

13. Upheaval in the eastern provinces

13.1 Local warrior groups

After the early 15th century when ASHIKAGA Mochiuji became the 4th Kamakura Kubo, there were repeated outbreaks of war and disturbance, such as the UESUGI Zenshu-no-ran insurrection of 1416, the Eikyo-no-ran insurrection of 1438 and the Yuki battle of 1439, in the Kanto region. Against this background, the powerful Bushu-minami-ikki group formed through the integration of small to medium sized local warrior groups in southern Musashi Province (*Bushu Minami*). The Bushu-minami-ikki is popularly known as the *Kokujin* (local samurai) Ikki. This "Age of Ikki" was what various *ikki* (groups with shared goals and activities) integrated throughout the nation during the time from the Nanbokuchō Period (1336-1392) to the Sengoku Period. Limited hierarchy existed in these ikki groups, even though the groups had heads. Egalitarianism was the guiding principle.

The Bushu-minami-ikki's central territory was the Aki River basin across the Tama River from Fussa City, and their activities at Oei era (1394-1427) are recorded. Their major figures belonged to the Komiya family. The Komiya were a locally powerful family, and their name remains in the "Azuma Kagami" (an historical manuscript compiled in the Kamakura Period). The record mentions that they had served MINAMOTO no Yoritomo (1st Kamakura Shogun) and FUJIWARA no Yoritsune (4th Kamakura Shogun). However, no record of their

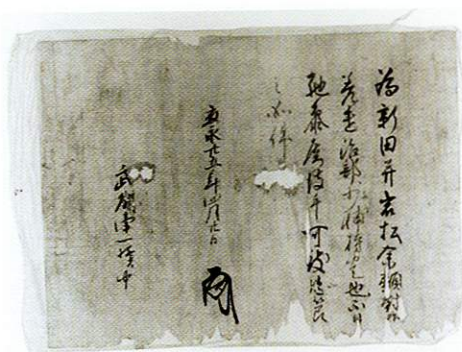


Fig.92 Letter from ASHIKAGA Mochiuji (Mishimajinja Shrine, Akiruno City). The Kamakura Kubo ASHIKAGA Mochiuji ordered the Bushu-minami-ikki to join UESUGI Mochisada in order to eliminate the remaining Nitta and Iwamatsu family members in Kozuke Province in northern Kanto.

activities remains from the Muromachi Period. But the Komiya family must have had a central function in the Bushu-minami-ikki and not have acted independently. The name Komiya can be seen on a bronze buddhist bell and a munafuda (historical plaque).

In the UESUGI Zenshu-no-ran insurrection of 1416, UESUGI Zenshu (UESUGI Ujinori), the Kanto Kanrei, rose against ASHIKAGA Mochiuji, the Kamakura Kubo. The Bushu-minami-ikki initially took the Zenshu side. However, they defected from Zenshu, later defeating him at the Battle of Irumagawa. The Eikyo-no-ran insurrection in 1438, was a confrontation between Mochiuji and the Kanto Kanrei UESUGI Norizane, but no record remains of the Bushu-minami-ikki's actions. After the Eikyo-no-ran insurrection, the Bushu-minami-ikki joined the Uesugi side. However, they fade from the historical records after the Battle of Gongenyama (1510). In this battle, OGIGAYATSU-UESUGI Tomoyoshi attacked UEDA Masamori, who had gone over to HOJO Soun, storming Ueda's Gongenyama Castle (Kanagawa Ku, Yokohama City) and defeating him. Subsequently the Odawara Hojo family advanced into Musashi Province and the Tama area. The Bushu-mnami-ikki was probably eliminated during the Hojo advance.

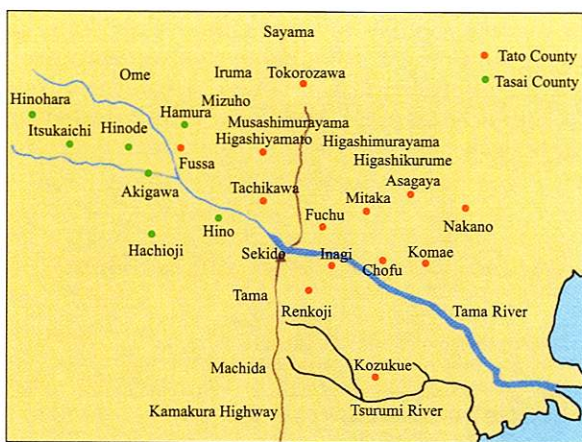


Fig.93 Place names in Tato-gun and Tasai-gun compared to the modern names. Tama-gun (Tama County) of Musashi Province was divided into eastern (Tato) and western (Tasai) counties in the 11th and 12th centuries. These names were continuously used until the middle of the Edo Period.



Fig.94 KOMIYA Nakatsukasa Noriyuki and KOMIYA Kozukenosuke Noriaki in "Daihiganji Kakoreibo". KOMIYA Nakatsukasa Shami Noriyuki's dedication in 1461 of one large Buddhist bell to Konjikizan Daihiganji Temple (Akiruno City) is recorded. It is also recorded that in 1463 Komiya Kozukenosuke Noriaki cast a bell for the Komiyaadaimyoin Shrine (Akiruno City).