

# 英語

## No. 1 Remains of Shiogama Shrine

291字

Sendai clansmen, who built the Moto-jinya (the core administrative headquarters) in Shiraoi to guard Ezo, brought part of the spirit of two of their guardian shrines from their home feudal clan and established new shrines each on a low hill, one in the east and the other in the west, from where they could watch over the Jinya.

The Atago Shrine, the local guardian deity of Sendai Castle town, was built on the east hill, while the Shiogama Shrine, the highest-ranking Shinto shrine in Oshu, was built on this west hill to protect maritime safety and to worship the god of martial arts. Both shrines were constructed at the same time as the Moto-jinya, in Ansei 3 (1856). Sendai clansmen held festivals according to their home clan's celebrations. Thus, those two shrines became emotional support for those clansmen who were stationed far from their home.

The current shrines have been reconstructed using Japanese red pines from the compound that were brought down by a typhoon in Showa 29 (1954). The clansmen had brought young red pines with them from Sendai to grow them there.

Annual festival are held by local residents on August 10 every year.

## No. 2 Uchi-kuruwa

254字

When it was constructed, Shiraoi Moto-jinya was largely divided into inner and outer compounds with a circle and arc shape of earthen walls and moats, according to the military tactics of the "Naganuma School." Furthermore, a tall fence on the earthen wall enclosed the site.

The inner compound, called Uchi-kuruwa, was surrounded by a little skewed circle of earthen wall and moat, with a diameter of approximately 108 meters. It was connected to the outer compound, called Soto-kuruwa, with an arched bridge over the moat. The earthen wall was about two meters high in most

areas, but was built up to three meters high around the entrance area. On the Uchi-kuruwa, the headquarters, treasury, granaries, armories and stables were built, and a well was also dug. It has turned out that administrative functions were concentrated on the Uchi-kuruwa while the Soto-kuruwa had residential characteristics.

### **No. 3 Soto-kuruwa**

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The outer compound called Soto-kuruwa was surrounded by earthen walls and moats in the east and a small winding stream in the west. The earthen walls were about three meters high, running 210 meters long between the entrance and the Uchi-kuruwa.

The earthen wall was mounted on an arc at the entrance. In addition, the earthen wall known as Koguchi was skillfully made there so that the inside of the Jinya cannot be viewed directly from outside. Tenement houses numbering from two to five and a training hall were constructed inside. A horse riding ground with four lanes and a shooting range were coordinated in parallel in the training hall.

The site, including the facilities of Uchi-kuruwa, was excavated for research and confirmation of the location and scale prior to restoration. Our planar approach to restore the site allows us to pass down the floorplan of this building today.

In addition, young Japanese red pine trees, which the clansmen had brought from Sendai to Shiraoi to recreate the landscape of their hometown, have grown to be 160 years old and watched the changes of Moto-jinya as a living witness of the history.

### **No. 4 Historic Site of Remains of Sendai Clan Fort in Shiraoi**

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The Remains of the Sendai Clan Fort in Shiraoi clearly show what Hokkaido was like at the end of Edo period. It is fully accessible to the public as a

designated national historic park together with a history museum on the topic the Sendai Clan Shiraoi Moto-jinya Museum.

In April 2020, Shiraoi Town is going to open a National Ainu Museum and Park called “Upopoy” as a symbolic space for ethnic harmony to restore Ainu culture. Taking advantage of the opening, we are determined to promote further utilization of the remains of the fort, for which we are working to improve user’s convenience by the maintenance of a footbridge and the introduction of multilingual guidance system in consideration of overseas tourists.

Moreover, we not only actively engage in museum activities by organizing events and exhibitions to encourage visitors to deepen their understanding of and evoke their attachment to the historic site, but continuously train tour guides so that they can properly attend visitors with hospitality.

## **No. 5 Graveyard of the Clansmen**

298字

The total of 23 people, including 19 men and 4 women, died during the 12 years the Sendai domain defended this region, using Shiraoi as their base. None were killed in the war, but it is considered that they died from succumbing to the severe coldness of the winter and beriberi due to a low intake of vegetables.

The site of the fort, including this graveyard, had faded even from the local residents’ memories for some time after the Meiji Restoration. However, in Meiji 39 (1906), some collapsed gravestones of the clansmen were found in the grass, which led to the establishment of the club called Aobakai by residents living in the vicinity of the site. They have concentrated their efforts on holding a memorial service for the clansmen, rebuilding the Shiogama Shrine and holding an annual festival.

