

SAMURAI DAYORI

ARE YOU READY TO SHOW YOUR SKILL TO SOUKE? HE WILL BE HERE SOON!

HISTORY OF MUKUSHIN-RYU

In 1471, *Asakura Takakage* took the position of *Shugo-dai** in the confusion at the succession to the headship of a house of *Shiba* family which was his lord. He wanted to rule *Echizen.*** The *Asakura* clan had ruled *Echizen* for about 100 years through 5 generations (*Takakage*, *Ujikage*, *Sadakage*, *Takakage* and *Yosikage*).

Shugo-dai Kai Yoshihisa was a pupil of *Chuujuu-ryu* 5th souke *Chuujuu Mochiyasu* and *Takakage* was a pupil of *Kai*. As a fellow pupil there were *Yamazaki Ukyounosuke Shougan* and *Ohashi Kageyuzaemon Takayosi* who became *Mukushin-ryu* founder in the future. They joined *Takakage* and helped his coup for supremacy of *Echizen*.

Kageyuzaemon was chosen to be a successor of *Chuujuu-ryu* souke, but once *Asakura* clan settled down, he gave the name of souke to *Yamazaki Shougan*. Then it was passed down to *Toda* family from *Yamazaki* family. At the time of *Toda Seigen* (3rd generation of *Toda-ryu*), he established *Toda-ryu Kodachi*(short sword) technique. *Seigen's* young brother *Kagemasa* (3rd souke) lost confidence in a *Asakura's* future and became a retainer of *Maeda Toshiie* who was on *Oda Nobunaga's* side.. His successor *Toda Echigo-no-kami Shigemasa* became a chief retainer of *Maeda*. He was famous swordsman and called 'Meijin Echigo (Master Echigo)'. *Toda-ryu* took root in *Kaga* (*Ishikawa* prefecture now) because *Maeda* was a lord of *Kaga*

By the way *Sasaki Kojirou* was a pupil of *Toda Seigen* and he took a part of *Uchidachi* for *Seigen* in his class. He founded *Gan-ryu* and made a name for himself as a great swordsman. (see Vol. 7)

After *Ohashi Kageyuzaemon* gave souke's name to *Yamazaki*. He started making his own style based on *Chuujuu-ryu's* precept 'Avoid fighting' with adopting good parts of other styles. He devoted himself to his studies and training, then reached the point of "my mind has no limited line like the sky and it is empty". He founded *Mukushin-ryu*.

Since he was a successor of *Cyujou-ryu* once, He considered *Yamazaki* (he didn't want to take *Yamazaki's* students away from his Dojo), he had taught only his family and relatives and his retainers who he could trust.

In 1481 *Asakura Takakage* died. After a few years later *Kabeyuzaemon* passed down souke to *Jin-emon Takatsuna* who was his son. Around 1510, *Juubee Takatsugu*, the son in low (a husband of *Takatsuna's* daughter, *Taki*, also he was adopted by *Ohashi* to keep family name) became 3th souke. Around 1540 his son *Ohashi Kansuke Naokata* became 4th souke. But before he passed souke to his son *Naoakira, Oda Nobunaga* attacked *Echizen* and *Asakura* clan fell completely.

Ohashi family shared in *Asakura's* fate, and *Mukushin-ryu* seemed to disappear. But it was passed on to coming generations by a few pupils who survived the battle.

It is not clear how *Mukushin-ryu* survived for such a long time. In the last days of *Edo* era(1850's), the time when the political situation had grown tense, *Mukai Cyuuzaeemon* became 11th souke, then 12th souke(870~1915) *Yoshimura Koujirou Nobutsune*. His son *Souichirou Nobuhiro* was 13th souke between *Taishou* era to *Shouwa* era(~1960). About 1970 *Akimoto Masayuki* who was studying *Kage-ryu* and living in *Osaka* succeeded 14th souke. (He lives in *Hakata* city in *Kyusyu* now).

In 2001 he met *Ohashi Kenshin* at a *Bugei Taikai* (a martial arts convention) and formed a good relationship with him. In the same year he chose *Ohashi Kenshi* as 15th souke with the reason of his great age.

-----These were the history that 14th souke taught me orally, but I can't conclude these are correct because of his age and there are not any documents left.

Mukushin-ryu has *Kenjutsu* as a main subject, *Iai*, *Kodachi*, *Jou-jutsu*(staff/stick), *Han-jou-jutsu*(half length staff), *Sou-jutsu*(spear), *Tai-jutsu*(empty hand) and *Shuriken*. Also there are *Kyuu-jutsu*(Japanese archery), *Ba-jutsu*(horsemanship), and *Hou-jutsu*(gunnery), but these need a special place and cost a lot. I experience only when I have a chance.

The precepts and techniques of sword stand to reason but I think while the time flows probably some techniques were adopted from other styles and rearranged to the original, then it became the current style.

I am creating 'Shin Ko Bujutsu (new traditional martial arts)' by adding new ideas and techniques with keeping good-old way of *Mukushin-ryu* as 15th souke. I do my best to grow 'Mukushin-ryu of 21 century' and draw my sword with setting my mind free from old bad customs.

