

23. Village family registers and changes in population

23.1 Temple registers of individuals

The Edo Shogunate enacted a prohibition system ostensibly against Christianity called the *Shumon aratame*. This system in effect formed a citizen control mechanism under the pretext of religious prohibition. In addition, a family register system was founded to categorize people's status and to get a grip on the fiefdom's population. In 1640 (Kan'ei 17) the shogunate set up the *Shumon aratame* office, which requested all Buddhist temples certify their congregations. In 1664 (Kanbun 4) the shogunate appointed *Shumon Bugyo* (Temple Registry Magistrate) to all domains.

The family head's name, all his family members' names and ages and all family incomes were recorded in the *Shumon Ninbetsu-cho*, the independent annual census of each village. Details of village officials along with those of ordinary farmers were recorded in the *Shumon Ninbetsu-cho*, in addition all employees arriving from other villages and those departing for other villages were included. Therefore the *Shumon Ninbetsu-cho* served as the archive of family registers.

Fussa village's oldest remaining *Shumon Ninbetsu-cho* is for the year 1781 (An'ei 10) and copies remain for almost all the years in succession from 1790 (Kansei 2). A total of 76 copies remains while 56 almost successive volumes from 1812 (Bunka 9) to 1869 (Keio 4) remain in the shogunate fiefdom of Kumagawa Village.



Fig.139 "Shushi Ninbetsu Aaratame-cho" (The Uchide family, 1843 (Tenpo 14)). Shushi Ninbetsu Aaratame-cho of the Hatamoto Tazawa family fiefdom, Kumagawa Village. This temple document certified individuals supporting the temple.

23.2 Changes in households and population

Households in the shogunate fiefdom of Kumagawa Village numbered 62 in 1813 (Bunka 10), falling to 60 in 1827 (Bunsei 10). Subsequently the number of households remained constant. Households in Fussa Village numbered 234 in 1790 (Kansei 2), increasing to a peak of 253 six years later in 1796 (Kansei 8). 2 years later the number decreased to 231 followed by a constant decrease through Bunka, Bunsei and Tenpo era (1804 - 1843) to the lowest of 219, before increasing again to 235 around the last days of the Tokugawa Shogunate.

In 1812 (Bunka 9) the population of the shogunate fiefdom, Kumagawa Village numbered 243, increasing through the Tenpo era (1830 - 1843). By 1867 (Keio 3) houses numbered 301. As Kumagawa Village's house number (60 houses) remained constant in those days, total population increase must reflect the increased population per household. In 1790 (Kansei 2) Fussa Village's population stood at 777. House number decreased through the Bunka, Bunsei and Tenpo era, while conversely, population gradually increased to 1309 in 1859 (Ansei 6).

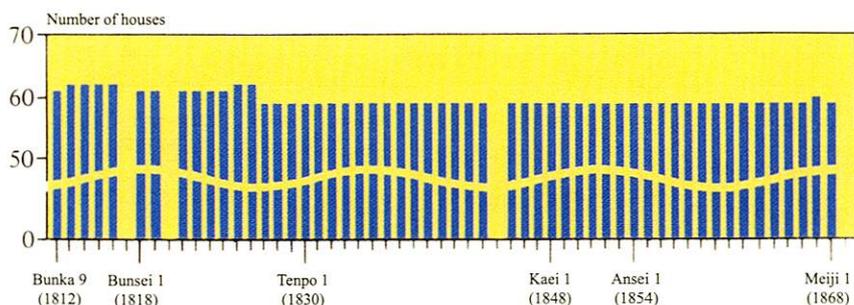


Fig. 140 Number of houses in the shogunate fiefdom, Kumagawa Village.

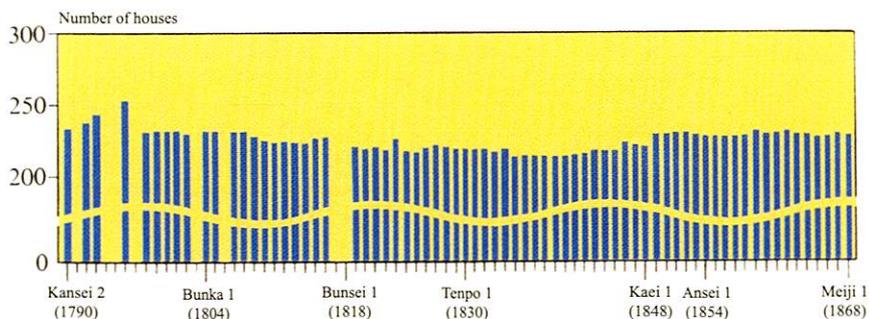


Fig. 141 Number of houses in the shogunate fiefdom, Fussa Village.

Population trend of the Edo Period shows a little decrease through the Kan'ei and Horeki (1748 - 1763), An'ei (1772 - 1780) and Tenmei (1781 - 1788) era, however, population gradually increased in the 17th and 18th centuries. Japan's total population reached 33,110,825 in 1872 (Meiji 5).

