

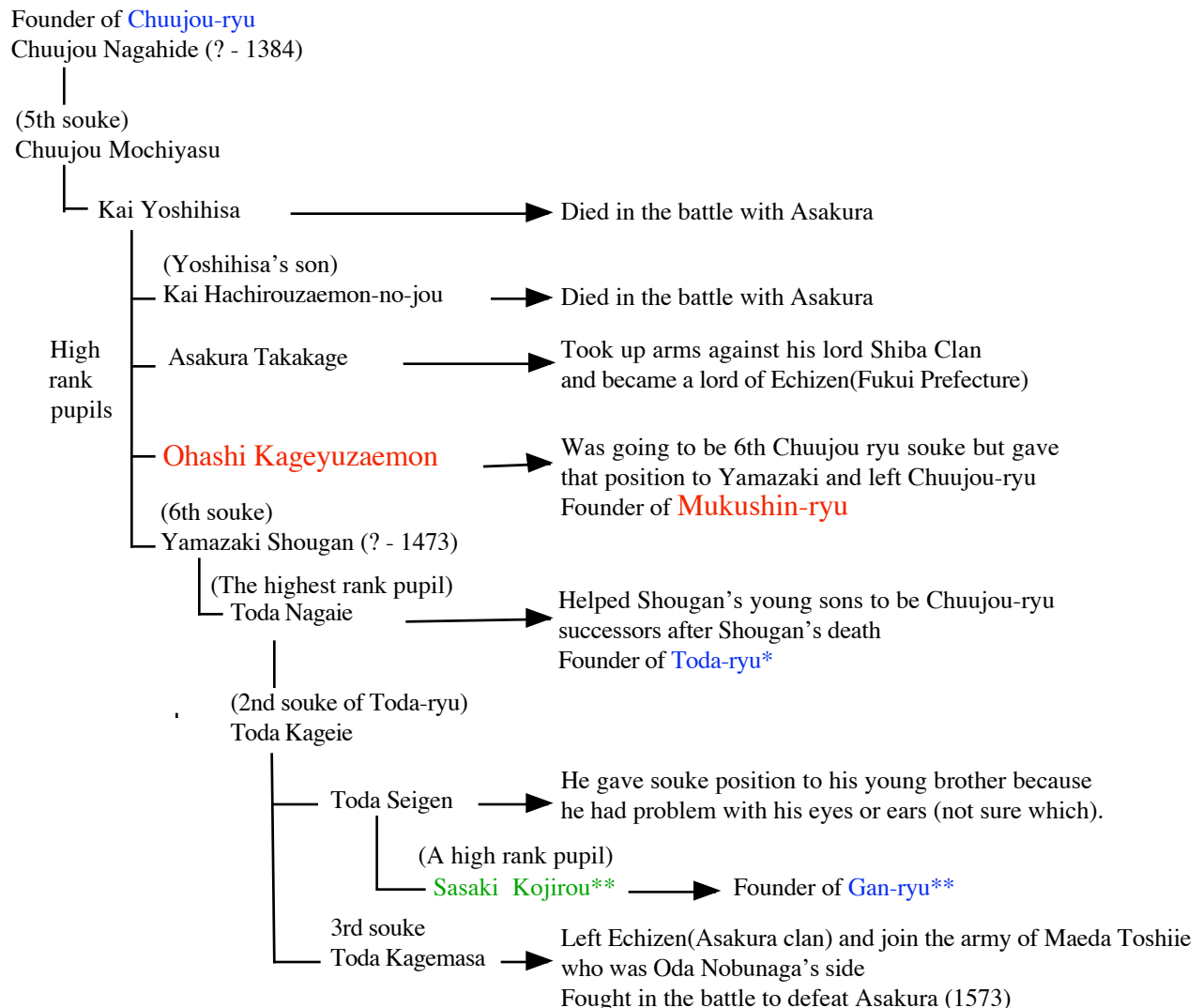
SAMURAI DAYORI

OHASHI KENSHIN SENSEI IS COMING HERE ON NOVEMBER!

He will bring some of his students in Obama. They will be helps your training with Ohashi sensei. Prepare to show your skill. More details will be here soon.

Q. Did Sasaki Kojirou in the story of *Musashi* have any relationship with *Chujou-ryu*?

A. Yes, but not directly. Here is a simple genealogical table about *Chujou-ryu*.



* **Toda-ryu** ---famous for Kodachi/wakizashi(short sword) techniques.

