

25. Textile manufacturing and farm occupations

25.1 Textile manufacturing and marketing

In the middle of the 18th century, people in the Fussa area had the supplementary occupations in addition to the main occupation of agriculture. Men in the village shipped firewood and charcoal, and purchased rice bran and dried sardines used for manure. Women in the village bred silkworms and weaved clothes. The textile weaved in the Fussa area was called *Omejima* and *Momenjima*. The *Omejima* was silk-cotton mixed texture, which was weaved with silk thread for warp and cotton thread for weft. It is considered that the raw silk material of cocoons was produced by sericulture in the village. The cotton fabrics called *Omejima* or *Momenjima*, cotton clothes called *Futojima*, and silk textile called *Hachiojima* were produced in the village and they were generically called as *Shimamono*.

These textiles were shipped and sold at the markets of the surrounding cities. They were sold in Hachioji, Itsukaichi, Ome, Hirai and also in Edo. Sometimes farmers directly sold their woven textiles to the market. However, textiles were mainly sold by the brokers called *Shimakai*. There were two types of the brokers: one was called *Zaikata-shimakai* who sold textiles mainly in Edo and furthermore to Osaka and Kyoto; another was called *Shukugata-shimakai* sold at their shop in Hachioji or Ome. Furthermore they were sold not only in Edo, Kyoto or Osaka but also the distant cities such as Sendai or Hakata. The textiles woven in Fussa became the nationwide product.

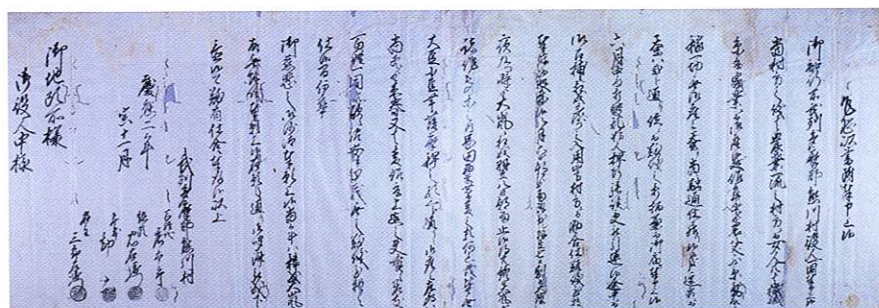


Fig.157 "Nyonindomo wa hataori itotori kagyo" (The Uchide family). This document was written in 1866 (Keio 2) by Saburozaemon (the headman of the Kumagawa Village) and other petitioners. In 1866 (Keio 2), they requested aid from the Jito (agent in charge of a lord's manor) due to the frost damaged produce.

25.2 Sericulture and weaving

Usually not so many mulberry trees, which leaves became the feed of silkworm, were planted in the field because of requirement of the shogunate control. However, the mulberry trees were planted around fields, the ridges between rice fields and riversides of the Tama River around Fussa. According to the increase of silkworm breeding, mulberry became insufficient and it could not be supplied from the Fussa Village. People went to the neighboring villages to purchase mulberry leaves. People bought the silkworm eggs (called *Sanshu*) from the silkworm eggs traders in Shinshu Ueda(Nagano Prefecture) and Oshu Yanagawa(Fukushima Prefecture).

Cocoons were boiled for fiber to be unwound from the cocoon, spun and wound onto a spool. This cocoon-to-spool winding method, using a spinning wheel (*Zaguri* method) became popular in the late Edo Period. The wound raw silk thread could be simply woven into silk cloth or dyed for weaving into *shima* textiles in Fussa. Sericulture producers and producer-spinners sold cocoons or thread to specialist traders if their production exceeded their household consumption.

Takahata type weaving machines were introduced in the late Edo to early Meiji Period. Before then *Jibata* machines, whose operators stooped to weave cloth, were commonly used. The procedure of silkworm production, thread spinning and cloth-weaving was exclusively a females' occupation. Textile traders (known as *shimakai*) visited villages to buy goods. Some producers sold their own textiles at markets. Profits from textile manufacturing circulated through the village economy.



Fig.158 Field planted with mulberry bushes ("Ushihama shussuizu").

25.3 Off-season farm occupations

Village's self-sufficiency was an ideal of the Edo Period but was practically impossible. For example, indispensable items such as salt, had to be bought or exchanged at central markets. Villagers visited neighboring cities such as Hachioji, Itsukaichi or Ome, or further to Edo, to obtain items that were not locally produced, also selling items they had produced in Fussa or Kumagawa villages.

Aside from barter, some currency was needed to buy certain daily items, so primary producers supplemented their daily agricultural work with handcraft manufacturing or trade in intervals between primary production activities. To obtain currency, men transported and traded wood fuel in Edo while women undertook sericulture, weaving and textile trading.

The table at the following summarizes *nokantosei* (sanctioned non primary production occupations) in Fussa Village during 1843 (Tenpo 14). The shogunate system prohibited general commerce in agricultural villages but allowed villagers to undertake the *nokantosei*. The list indicates that eight families were engaged in selling household utensils, with seven in selling straw sandals. Notably, more than one-third (twelve families) were engaged in selling cotton or silk thread or woven products.

