Behind the incredible success of Dr. Takamine: A Love Story...

In this series we would like to give you an insight into one episode of Dr. Takamine’s life. You will discover how his unconventional marriage, with its share of joy but also of adversity, moulded his future life.

Setting

End of the American Civil War and Slavery in the then Confederate States of the South.

1884. Dr. Takamine was sent to New Orleans as a co-commissioner representing Japan at the cotton exposition.

Jokichi Takamine (1854-1922)

Doctor Takamine is recognized as one of the fathers of biotechnology, and is at the origin of the enzyme industry. He contributed very positively to the relationship between Japan and the USA. His life has inspired and still inspires many entrepreneurs.

When in New Orleans, Jokichi Takamine stayed with Colonel Ebeneezer Hitch.
WHILE THERE, TAKAMINE FELL IN LOVE WITH COLONEL HITCH’S DAUGHTER, CAROLINE AND THIS WAS TO BIND HIM TO THE USA FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.

BEFORE THE CLOSE OF THE EXPOSITION TAKAMINE HAD PROPOSED TO CAROLINE.

HE WAS 30 AND SHE ONLY 18.

THE MATCH WAS UNCONVENTIONAL FOR THE TIME BUT THE COUPLE WERE EVIDENTLY DEEPLY COMMITTED TO EACH OTHER, ALTHOUGH JOKICHI HAD TO LEAVE FOR JAPAN IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF FINANCIALLY.
After two years working in Tokyo at the Japanese Office of Patents and Trademarks, Takamine returned to America.
The happy couple got married on August 10th 1887.
THEY WENT ON THEIR HONEYMOON TO SOUTH CAROLINA AND, IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL TOURIST ATTRACTIONS, THEY VISITED... FERTILIZER FACTORIES!

TAKAMINE ALSO WENT TO WASHINGTON DC. TO TAKE AN INTENSIVE COURSE IN PATENT LAW.
SOON AFTER THEY MARRIED DR. TAKAMINE AND CAROLINE MOVED TO JAPAN FOR PROFESSIONAL REASONS...

...AND LIFE WAS TOUGH THERE, ESPECIALLY FOR CAROLINE.

JOKICHI'S MOTHER WAS DISAPPROVING THIS MARRIAGE.
Jokichi Takamine and Caroline were also blessed with 2 children: Dr. Jokichi Takamine, Jr. and Eben Takashi Takamine, born in 1888 and 1889 respectively.
1890
DR. TAKAMINE DECIDED TO MOVE TO THE USA WITH HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN.

SOON AFTER, JOKICHI TAKAMINE RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW...

TO BE CONTINUED...

ABOUT TAKABIO
TAKABIO REPRESENTS SHIN NIHON CHEMICAL CO., LTD WHICH PRODUCE ENZYMES IN JAPAN. THE NAME TAKABIO COMES FROM TAKA, TRIBUTE TO JOKICHI TAKAMINE, AND BIO FOR BIOLOGY.

www.jokichi-takamine.com www.takabio.com