

I am going to Make you Back in time

In this article, I will describe Yoshitane Soma(1548-1635) in the Soma family whose father is Masakado Soma. Masakado Soma was the creator of Somano Umaoi(horse festival). He was born as a child of Moritane Soma in 1584 in Iwaki province-currently Hamadori and Nakadori in Fukushima prefecture and the south of Miyagi prefecture.



'Yoshitane Souma'

The battles against the Date family over 50 years

Tanemune Date, a great-great-grandfather of Masamune Date, made his sister and daughter marry neighbour generals and changed these enemies to his supporters. By using this method, Tanemune had been expanding his territory rapidly. As in the figure, Soma family was related with Date family by marriage. But family troubles between Tanemune and Harumune, a father and son, occurred and Soma family was involved in the battles as well. Since then, Soma family had been struggling with Date family for a half century.



In order not to be inferior to Date family in military arts, Somano Umaoi (horse festival) was said to be a traditional event. The history of battles between Date and Soma families connect with the current festival.



An enemy changed to a supporter!?

Though Masamune succeeded to a house, the battles between these two families did not end. Masamune drastically expanded his territory in a couple of years even all over the country. Yoshitane never surrendered to the difference of power by Masamune. However, Hideyoshi Toyotomi united a whole country and the long conflicts between Soma and Date families ended. After Hideyoshi's death, Masamune who would have a battle against Uesugi's force was making an overnight stay in the territory of Soma family.



Yoshimune: 'At last, I can attack Masamune!!! Wahaha!'
His follower: 'Since now, Tokugawa has power. You should demand the gratitude of Date family who supports Tokugawa's side'.
Yoshitane: 'But.....it is inevitable'
Masamune: 'Thank you!'
Afterwards, the battle at Sekigahara was finished and the time of Ieyasu Tokugawa came.
Ieyasu: 'As Soma family did not assist me in particular, I will confiscate your territory.'
Yoshimune: 'What?'
Masamune: 'Wait for a moment!, Mr. Tokugawa! Soma family allowed me to use his place for taking a rest when I had a battle against Uesugi, even though both families have been in conflict for over 50 years. His conduct showed the evidences that he forgot his bitterness to my family and did his best for Tokugawa'
Ieyasu: 'Well...you have a reason. I have changed my mind. No confiscation.'
Yoshimune: 'I really appreciate it.'

That is good!

When Yoshimune(about 87 years old) visited Edo castle late in life, he encountered Masamune accidentally. Masamune(about 68years old) did not ride his palanquin at once and saw Yoshimune off. This scene seemed to threaten for Yoshimune's grandchild and hewas unsatisfied with it. He questioned to Yoshimune.

The grandchildren: 'Is your attitude inappropriate toward the elderly?'
Yoshitane: 'The Date and Soma families have been conflicting for a long time. The General should always get tension and be careful. So, Masamune's behaviour was correct.'



Due to Masamune's support, Yoshimune looked like escaping from the confiscation of his territory. But, from the viewpoint of Tokugawa side, Tokugawa might feel that Yoshimune was essential to supervise Masamune Tokugawa was unable to trust easily Tokugawa might highly evaluate Yoshimune's ability as a military commander who had not surrendered to Masamune for long time and his honest character

How about this Yamatodamashii? We need your opinions and feedbacks more. We are waiting for them!

Please write as 'Sub: reply to the newsletter' and send it to us



Homepage : <http://daimyou-armor.com/>

The 3rd floor, 2-1, Kurihara-cho, Onomichi-shi, Hiroshima, Japan

Mail Address : daimyou51@g06.enjoy.ne.jp

TEL : +81 (0)848 29 3936 FAX : +81 (0)848 29 3937

有限会社



Daimyo Company Co., Ltd.



We deliver

大和魂

Vol.12
June 2016

- The Philosophy of Daimyou Ltd.-

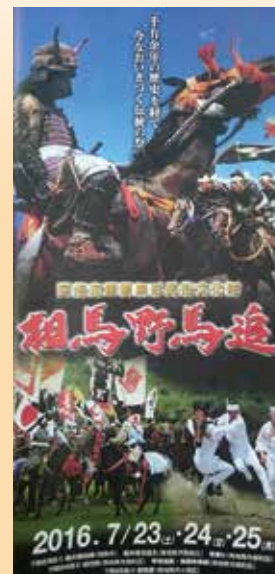
The Philosophy of Daimyo Company Limited. Under our slogan of 'We deliver the YAMATODAMASHII', the Daimyo Ltd offers information about the Japanese history and antique goods and aims at guiding our customers to the old Japanese world by fulfilling our customers demands to antique gears.

