

10. The Kamakura Shogunate and Musashi Province

10.1 The emergence of warrior groups

In the Nara Period of the middle 8th century, the principle of public land ownership gradually collapsed, and the Ritsuryo System collapsed in the middle Heian Period while the Shoen and Koryo System developed. *Shoen* were the private lands of nobility and religious organizations. *Koryo* were the lands (fiefs) of the Imperial Court and kokuga. As shoen spread throughout the country, the warrior class prospered and increased, and warrior groups (*bushidan*) proliferated during this social alteration.

The *kokuga* was the regional administrative organization of the national government. Kokuga officials and shoen administrators became warriors. Regional kokuga officers used their position to develop the kokuga's controlled lands. The officers managed these lands as the shoen prospered. Furthermore, the shoen administrators donated their developed land to the central nobles and temples to become landlords, and administrators called *gesu* (labor supervisors) and *azukaridokoro* (custodians) were appointed as direct managers.

Family battle skills and armaments improved for protection of land and life. These increasingly armed people gathered to form warrior groups. At first the warrior groups were small, but they gradually united and were enlarged with relatives and local community members.



Fig.75 Nagoezaka-no-kiridoshi (Nagoezaka Gate). One of the Kamakura Nanakuchi (seven gates), also called Nanakiridoshi (seven cuttings). The Kamakura Shogunate was guarded by mountains on three sides. This steep topography was an important defense for the city.

10.2 Warrior groups in Musashi Province

Various warrior groups (bushidan, often called to) existed in the Musashi Province. The largest warrior group was Chichibu-to, which enveloped the Musashino region centering on Chichibu and the Ara River basin. A warrior group called *Musashi Shichito* (Musashi Seven Factions) also existed. The names and number of constituent groups differs depending on the historical source. The Musashi Shichito genealogy indicates seven groups: Tanji (Tan), Noyo, Kodama, Inomata, Himatsuri (Nishi), Yokoyama and Murayama.

Because the Musashi Kokufu, the ancient provincial capitol, was set in Tama County (*Tama-gun*) at that time, the major warrior groups were made up of kokufu officials, particularly, the Yokoyama-to, Nishi-to, and a part of the Chichibu-to. Because the Nishi-to had influence in western Tama County, it was called *Nishi* (meaning "west"). It was a warrior group derived from the Himatsuri family. The Himatsuri family included Musashi Kokuga officials who later split into two lines. One of those lines was the Hirayama and Ogawa families that appear later.

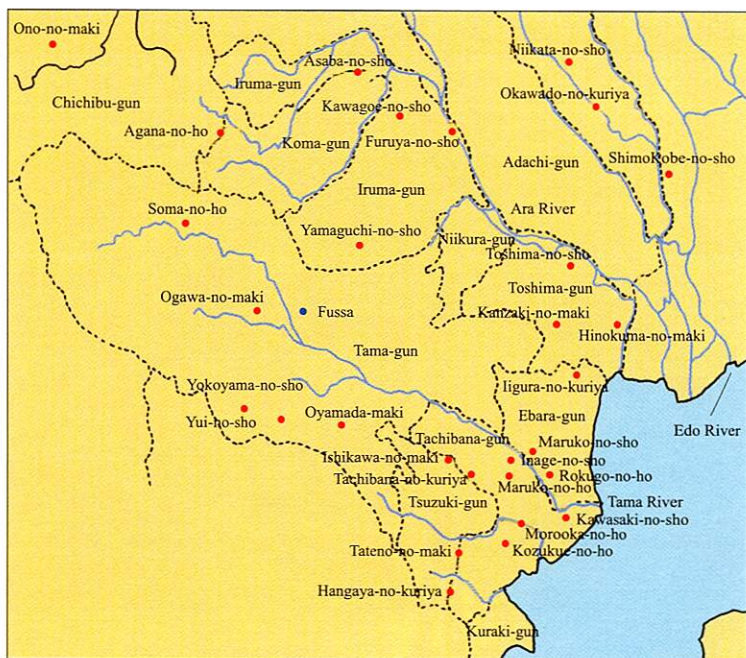


Fig. 76 Shoen distribution in the Tama River basin (Nara to Muromachi Period).
(Reference: KATO Isao, *Shoen Distribution in Musashi Province and Musashi Warrior Distribution Atlas. Musashino*, vol.300.)

