

15. Life in Fussa in the Sengoku Period

15.1 HOJO Ujiteru's Seisatsu

A *daimyo* (feudal lord) of the Sengoku Period needed to effectively dominate the farmers in his territory while maintaining sufficient military strength to survive the frequent disturbances. In this period, HOJO Ujiteru dominated the Fussa area. Life around Fussa in those days can be conjectured from the documents (*seisatsu*) put up by Ujiteru and his magistrates (*bugyonin*).

The sealed letter from HOJO Ujiteru is as follows.

Seisatsu

Proclaim: Opposition to the army or to any other organization or any other violence in the Fussa-go is prohibited. Persons breaking this ordinance are subject to capture and execution.

Tori, June 5

(Red stamp with the words "nyoiyoju")

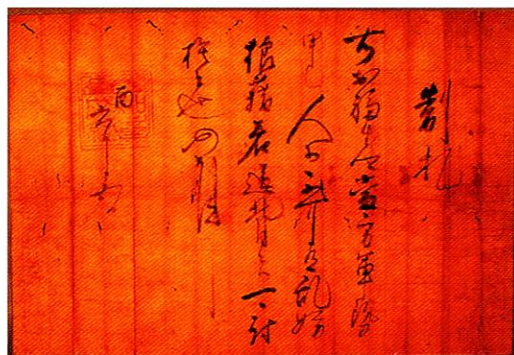


Fig.100 Sealed letter from HOJO Ujiteru (The Ishikawa family, Fussa City).

The letter from HOJO Ujiteru's magistrates' joint certification is as follows.

Seisatsu

Proclaim: Violence is prohibited in Fussa-go. Persons breaking this ordinance are subject to immediate prosecution.

Tori, March 6

FUSE Hyogodayu (signature)

YOKOCHI Kenmotsunojo (signature)

OISHI Samanosuke (signature)

To Local Magistrate (Daikan)

To Local people (Hyakushochu)

The *seisatsu* (prohibition document) is also known as *kinzei* or *kinsatsu*. They informed the public of prohibited acts. Original documents were posted on paper or wooden substrate in written or copied form. The two preserved *seisatsu* noted in this book were posted in *Fussa-go* (Fussa Village). The almost identical content of these documents informs of the prohibition of violence among soldiers of Fussa-go. Furthermore, the title "*Daikan*" (government representative) on the *seisatsu* certified by three persons indicates that a government representative was stationed in Fussa-go. *Daikan* here means Ujiteru's representative or deputy, indicating that Fussa-go was under the Ujiteru's jurisdiction at that time.

It can be surmised that the posting of these edict documents was to counter political unrest around Fussa-go. No year is recorded on these edict documents. However, the year 1561 can be guessed because of the kanji "*tori*" means "the year of the cock," and 1561 was both a year of the cock and the year UESUGI Kenshin invaded the Kanto region.

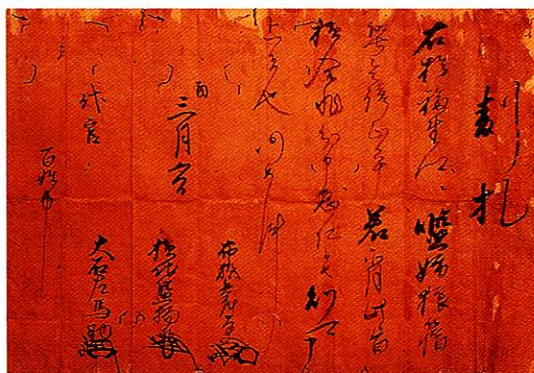


Fig. 101 Letter from HOJO Ujiteru's may istrater's joint certification (The Ishikawa family, Fussa City).