- Index -

1. I make a time slip to the Sengoku era (by Nakabori)
2. Some feedbacks from our customers (by Shimatani)
3. We had a study tour (by Shimatani)
4. I am going to make you back in time (by Hanamoto)

We'd like to express my sympathies to the earthquake victims and family members in Kumamoto Prefecture, Kyushu region, from our hearts. We sincerely pray for your safety and quick restoration of damaged area as soon as possible.

I make a time slip to the Sengoku era!!



I received a message from Mr.A (from Fukushima). He requested me to introduce Soma Nomaoi though this 'YAMATODAMASHII' we deliver. This Soma Nomaoi is an important intangible folk cultural asset designated by the government and a festival which will be held in Fukushima. He said, 'I will be very happy if you introduce this event in order to assist reconstruction in Fukushima'. So, I will tell you in detail.

Schedule 23rd(Sat), 24th(Sun), and 25th(Mon), July in 2016.

- 23rd (Sat)**
Departure for the front ---- at Soma Nakamura Shrine/Soma-shi
Welcome Reception of a commander-in-chief ---- at Kashima-ku,Soma-shi
Horse racing in the evening ---- at Suzumegahara festival venue / Haramachi-ku, Minami Soma-shi
- 24th (Sun)**
Parade ---- at Nomaoi Street / Haramachi-ku,Minami Soma-shi
Horse racing by solders wearing general armour and helmets ---- at Suzumegahara festival venue / Haramachi-ku,Minami Soma-shi
Contest for getting God's flag ---- at Suzumegahara festival venue / Haramachi-ku,Minami Soma-shi

25th (Mon) Nomagake ---- Soma Kodaka shrine / Kodaka-ku,Minami Soma-shi

Venu ---- Suzumegahara festival venue Haramachi-ku, Minami Soma-shi and other
Fee ---- Day ticket One adult : 1000JPY under junior high school-free
Contact : +81 (0) 244 22 3064 the management office of Soma Nomaoi executive committee

The Origin of Nomaoi

Masakado Tairanokojiro(date of birth unknown-948) who was said to be an ancestor of Soma family put wild horses to the grass for domestic animals to breed and raise in Shimosanokuni which is currently the north west of Chiba prefecture. He compared them to enemy solders and made military training to catch them. In order to dedicate caught horses to the God, he did the event as a ceremony. This is said to be the origin of Soma Nomaoi. Afterward, Soma family migrated to Naogata province in Oshu region(current Minami Soma-shi) and this event had been succeeded to lords in Soma for generations.

The festival is said to be like a real combat and very powerful. It is said that some of worn armour are taken over from the Momoyama period! Many clients who bought our shop's items take part in this festival. I am very glad to imagine the scene they participate in the event as well.



'Please come to see Nomaoi at any cost. In case of that, I will take care of you!'
'If you cannot find any accommodation, I will let you stay my home!'
I got these kind comments and they really moved me with happy tears.
My president is going to visit this festival this year.
If you can find him, please say hello to him. 'Hey, Hanaemon!'
Without hail, please come to this place and make a time slip to the Sengoku period. I pray for quick recovery of damaged area as soon as possible in a heartfelt way.



I will make it sure to visit here

Feedbacks from our customers

From Mr. A. (from Osaka)

Thank you for your sending newsletters. If you have any references to describe the article about Jingasa in this newsletter, could you tell me about them? I expect your help very much.

I appreciate your saying. I found that you read my essays and that made me really happy. I will need to continue to transmit Japanese history and cultures well. So, I would like to get your feedbacks and pinions. Shimatani
(The reference is from the description of Japanese battle-gear dictionary written by Mr. Yoshihiko Sasama.)

I am Takako SHIMATANI-the writer of this column.

We had a study tour

At Ako Castle

Next to a room of lord? to Ako-shi in Hyogo prefecture. **Raid~!**

First of all, we went to the ruins of castle of Asano family who succeeded to the third generation. Ako-Castle was constructed by Naganao AsanoAko, who was the third lord of Ako Domain and the grandfather of Naganori Asano. He ordered to build it and over years 13 years were spent to complete it. This site was clearly marked with partitions of 'rooms' in order to grab what the castle was. Due to these distinguishable lines, I was able to understand the plans of castle. I was capable of making a time travel to the period.