NAME	OCCUPATIONS	NAME	OCCUPATIONS
Yonesuke	Household utensils, used clothes	Hikohachi	Guest house, restaurant
Wasuke	Household utensils, hair oil, rice and grain	Isuke	Footwear, straw slippers, confectionery
Sakichi	Household utensils, cotton thread, weaving machines	Koemon	Footwear, straw slippers, confectionery
Shuijiro	Household utensils	Sokichi	Footwear, straw slippers, confectionery
Kinpei	Household utensils, silk thread	Joemon	Footwear, straw slippers, confectionery
Shinbee	Household utensils, used clothes	Hanzaemon	Footwear, straw slippers, confectionery
Ichiya	Pawnshop, jishima, thread	Riuemon	Candy seller
Hanbei	jishima, cotton thread trader	Sachu	Household utensils
Tomizou	jishima, cotton thread trader	Shichirobei	Footwear, straw slippers
Yahachiro	Cocoon thread	Shimajiro	Household utensils, silk thread
Kichizo	Hair oil squeezer	Hanzaemon	Soy source brewer
Kinzo	Pawnshop, clothes and tabis (Japanese socks) trader	Jube	Sake brewer
Kahee	Dyer	Yasueemon	Footwear, straw slippers
Chuzo	Blacksmith	Motoshichi	Footwear, straw slippers
Kumazo	Selling sake by the measure	Denshichi	Cotton cloth sales
Shichirozaemon	Selling sake by the measure		

Fig.159 *Nokantosei* list of Fussa village, 1843 (Tenpo 14). *Nokantosei* record, July, Tenpo 14, (referenced from the Tamura family documents).

Sakichi was a specialist weaving machine operator. Kahee was a dyer of raw thread. Hanbei and Tomizo were buyers of *jishima* textiles. Specialist supplementary roles were likely divided among village primary producers with regard to raw silk, cocoon and cotton thread production and textile manufacturing.

Pawnshops and the breweries are first recorded in the middle Edo Period. As time passed, non primary production activity increased. In 1843 (Tenpo 14), numerous small retail operations in Fussa Village specialized in: household utensils, candy seller, straw slippers and other footwear etc. *Itomayutosei* (primary producers earning supplemental income in cocoon trade) and *jishima-itowata-baibai-tosei* (primary producers earning supplemental income in cotton and silk textile trade) lived in the village as specialist traders procuring silk thread and raw fiber. The textile producers might no longer have individually sold textile products or purchased related items.

At first the *nokantosei* provided currency only for essentials but in the middle to late Edo Period that currency supplemented income in the pursuit of a richer life. In the late Edo Period the *nokantosei* trade expanded into regions beyond the Ome, Hachioji and Itsukaichi markets. The Tamura family started a sake brewery in 1822 (Bunsei 5), procuring sake grade rice from Ogimachiya (Iruma City, Saitama Prefecture). They visited Ogimachiya to purchase rice of suitable market price.

Some craftsmen resided in the town. In 1734 (Kyoho 19) a single blacksmith (*kaji*) resided in Fussa Village. Later, in 1866 (Keio 2), there



Fig.160 Sake breweries established in the Edo Period. Two sake breweries survive in Fussa City: Ishikawa Sake Brewery, established 1863 (Bunkyo 3) in former Kumagawa Village, and Tamura Sake Brewery, established 1822 (Bunsei 5) in former Fussa Village.

were six carpenters (*daiku*), three coopers(*okeya*), one plasterer (*sakan*), nine roofing craftsmen(*yanefuki*) and three sawyers(*kobiki*).

The nokantosei pawnshops further proliferated in the late Edo Period. As the monetary system penetrated the village economy, the pawnshop came to play an important role in the borrowing of money. Five to six pawnshops, whose customers were mainly local villagers, operated in Fussa Village. This indicates that the pawnshop had taken deep root in the village life. The pawnshop functioned as a borrowing and lending facility, but also as a stocking agency for articles of value.

Most pawned items at that time were daily necessities (clothing, *kimono*), mosquito-netting (*kaya*), stomach-warmers (*haramaki*), etc. thread and other items. The pawned clothes were mainly formal items, not daily used ones. Villagers tended to store these items at the pawnshops. Villagers also relied on the pawnshops in times of need. The stomach-warmer was a commonly pawned article in such difficult situations. When villagers needed thread to sell to a trader or to weave textiles, they redeemed their pawned thread from the pawnshops.

Problems arose when the pawnshops became a place for converting stolen items into currency or when the pawnshops raised its interest rate preventing villagers from redeeming their items.

Later these became contributing factors in the *Bushu-yonaoshi-ikki* riots.

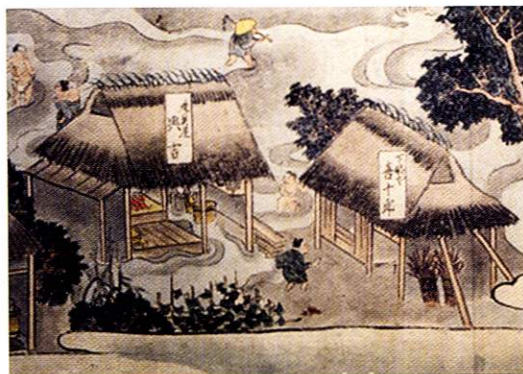


Fig.161 Merchant houses in a village: wooden clog (*geta*) shop and wooden fitting (*tategu*) shop ("Ushihama shussuizu").