10.3 Warlord MINAMOTO no Yoritomo's founding of the Kamakura Shogunate

In 1180, MINAMOTO no Yoritomo built an army to overthrow the Heike (the Taira family) regime, placing his headquarters in Kamakura and promoting eastern regional administration. In 1185, the Heike family was routed at the battle of Dannoura. Yoritomo was appointed as the Shogun, and he founded a shogunate in Kamakura. Government officials attended to government affairs in the initial administrative system of the Kamakura Shogunate. However, actually the *Kamakura-dono* (the Shogun) became the behind-the-scenes dictator. The Kamakura Shogunate established public order through administrators called *shugo* in the provinces and *jito*, and separately *Kyoto Shugo* for Kyoto, *Chinzei Bugyo* for Kyushu, and *Oshu Bugyo* for Oshu after the Fujiwara family's ruin.

The power of MINAMOTO no Yoritomo finally extended throughout the country after the Oshu Fujiwara family was conquered in 1189. The most influenced region was *Togoku* (also called Azuma, vaguely, the eastern provinces as viewed from Kyoto). The biggest advantage of setting the shogunate in the east was that regional warriors could be organized for the shogunate's army.

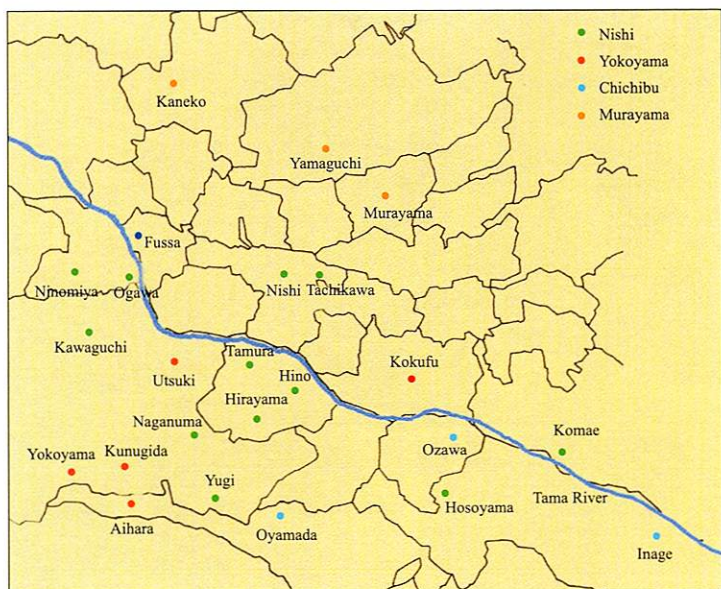


Fig.77 Warrior groups in Tama-gun. The boundary lines express the present municipal boundaries.

10.4 Fussa and the Nishi-to warrior group

The Nishi-to, part of the Musashi Shichito, was a warrior group derived from the Himatsuri family of regional officers. The Nishi-to influenced the Tama River basin after the 12th century, and the Ogawa family of the Nishi-to attended to the management of the Ogawa-no-maki (pasture). The location of Ogawa-no-maki is considered to be the junction of the Tama and Aki rivers in present Akiruno City. It is thought that the Fussa City area was developed by people from the Nishi-to who were managing the Ogawa-no-maki just across the Tama River.

A historical record concerning Fussa City in this period is the genealogy of the Ogawa family who later moved to Koshikijima in Satsuma Province in Kyushu where they were appointed as jito administrators. (This document was recently destroyed by fire.) This genealogy records "Munesue Tama-gun Fussa-mura Kanji 1, 8." This record indicates that Munesue was overlord of Fussa Village in Kanji 1st year 8th month (August 1087). Munesue served under MINAMOTO no Yoshiie during the Go-sannen-no-eki incident (1083-1087), and he probably was given Fussa Village as a reward or relief. The feudal lords of Fussa after that are not known because there is no record of Munesue's descendants. Munesue was a son of Munesada, the person who later became the forebear of the Yugi and Hirayama families.