It is so huge! Let's go!

From the room of lord, the view of garden was the best. Might the lord have spent a time with his wife with seeing a moon? In such a spacious garden, his wife's room was just next to the lord. It is so excellent. (Near the lower-left in the left picture)



The garden from the viewpoint of lord's room



Climb up Tenshudai (base of Keep) and look down...



Miss Nakabori

Ooishi Shrine

The rule for the 47 Loyal Retainers

Next, we visited Ooishi Shrine where the forty-seven loyal retainers of the Akoh clan were enshrined. The statues of them were standing on both sides of street to the entrance of shrine. They had an atmosphere like saying welcome to us.



I did a trademark pose as well as if I was one of them!



The tomb of Oishi Kuranosuke

After going though Torii, you can find Daikoku-sama, the statue of luck and matrimonial happiness, on your left



On your right, you can encounter Ebisu-sama, the statue of succeeding in business and merchandising.



I saw the Homotsu-kan (treasure hall) of 47 samurais of Ako next to the main shrine. Inside the building, no photo was permitted. So, I burned what I had a look into my memory seriously and went back home.

The most impressive thing in these demonstrated ones was 'the glass of rules' for 47 royal retainers. It was designed by Yoshiho Oishi and vermilion-lacquered. On its surface, rules for drinking time were written with gold lacquer letters.



- No fight and/or quarrel ●Don't put a glass down.
- Don't spill drinks from your mouth ●Don't force non-drinker to drink ●Don't drink poured drink instead of others except women's cases.

Making clear rules even in banquets might raise close relationship in the group members.

Gorging

Same size as a face...

I had a question-what is the most well-known-foods in Ako-shi? I made a Google search and finally found that it was 'an oyster'. Since a law oyster was said to be available all though the year, we went to 'Kamashima'.



Entrance

I ordered 'the set meal of Forty-seven Ronin', which contained law, fried and steamed oysters.

Have a look! Bigger than Oysters in Hiroshima?



Springy and resilient law oyster! Best!

Address

2103-14, Kariya, Ako-shi, Hyogo, 678-0239, Japan

+81 (0)791 56 5050

Kagaku Temple

Only one?



Next, we arrived at Kagaku Temple where 47 loyal retainers were buried. At the entrance of main building, I found such a notice.

On the ceiling, a tiger was drawn.

What does it mean?



Huge! A tremendous power!

The paint looked as if the tiger jumped on and got attacked me then. It was so massive drawing of tiger and had dynamics.

The president ate the 'Tens-hu-bowl'. It was a local speciality in this restaurant.

Wh,what? The size of conger-eel was twice as big as normal one.

'It needs a lot of time to cook. Is it OK for you?' he asked. But he thought,

'I cannot go back without eating this local speciality!'

It had worth in waiting.Wow! Same as a size of face! This dish satisfied the president very much.



The loyal retainers' tombs in the temple



The Chinese letter, '刀' (sword), was inscribed on the names of tombs. It meant that the cause of death was committing Seppuku. Only one person did not have the Chinese letter '刀' because he was the very man to report Genroku Ako Incident to the public.

In order to study history, I made study tour to Ako-shi, the town of forty-seven ronin.

Travelling together with trusted friends made me happy.

In this trip, the most impressive thing is Kichiemon Terasaka's tomb. It has no Chinese letter, 刀 (sword) in the cemetery for the loyal retainers. He was appointed by Kuranosuke Oishi as a messenger and failed to die with members of group. What kind of feeling did he have?

Some people said that 'he was scared and ran away. So, he did not commit suicide by his sword with other members'. But, I think he had completed his duty as a courier.

There are a lot of clear historic records and evidences. He was also enshrined in the same site of loyal retainers with other members together. When I take these facts into consideration, I cannot say he might escape from the attack.

He made a plan to assault Kozukenosuke Kira with other members of groups and succeeded. But, he was unable to finish his life with them together and only he was capable of surviving. If I had stood in a same position, I could not have endured its feeling any more. I suppose he was buried with other members in the same place and able to have got together with them by it.

'The truth of Forty-seven Ronin accident was' 'You can find other touristic spots.' and so on. I am looking forward to your feedbacks and opinions about them



Going forward and to the main shrine.....



The Homotsu-kan (treasure hall) of 47 samurais of Ako