Considering gender ratio in the shogunate fiefdom, Kumagawa Village through the Bunka (1804 - 1814) and Kaei (1847 - 1853) era, females outnumbered males, however, gradually the gender gap narrowed until parity was reached in 1861 (Bunkyu 1) after which females gradually outnumbered males again. From the late 18th century to the middle 19th century, females outnumbered males. The gender ratio trend of Fussa Village closely resembles the national trend whereas that of Kumagawa Village shows the reverse tendency.

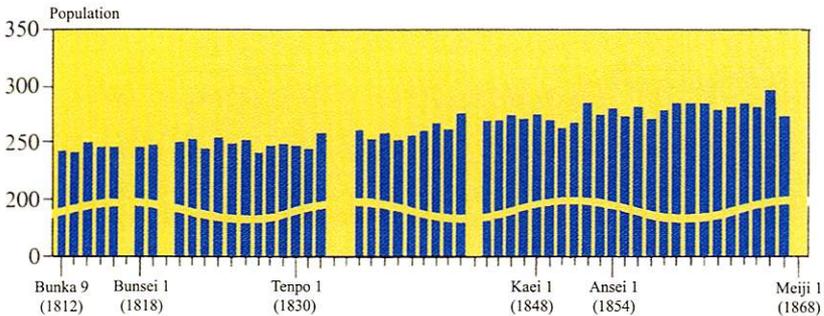


Fig.142 Population of the shogunate fiefdom, Kumagawa Village.

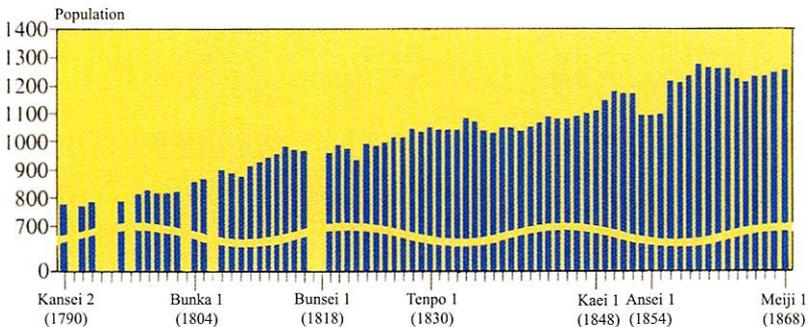


Fig.143 Population of the shogunate fiefdom, Fussa Village.

23.3 Servants and horses

Incomes of low status farmers of those days were insecure, so all family members required outside work to survive. Landowners needed to hire labor known as *Nenkibokonin* (indentured servants) to effectively manage their properties. The number of employees in the shogunate fiefdom, Kumagawa Village peaked in the Bunsei era (1818 - 1829), falling somewhat in the Tenpo era (1830 - 1843) to reach a second higher peak of 19 in 1854 (Kaei 7). Males continually outnumbered females except for the last year of Bunsei. About half of all employees came from other villages.

Regarding horses, 30 are recorded in the Kansei era (1789 - 1800). The horse population gradually increased through Bunsei and Tenpo era (1770 - 1780), decreasing in the Bunkyu era (1861 - 1862). While the human population of Fussa Village decreased, the horse population increased. The horse played an important role in agricultural work and *Dachinkasegi* (earning money used horses in transportation).

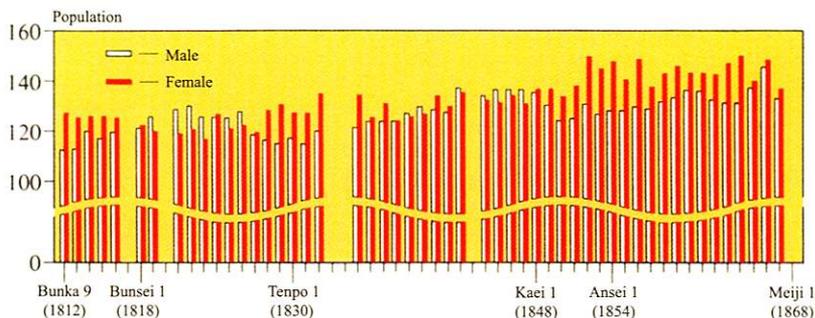


Fig.144 Gender ratio the shogunate fiefdom, Kumagawa Village.