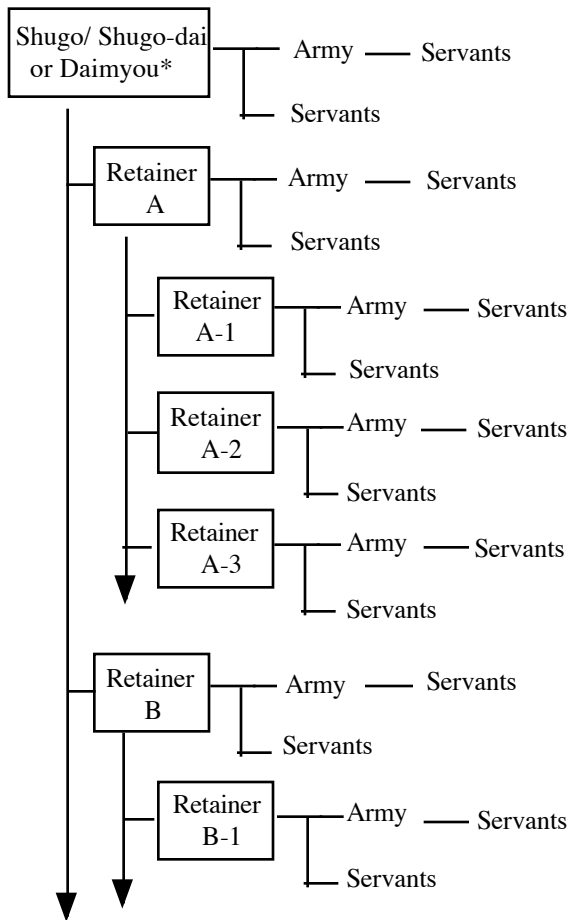
Sincerely,

Mukushin-ryu 15th souke, re-founder 1st
Ohashi Kenshin Yukio

* *Shugo/Syugo-shoku & Shodo-dai* : *Shugo* is the people or family who was ordered to take care of the domains by the central government(*Bakufu*). Those domains were *Bakufu's*. Sometime *Shugo* didn't move in to the domain where he is in charge. They stayed in Capital and pick somebody from his retainers and sent to the domain or pick somebody from a powerful clan on that land and let them do his job. This position is called *Shugo-dai*.

***Echizen* : *Fukui* Prefecture now. *Obama* city where *Ohashi* souke lives is in *Fukui* Prefecture. *Mukushin-ryu* came back to original place and under the name of *Ohashi*

THE SYSTEM OF A LORD AND HIS RETAINERS



This is one example. The amount of retainers and servants and how lower you can count from retainers or soldiers to servants are depend on the size of domain and power of the lord. If “Retainer A” decide to against his lord, the people under his charge follow him.

* Daimyou is a lord who took control the domain by his own power or given the land by ruler or somebody he followed and fought in the battle to help.

Shiba was Shugo, Kai was Shogo-dai and Asakura was Daimyou.

APOLOGY

I could not put some articles I write every month like ‘interesting facts’. I am running out of space. They will be back on next issue. Also with the same reason there are some other things I wanted to write specially on this issue. I will keep until next month.

The article from souke on the first page is not 100% his original. Because it wasn’t easy to understand if you don’t know Japanese history well. I added a little explanation.

JAPANESE MANNER ABOUT FEET

Most people already know Japanese don’t wear shoes in the house. The reason is mainly we don’t like to bring any dirt inside of the house. We sit on the floor and sleep on the floor. We use Futon to sleep which is not same as you call Futon in America. There is no frame. We lay futon on the floor.

Also we don’t bring in the dirty shoes except putting away into closet. If we need to polish or clean them, we do it in the foyer or we lay old newspaper or something under the shoes. We don’t let the sole of shoes touch floor directly.

We set very clearly no shoes area and wearing shoes area. In the place like school, there are many shoe shelves lining up at the covered entrance. We need switch our shoes from outside shoes which you wear to go to school to inside shoes. Each time when we go in or out, we need change our shoes. Well, we live like that, so we don’t think it is too much trouble. It is very natural thing to do for us.

We consider feet are not clean also. It doesn’t matter how you clean your feet. They are still not purified. With this reason, it is very bad manner to put feet on the table or lift up your feet in front of somebody if you are not showing something about your feet.

Doing thing with the feet is very disrespect for manner also, like walking over, touching or pushing by feet other people’s belongings, or pointing or picking things by toes. If there is something on the way, we go around. If we need to move something, bend the body and use our hands. If it is too heavy, we may use knee and feet but still need to use the hand. There are no reason to use toes to point or pick up things except if you have some physical problems. Touching other people’s belongings by feet on purpose shows you think they are too dirty to touch by hands. You might noy mean that, but we feel so. Even when owner is not here or not watching you. We care about that. Because we show the same respect to the objects as the person who own those. Gifts are same. We show the same respect and appreciation to the gifts as the person who gives us.

There are some Japanese people coming here soon. I thought it is good for everyone in the class to know how we feel about feet manner. Also this is the reason you don’t cut Goza(tatami mat) in Mukushin-ryu.

Even we know we are in the different culture but this is very hard for us to accept about feet. I have lived here over 12 years, and trying to adjust myself, but sometimes I still need to tell myself ‘ be patient, don’t get mad’, this person doesn’t mean to insult me.”.

Ohashi souke and others are coming to give you the lesson and help your training. I hope everybody can form good friendship with them but not too casual. We say “the courtesies matter, even between friends.”

Have a questions or request? Contact me at:
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