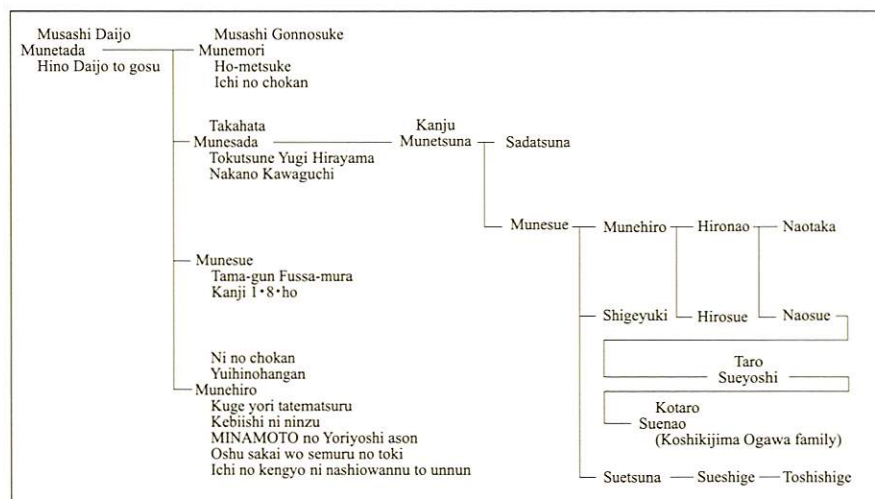


Fig.78 Summary of the Himatsuri family genealogy (The Shioda family, Kagoshima Prefecture).

According to the description in the Ogawa family genealogy, Sueshige, who was called *Hirayama-no-musha* (the warrior Hirayama), received appointment 1158 to administer Fussa Village. Then Hirayama and Fussa villages were transferred from Sueshige to his son Toshishige on September 13, 1187. The Hirayama family fought for MINAMOTO no Yoshitomo (father of Yoritomo) in the Hogen-no-ran insurrection of 1156. It is thought that Sueshige was awarded Fussa Village by Yoshitomo in compensation for service.



Fig.79 HIRAYAMA Sueshige seated statue (Daitakusan Soinji Temple, Hino City). HIRAYAMA no Musha Sueshige was recorded in the "Heiji Monogatari" tale as one of the major Musashi warriors under Yoshitomo when they barricaded themselves in the imperial palace (dairi) during the Heiji-no-ran insurrection in 1159.



Fig.80 Harness fragment and bit (Akiruno City Board of Education). This artifact was excavated from the Amema Site (Akiruno City), on the southern edge of the terrace, at the junction of the Tama and Aki rivers, where the Ogawa-no-maki stable is thought to have been located. It is an iron bit that belonged to a harness and was set in the horse's mouth. Its length is 7.8 cm, it has an irregular rounded cross section 1.2 to 1.0 cm in diameter, and it weighs 34.7 g. It is one half of a double bit. It was excavated with an iron bar, with inner diameter of 1 cm, that was inserted into the bit ring. The length of the rod shaped iron bar is 14.5 cm and its weight is 14.6 g. Although deformed, this is considered to be a ring connecting to the reins.

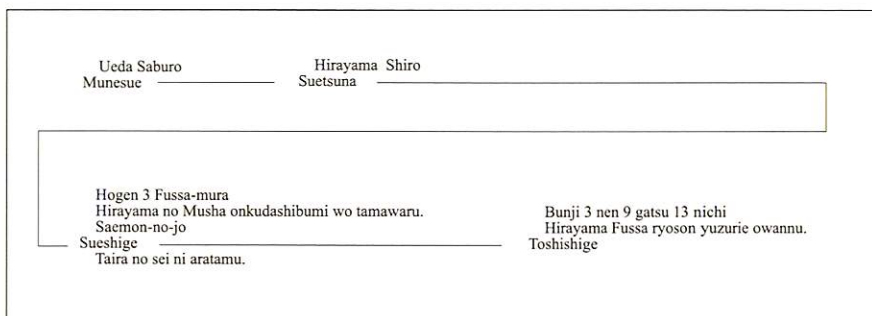


Fig.81 Summary of the Himatsuri family genealogy (The Shioda family, Kagoshima Prefecture).