

11. The Development of Musashino

11.1 Musashi Province under the Hojo family

MINAMOTO no Yoritomo appointed the Minamoto family *kokushi* (provincial governors) of *Kanto Gobunkoku* (the Minamoto family's own lands), and he appointed the Hiraga family of the Shinano Minamoto family to be Musashi Kokushi (or Musashi-no-kami) governors. After Yoritomo's death, the Hojo family directly administrated Musashi Province from 1210. The Hojo family became leading figures in the establishment of the Kamakura Shogunate through HOJO Tokimasa's daughter Masako who was married to Yoritomo. Tokimasa became the first *shikken* (regent) and his son Yoshitoki the second. Because the Hojo family wished to rule Musashino Province, Yoshitoki appointed his brother Tokifusa as Musashi Province governor (Musashi-no-kami) to begin direct control by the Hojo family. The Hojo family's reason to rule Musashi Province was its strategic importance to Kamakura.

When Tokifusa was appointed governor to Musashi Province in 1207, the Hojo family created the *Tabumi* (a land register for farms and their owners) in order to consolidate *kokuga* (provincial government offices) and *gokenin* (retainers to the shogun) fiefdoms. This land register was intended to assess the wilderness reclamation ordered by the Musashi jito administrators. Development of Musashino was one of the important tasks of Tokifusa's sovereignty. The Hojo family received the

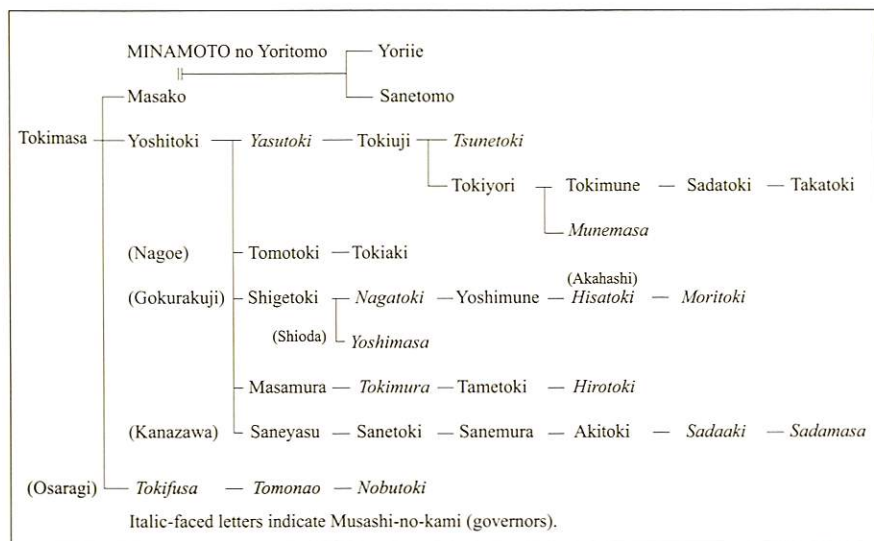


Fig.82 The Hojo family genealogy.

important tasks of Tokifusa's sovereignty. The Hojo family received the order to develop virgin land using the jito administrators of the Musashi Province on March 20, 1207. It is thought that an order received by HIRAYAMA Sueshige of the Nishi-to led to the development of Akirutachibana-no-go village (the Aki River basin).

The third regent Yasutoki, a son of Yoshitoki, further developed Musashino (the fields of Musashi Province, or the Musashi Plain). The Tama River basin rice paddy development plan of October 22, 1241, was a large scale development including dams, moats and irrigation works. Because unreliable weather led to nationwide famine in those days, Yasutoki persisted with Musashino's rice paddy development to insure production. A further motive was that lands for rewarding battle service after the Jokyu-no-ran insurrection (1221) became insufficient.

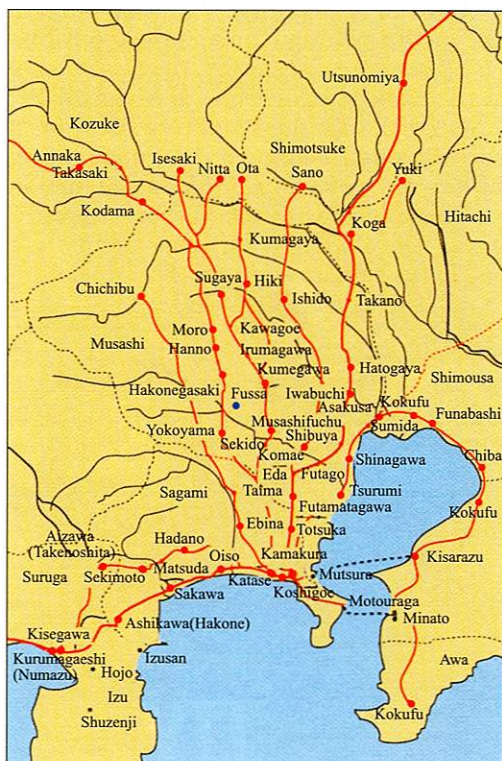


Fig.83 Kamakura highways. The generic name of the ancient highways leading to Kamakura. The famous routes were the Kami-no-michi (upper road) toward Takasaki and Shinano Province, Naka-no-michi (middle road) toward Utsunomiya and Mutsu Province, and Shimo-no-michi (lower road) toward Chiba and Awa Province. They were main traffic arteries (Reference: Weekly Asahi Encyclopedia History of Japan).

11.2 The legend of Chojabori Aqueduct

It seems that secluded mountain places were developed in the early 13th century in Hojo Tokifusa's time, and comparatively flat lands were developed in his nephew Yasutoki's time. Because wilderness development was ordered for the whole of Musashi Province, it is possible that the Fussa City area was also developed in Yasutoki's time.

A related legend refers to the Chojabori Aqueduct in Kumagawa. The Chojabori Aqueduct brought water from Kumagawa 733 near the Tama River to the *Choja* (rich man's) residence below the south exit of the present Haijima Station. The book "Shinkobutsugonyume monogatari" written by Takuo in 1773, in the late Edo Period, states "a rich man named Ono of Musashino in the Ninchi (probably Ninji) era dug a moat around his residence and an aqueduct from Sarusaka to draw water from the Tama River." The Ninji era (1240-1242) was the period of the third regent Yasutoki, indicating that Ono undertook the aqueduct development under Yasutoki's orders. About sixty Chinese coins, mainly Eiraku Tsuho (minted 1408), and medieval jars and *itabi* (board-like memorial stones) have been excavated from the Choja residence site (4-chome and 5-chome, Matsubara-cho, Akishima City).

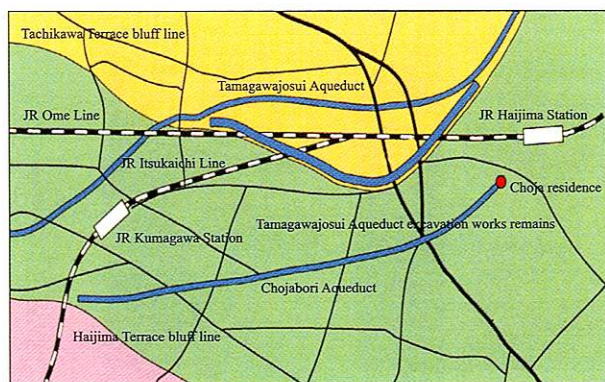


Fig.84 Chojabori Aqueduct and assumed Choja residence site.



Fig.85 Choja residence site (Account by "Shinpen Musashi Fudoki-ko Tama County, No. 31, Haijima Fief, Haijima Village").