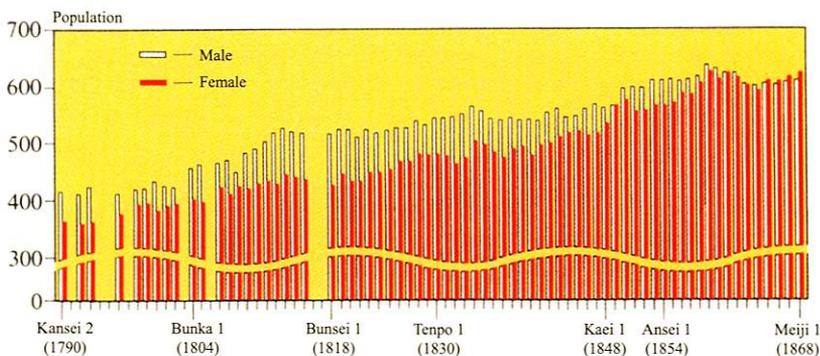


Fig.145 Gender ratio the shogunate fiefdom, Fussa Village.

23.4 Death and succession

Regarding longevity in the shogunate fiefdom, Kumagawa Village, the number of deaths among 1 to 5 year old children was large. The average age at death was 50.24 years for males and 48.96 for females. This trend opposes the Modern death year distributions. For females, deaths in the twenties were common. These deaths may relate to childbirth. Successions of 26 to 30 year olds are commonly recorded in the shogunate fiefdom, Kumagawa Village. The major reason for succession was death of the antecedent. The average length of generation was within a range of 30 to 50 years.

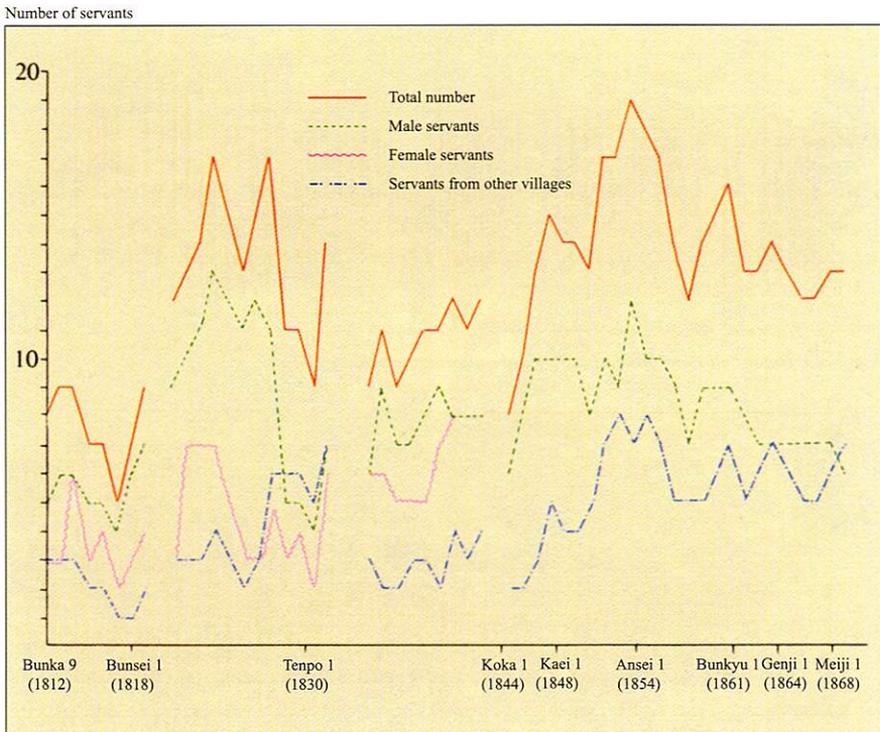


Fig.146 Number of servants of the shogunate fiefdom, Kumagawa Village. Data on servants was extracted from the Shumon Ninbetsu-cho, shogunal fiefdom, Kumagawa Village.

23.5 Marriage

Male marriages mostly occurred in the 20s, peaking at between 26 and 30 years of age. The female marriage age peaked between 21 and 25 years with a secondary peak between 16 and 20 years. The major age difference between couples was two to three years, then secondarily, one year.

23.6 Family demographics

The family concept of the present age based on a single couple arose in the Edo Period. The accepted household consisted of: family head, his wife, son, son's wife, children, and grandchildren. A family tree now has a single blood line in contrast to the large complex families of the Medieval Times.

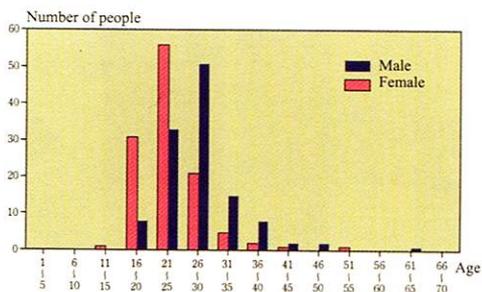


Fig.147 Marriage age in the shogunate fiefdom, Kumagawa Village. Marriage data was extracted from the Shumon Ninbetsu-cho of the shogunate fiefdom, Kumagawa Village.



Fig.148 "Kumagawa-mura Shumon Ninbetsu Kakiage-cho" (The Uchide family, 1858 (Ansei 5)).