



# Etsu Hashizume

(1887-1977)

Etsu Hashizume, and her husband, Tashiro were among the first Japanese to settle in Mission during the early 1900's and raise their family.

Born in Yoshida, a small farming and fishing village in Ehime Prefecture, Japan, Etsu was a qualified midwife nurse. Following her marriage in 1912, Etsu moved to "...a wooden shack in the middle of the wilderness with no electricity or gas" located on the present day site of Westminster Abbey.

Enduring many hardships, she did whatever was necessary to assist her husband on their 128.5 acre fruit and berry farm.

As more Japanese families settled in the area, Etsu's skills as a midwife nurse became in demand. She delivered "countless babies" and was "particularly proud that almost all of the ones she delivered were successful".

A pioneering woman, Etsu was a highly regarded member of what was to become one of the largest Japanese settlements in the Fraser Valley.

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