See Recommended movie of Vol.2 'Twilight Samurai'

** **Sasaki Kojirou** and **Gan-ryu**---See recommended book of Vol.3 "Musashi" and movie 'The Samurai Trilogy'

BEGINING OF IAIDO

The first Iaido was founded by *Hayashizaki Jinsuke Sigenobu* (1542-?). The style name was *Hayashizaki-Musou-ryu*. Iai was invented by *Hayashizaki*. His real name was *Asano Tamijimaru*. *Hayashizaki* was the village name (*Yamagata* Prefecture). He changed his name when he was 18 years old*.

When he was 6 years old, his father was attacked in the dark and killed on the way home from visiting his friend working at a shrine. The murderer was a swordsman named *Sakagami Shuzen*. *Shigenobu* had to find *Shuzen* and take a revenge on him. This was very common during Samurai time. If you could not do this, you would be called coward. Sometimes, if you would succeed in your revenge, you could be a successor of your father's position.

Since his father's death, *Shigenobu* had trained hard with the instructor of the lord of the domain who his father had worked for. Also he trained himself and invented his own style Iai around 1556. While he had trained himself he prayed to be a good swordsman at the shrine that his father was visiting the night he was killed.

The length of his sword was 3 *shaku 2 sun* (about 3 ft 2.5 in., 92 cm). This is 1 ft longer than common swords. This long sword was popular for mass fighting at battlefields. At the battlefield they could carry it on their shoulder without *Saya*. But it is not easy to draw from *Saya* for common situation.

In 1559, he took off to the journey to find *Sakagami Shuzen* and he succeeded in his revenge in *Kyoto* in 1561. When he came back to his hometown, he donated his sword to the shrine and stayed home to take care of his mother (she became sick during he was gone). After his mother died at 1562 he left his hometown again and started traveling all over Japan. His life after this is still not clear but it is sure he taught some swordsmen and they passed on *Hayashizaki-Musou-ryu* or developed their own Iai style.

One of them to follow *Hayashizaki's* Iai very closely is *Tamiya-ryu* by *Tamiya Heibee Shigemasa*. *Tamiya-ryu* uses a long *Tsuka* sword. It is 2 sun (about 2.5 in., 6 cm) longer than usual. This style still exists now.

* It was common that samurai had a child's name and adult name. When they reached the age to be independent, or their family and people close to them thought they were old enough to be treated as adults, they had ceremony and got new names. Age was between about 14-18. This ceremony is called '*Genpuku*'.

In this newsletter:

Japanese names are written by Japanese way. Family name comes first, then given name.

Japanese words are written close to Japanese pronunciations and writing, ie. Noutou instead of Noto or Shougun instead of Shogun.

Q. Was it really happened that Samurai threw his Wakizashi at their opponents ?

A. Yes. Wakizashi is very useful. You can use as a spare sword when your main sword gets damaged or you lose it, or use long and short together like Musashi's Ni-tou-ryu (two sword style). Shuriken was developed from this technique. Throwing wakizashi came first. Then it became shorter and shorter like a knife and became Syuriken to fit in your palm. Also, sometimes they even threw their long swords. Some stubborn people say throwing your main sword is the same as throwing your life away because the sword is samurai's life. But flexible people say it depends on the fighting situation. If you need to do it to protect your life, do it.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

The Unfettered Mind --- by *Takuan Soh*

Takuan Soho born in 1573, was a Zen monk, calligrapher, painter, poet and tea master,

The book is not an essay about Zen Buddhism; it seeks to unify the spirit of Zen with the spirit of the sword, a blend of the practical, technical, and philosophical aspects of confrontation. It is an interesting insight into the outlook on confrontation and to life, of the samurai of feudal Japan.

INTERESTING FACTS

Takuan appears in *Musashi's* story book and movie as an important person for *Musashi*. But most historical research says they had never met each other and that part is completely fiction by author. But it is true he was close friend and teacher of *Yagyuu* family.

Most Japanese knows *Takuan* as an inventor of pickled daikon radish now. That pickle is called *Takuan*. You can buy it at oriental grocery stores around here.

EVERYDAY JAPANESE

Let's start learning some Japanese *Ohashi sensei* might use during his lesson

Body parts -I

head - atama	arm - ude
face - kao	hand - te
neck - kubi	finger - yubi
body part/whole body - karada	leg - ashi
shoulder - kata	foot - ashi

Have a questions or request? Contact me at:

Rie Campbell

Email--RIE@Mukushin.com