UESUGI Kenshin's invasion influenced other Kanto leaders. The Mita family, dominating the upper Tama River basin, sided with Kenshin. On Kenshin's return to Echigo (Niigata Prefecture), he was punished by Ujiteru. By considering the political situation of the time, these prohibition documents posted by Ujiteru and his magistrates (bugyonin) indicate a tense situation caused by Kenshin's incursion into the western Tama region and his military actions against the Mita family.

15.2 How the people of Fussa-go survived the unrest

A historical document tracing Hojo Ujiteru to Fussa-go belongs to Kotokuji Temple in Akiruno City.

Sealed letter from HOJO Ujiteru is as follows.

Make a list
 4 kanmon fief Fussa Seirenji Temple
 1 kan 700 mon fief Kaikoin Temple
 The above mentioned
 Proclaim: These are awarded to the temples. Give your best
 service day and night.
 Tsuchinoe-ne (1588)
 March 26
 (Red stamped kanji characters are illegible)
 To Rinshuza

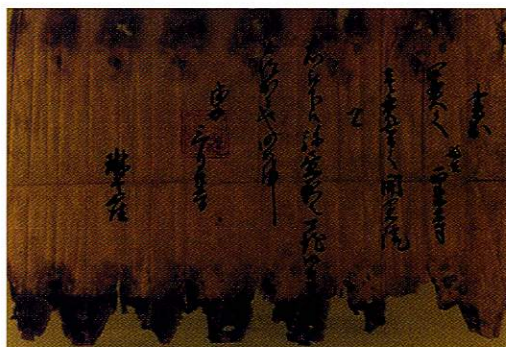


Fig.102 Sealed letter from HOJO Ujiteru (Kotokuji Temple, Akiruno City).

This document indicates that Ujiteru sent this fief to Seirenji Temple (Fussa City) and Kaikoin Temple (Akiruno City) via the head priest (*Rinshuza*) of Kotokuji Temple in Owada, Akiruno City. Seirenji Temple is now called Seigan'in Temple.

Life in Fussa-go (Fussa Village) in the turbulent Sengoku Period can be guessed through historical materials. For example, an prohibition document posted in 1573 by HOJO Ujiteru's magistrate (bugyonin) was issued to the local representative (*daikan*) and the local people (*hyakushochu*).

Such *seisatsu* (prohibition document) usually were posted by the daimyo (feudal lord), but sometimes Fussa Go residents requested Ujiteru to post the prohibition document. If Fussa-go became involved in a war, public safety could not be assured even though it was directly under HOJO Ujiteru. As a UESUGI Kenshin or Mita family army invasion was expected, a *seisatsu* posting could ensure that Ujiteru would counter a military threat from UESUGI Kenshin or the Mita family. A threat of war against Fussa-go might be prevented in this way. But the people paid a fee in order to get a *seisatsu* posted.

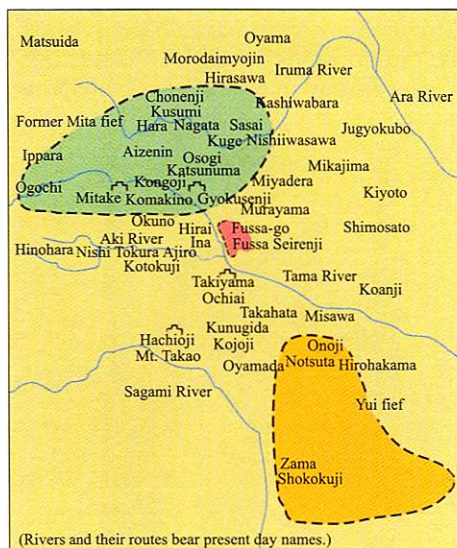


Fig.103 HOJO Ujiteru's Takiyama Hachioji fief. Ujiteru's Takiyama-Hachioji fief was located in the Tama River basin centering on the Takiyama and Hachioji castles, and extending to the former Mita family fief in the north and to the Yui fief in the south. These territories were located at the west end of Musashi Province to occupy a strategic position against the Takeda family of Kai Province.