Eleven of the gravestones can still be seen today, and a memorial service is held every year on August 10. In Shadai, you can find the grave of KUSAKARI Untaro, a local magistrate who protected the Jinya and committed suicide with a sword.

## **No. 6 Introduction of Sendai Clan Moto-jinya**

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The Sendai Clan Shiraoi Moto-jinya was built to guard the northern land at the end of the Edo period. One hundred and sixty years have already passed since the Jinya vanished from the center stage of history after the Sendai clansmen guarding the area left.

However, the Moto-jinya, built on a vast site while making use of the natural terrain, is of the largest scale in Hokkaido. Together with Goryokaku in Hakodate, the Moto-jinya is extremely valuable both historically and academically as the remains convey what Ezo was like at the end of the Edo period. Thus, in Showa 41 (1966), it was designated as a national historic site.

The museum opened in Showa 59 (1984), on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the enforcement of the municipal system to introduce to the world at large the achievements of the Sendai clan, who were in charge of guarding the northern land and who laid the foundation of this town. The site of the remains of the fort is wide open to the public as a historic park, and is utilized as a place for rest and relaxation as well as lifelong learning. A lot of tourists from within and outside Hokkaido visit the site not only in the summer when the air is clear and the green scenery looks beautiful, but also in spring for viewing the cherry blossoms and in the fall for the changing of the color of the leaves.

## **No. 7 Inspection of Ezo**

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In Ansei 2 (1855), two years after Perry's visit to Japan from the United States, the Shogunate ordered five domains in the Tohoku region and the Matsumae domain each to guard an allocated area of Ezo. The Sendai clan sent MIYOSHI Kenmotsu and UJIIE Hidenoshin to Ezo to inspect the area.

At first, the Shogunate ordered them to build a Moto-jinya, a base to guard the northern land, at Yufutsu of Tomakomai, since it was prosperous as a traffic hub. However, Kenmotsu reported that the best place would be Shiraoi Utokanbetsu, as it is a natural fort surrounded by mountains on three sides and located between small streams in the east and the west, as well as close to Hakodate. The Shogunate granted them permission to build here instead.

Moto-jinya, completed in June of Ansei 4 (1857), was the largest among 24 jinyas built in Hokkaido. Moreover, small forts called Debari-jinya were built in places further east than Shiraoi such as Hiroo, Akkeshi, Nemuro, Tomari on Kunashiri Island and Furebetsu on Etorofu Island.

Moto-jinya in Shiraoi used to take a major role as a defense base.

## **No. 8 Increasing Threat from the North**

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Since around the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Russia had been gradually accelerating its advance into Asia, and had control of Kamchatka. Then, in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, it started advancing southward along the Kurile Islands. Its trade ships often encroached even into the seas around Japan.

In Anei 7 (1778), Russians landed at Kiritappu in Eastern Hokkaido and demanded the Shogunate establish a trade relationship. Under such circumstances, the Shogunate acutely became aware of the significance of the defense of Ezo.

KUDO Heisuke and HAYASHI Shihei of the Sendai clan, who studied at Nagasaki and were familiar with the world situation, are known as those who turned their eyes to the world before others. They raised the alarm against the possibility of invasion from other countries by publishing a book that warned of Russia's advancement to the south and its pressure on Japan. However, their voices went unheard. On the contrary, the Shogunate punished them, determining they were misleading the public.

## **No. 9 The Shaken Edo shogunate**

7 2 1 字

In Kansei 4 (1792), Laksman, Russia's envoy to Japan, came to Matsumae, the then capital city of Ezo, from Nemuro via Hakodate, to demand the establishment of a trade relationship. Moreover, ships from England appeared on the seas around Japan. Thus, the issue with northern Japan gradually drew public attention.

The Matsumae domain was originally in charge of guarding the Ezo region,

which was a vast and unknown land. The Matsumae domain needed help from the Shogunate and other domains, as they did not have enough financial strength or military force. The Shogunate, which felt a strong sense of crisis about such a situation, undertook to strengthen the guard of Ezo, conducting the survey to obtain information on the region.

Ezo came to belong to the Shogunate as a territory under its direct control in Kansei 11 (1799), which is known as the first period when the territory was directly controlled by the Shogunate. Since then, the Shogunate's administrative power spread all over the Ezo region by assigning government officials to various spots and investing capital incomparable with the amount under the Matsumae domain's governance. At the same time, the defense strength improved as each domain built its Jinya.

When Russia's policy of southward expansion started to settle down at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Ezo was returned to the Matsumae domain. However, in the middle of that century, the situation intensified again and each foreign country further pressed its demand to establish a trade relationship.

