Family Bonds” and to create “Love and Hope” by passing such values not just from the past to the present, but also from the present to the next generation, This is our ideal “Transmission Business”

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## Our Service

We offer two different types of research methods. The Koseki (Family Registry) Research that can trace up to 4 to 6 generations as far back as 150 years, and the Field Research that can trace up to 7 to 10 generations as far back as 200 to 300 years.

## Koseki Research

The Family Registry Law was established in 1871, and since then, all Japanese citizens have been required to report births, acknowledgements of paternity, adoptions, disruptions of adoptions, deaths, marriages and divorces. By obtaining these records from the local authorities, we are able to trace up to 4 to 6 generations as far back as 150 years. These registry records contain information that you may have never known. They will include the name of the head of household as well as each family member's detailed information. These records may also reveal information regarding family members born in the late 1800's who may have passed away in the 1900's. The Family Registry Law sets the preservation period of death records to 150 years, and these records are being disposed year after year. When death records created under the patriarchal system are disposed, it becomes difficult to ascertain the registered permanent address and/or kinship among family members. If you are interested in tracing your family lineage, it is essential that you obtain these records before they are disposed of. These records can be requested via mail and hence it is not necessary to go to the local authorities for such requests. However, it must be noted that records may have been destroyed due to wars, national disasters, or fires. In such cases, records will not be retrievable even if it has not reached the 150 year preservation limit.

## Field Research #1

Based upon the information obtained from the Koseki, we will bring the research to the next step by examining the records kept at family temples such as cemetery (bochi), Buddhist memorial tablet (ihin), and old temple records (kakocho). We also visit the head family's house (honke / main branch of your family) to find more information. With the field research, we can trace up to 7 to 10 generations as far back as 200 to 300 years. Due to the religion policies set forth by the government, the people of the Edo period (1600-1868) were required to register with a temple. The practice of erecting stone pagodas and placing (Buddhist) memorial tablets at the family altars is said to have started in the Genroku period (1688-1704). Even to this day, spirit tablets and old temple records can be found by visiting the old family, and stone pagodas can be found at the family cemetery. We will investigate and analyze the Buddhist name, name, and date of death found in these temple records. This will allow us to research as far back as the Kyohou era (1716-1736). If your family is not the main branch of your family, we will need to visit the house and cemetery of the head family in order to obtain the temple records. There is a high possibility that we can find old documents including family trees that reveal further information by visiting the old family (a family of pedigree). However, memorial tablets and old temple records are often kept at the family altar inside the house, and for this reason, we will need the understanding and cooperation of the family members upon conducting this research. We will also need to contact

them to explain the situation and gain approval in advance. Under normal circumstances, having you, the client, introduce us to your old family will resolve this issue, but we will need to handle this matter in a flexible manner if you were not previously in contact with your old family. The field research will utilize all of the temple records available to date and bring your research to the next level.

## Field Reserch #2

If you wish to delve deeply into tracing your family roots, obtaining records from the family temple will not be sufficient. However, researching information prior to the Edo period (1600–1868) is difficult, even for the most experienced research specialists. The foundation of the research will be built around the information obtained from Koseki records and family temple records. In addition, we will locate and speak with the tribal elder to learn of the ancient lore and rural community of the past. We will also investigate local archives and old documents that may include family trees and time-honored documents (yuishogaki). This research will inherently require more time and resources. However, the information obtained from such research regarding the origin of your family is sure to become a family treasure to be passed down from one generation to the next.

## A Word form the CEO

As innovations in technologies continue to move forward and globalization continues to evolve rapidly, our sense of values get more diversified. While all corners of the world keeps changing rapidly, the number of people who are left questioning their own identity would continue to rise. The one universal value that has remained unchanged for hundreds, and thousands of years is the value we place on our families. I believe it is the family identity that is born out of this timeless value that will allow us to face the ever-changing values and reinforce our own sense of identity. We at Tradition Blue wish to contribute to create a vital society by establishing family identities and strengthen family bonds through the accumulation and organization of family history information. We sincerely hope that our company grows to be loved and needed by many people for years to come.

## A Word from our researcher, Tradition-Blue

Family trees are a graphic representation of family bonds. My family tree is a representation of my family history, a truly invaluable token. Please do not simply record names but overlay historical vignettes from your family's history. You will surely rediscover your own identity in the process of creating your family tree. While some may tend to think that family trees are only for those from old and distinguished families, this is a mistaken perception. Any individual will be able to conduct their research to some extent. The responsibility of a family history researcher is to link the spirits of the ancestors with the descendants. Staying true to my past experience and your needs, I guarantee that I will execute my responsibilities to the best of my ability.