The Shogunate signed the Japan and US Treaty of Peace and Amity in Ansei 1 (1854), which resulted in the opening of the two ports of Hakodate and Shimoda in Shizuoka Prefecture. Thus, after having lasted over two hundred years and several decades, Japan's isolationist foreign policy was brought to an end. In the following year, the treaty concluded with Russia stipulated that the border of the two countries should be set between Etorofu Island and Urup Island, and Karafuto Island was declared a mutual residential area between Japan and Russia.

The Shogunate, strongly sensing the necessity of securing the northern territory, put Ezo under its direct control, excepting the area around the Matsumae Castle, and reinforced the guard. The Sendai domain, as ordered by the Shogunate, dispatched MIYOSHI Kenmotsu and others to Ezo for inspection rounds.

Thus, the Sendai domain started to dispatch of its clansmen to Ezo to guard the northern territory.

## **No. 10 Dispatch of Clansmen**

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In May of Ansei 3 (1856), about 220 members as the first group of clansmen set out from near Sendai castle to guard Ezo. The company had UJIIE Hidenoshin as its commander-in-chief and included not only clansmen but also lower-ranking samurai warriors recruited from all over the Sendai domain, doctors and carpenters. It is said that there were a lot of members who had difficulty in preparing the money needed for travel, as each had to bear his own expenses.

It would take approximately 20 days to get to Shiraoui if everything went well. However, there were cases where it took two months, when they had to wait at Aomori till a ship to go across the Tsugaru Strait would sail out or when they were forced to stay due to wind and rain. They were also forced to be self-sufficient, since the Sendai domain cut down on expenses to defend the Jinya.

While the clansmen actively brought land into cultivation, their life in Ezo very largely relied on the wisdom, support and labor of the Ainu.

## **No. 11 Building Shiraoui Moto-jinya**

3 3 4 字

The construction of Moto-jinya progressed at a high pace under the direction of Commander-in-chief UJIIE Hidenoshin himself, while the members were temporarily living in the public offices at Shiraoui-Maehama, called Kaisho.

The Moto-jinya was completed in an extremely short period of time of around one year. Inside the deep moats and the high earthen walls were built six tenement houses for the clansmen to live in, granaries, stables and six gates. In addition, Shiogama Shrine and Atago Shrine were built with spirits divided from their home feudal domain. A small shrine was built, too.

Construction involved carpenters from the Sendai domain together with the clansmen, workers coordinated by trade contractors, NOGUCHIYA Matazo, who was running a trading post in Shiraoui, and many local Ainu. An extravagant ridgepole raising ceremony was held on June 18 of Ansei 4 (1857).

## **No. 12 Structure of Shiraoi Moto-jinya**

275字

Shiraoi Moto-jinya was constructed on a natural fort surrounded by mountains on three sides and located between small streams in the east and the west. In addition, it became a rugged encampment with high earthen walls and deep moats around it. The following is some numeric information on the Jinya.

The Jinya was located about 2 km northeast from Shiraoi Beach. The area was 66,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The Honmaru called Uchi-kuruwa (the core compound) was 125 meters in diameter, and the Ninomaru called Soto-kuruwa (the secondary compound) was 216 meters long and 120 meters wide. The earthen walls were two to three meters high, extended to as long as 835 meters. The total area including grass field amounted to as large as 1,237,500 m<sup>2</sup>.

You can see natural fireflies, Heike-botaru in Japanese, around the moats even now as the then clansmen would see them.

## **No. 13 Defense by Sendai Clan**

721字

The most significant task to run the Jinya was to tighten official discipline of the samurai warriors who were used to ensure an era of peace lasting over 200 years, and to arouse the morale of them as samurai.

The samurai warriors had lectures on military science as well as training in martial arts and how to fire a matchlock gun and a cannon. They even had a fully armed practical drill called Shura-mae (meaning before the battle). Such training and drills appear to have been very intensive compared to those of other domains.

The term of service was commonly one year for those samurai warriors. They would arrive at their post from Sendai in early spring around April, and be replaced by the members of another batch next year. They could manage life during the summer, but the winter was too harsh for them since they were not used to the severe coldness in Ezo.

Being on the alert and ready for the allied western powers, including Russia, to advance into Ezo, which had become a key stronghold for Japan's defense,

the Shogunate decided to let each domain take charge of defense in addition to guarding each allocated area of Ezo in September of Ansei 6 (1859). Thus, the Sendai domain owned Shiraoi, and accordingly it appointed a local magistrate who was responsible for civil administration.

When you see a map of that period, you can understand that the vast land of Edo was guarded and defended by not only the Sendai domain but also by each domain of Matsumae, Tsugaru, Akita, Nanbu, Shonai and Aizu. The Sendai domain established Debari-jinyas to the east of Shiraoi, in Hiroo, Akkeshi, Nemuro and even farther places such as Kunashiri Island and Etorofu Island. They are at the east end of Hokkaido, hundreds of kilometers away from Shiraoi or the chain of islands extending from there. They were in a remote and vast land called eastern Ezo in that period. The climate and natural features were even more severe than those in Shiraoi. It is reported that dispatched members had great difficulty in building a Jinya and performing daily guard duty.

As a significant base of the guard of Ezo-land, Ezo Shiraoi in those days had a vibrant atmosphere with the active traffic of a lot of samurai warriors, including the Sendai domain as well as merchants. Communications between individual clansman and the Ainu were strictly forbidden by the rule.

## **No. 14 Relationship to the Ainu**

470字

Shiraoi, though directly controlled by the Shogunate, was owned by the Sendai domain when the takeover was concluded in the spring of Manen 1 (1860). AIZAWA Gidenta was appointed as a local magistrate in the position of first civil administrator. He worked at the public office in Shiraoi Maehama. As the Sendai domain considered that one of the duties for local magistrate should be contact with the local Ainu people, it appointed a competent personnel to that position.

On the other hand, the management of the trading post in Shiraoi was conducted by NOGUCHIYA Matazo, a trade contractor, who produced kemp and dried sardine in cooperation with the local people. NOGUCHIYA devoted

himself to the Sendai domain throughout his life, and played a major role in the withdrawal of the clansmen at the end of Edo period.

Local magistrates and trade contractors, in accordance with the rule of the Sendai domain, tried to live together with about 400 Ainu people within the trading post in Shiraoi. Therefore, the atmosphere was relatively peaceful. Omusha is a ceremony to represent appreciation for the Ainu. The local magistrate would call the Ainu together in the beginning of winter when the fishing season was over, and would have a drinking party for them after reading aloud the rule that they should abide.

A monument to honor the achievements by NOGUCHIYA Matazo stands at Kojo Beach, and the grave of the fourth local magistrate, KUSAKARI Untaro, is in Shadai. Both are respectfully enshrined by the local people.

## **No. 15 Withdrawal of Clansmen and the Ending of the Jinya, and Achievement by MIYOSHI Kenmotsu 668字**

In January of Keio 4 (1868), the new Meiji government issued a decree to search for and kill the 15<sup>th</sup> shogun, TOKUGAWA Yoshinobu, which caused the outbreak of a civil war called the Boshin War, splitting the country in two. The new government ordered the Sendai domain to subjugate the Aizu domain, which was supporting the Shogunate. Though opinions over the discussion among the clansmen were divided, the Sendai domain decided to fight against the new government army as a member of the army of the former Shogunate, entering into the Alliance of the Domains of Mutsu, Dewa and Echigo. Thus, war spread to the Tohoku region.

As the tide of the war turned against the Sendai domain and the former shogunate army, the new government army aggressively started tracking down Shiraoi Moto-jinya, too. Hearing from NOGUCHIYA of Hakodate that a punitive force had been dispatched to Shiraoi, KODAMA Kakunoshin withdrew from the Jinya within the day and went back to Sendai to rally his troops.

Local magistrate, KUSAKARI Untaro, tried to protect the Jinya and the land, staying in Shiraoi as a civil administrator even after the Sendai clansmen had

left. However, injured by the advancing new government army, he committed seppuku (suicide by disembowelment) at the beach of Shadai, facing the direction of his hometown, Sendai.

On the other hand, MIYOSHI Kenmotsu, who founded the Moto-jinya in Shiraoi and was assigned as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commander-in-chief of Shiraoi, was an able person who supported his feudal lord of the Sendai domain. He was on friendly terms with MATSUURA Takeshiro, known as an explorer at the end of Edo period. Kenmotsu was also a man of culture who excelled in poetry and painting.

He was in conflict with the shogunate faction of the clan, since he insisted on obedience to the new government and the subjugation of Aizu during the Boshin War. He committed suicide by the sword to end his life as a samurai warrior when he was 53 years old. After his death, the government sent his bereaved family 200 ryo, a ritual donation for “the loyalist who upheld the cause of loyalty to the emperor.”

A large monument to praise Kenmotsu’s achievements stands in his hometown of Fujisawa-cho, Ichinoseki-shi, a southern city in Iwate Prefecture.