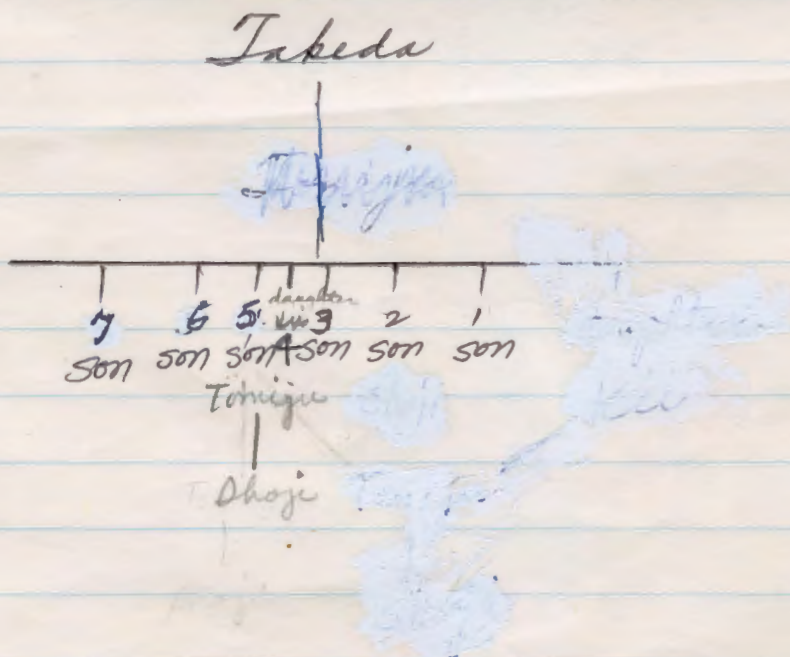


Morio Mary is interested in tracing her father's lineage, so I am writing this for her as I recall the story of her ancestors. Mary is the daughter of Shimoda Shinji who lived in Seattle. He is the oldest son of my father's older sister.

the late Takeda Tomiju's second son, Takeda Shoji

September 17, 1982.



In ancient times, the Japanese nation was divided into Gen, Pei, To and Kitsu. In other words, the House of Genji, the House of Heishi, the House of Fujiwara and the House of Tachibana were all loyal class of the Emperor. I will begin my narration with the House of Genji, to which our forebears belonged.

The Genji clan was directly related to the Imperial Family and for generations was involved in managing and protecting the provinces under their jurisdiction.

The masses were under the feudal lords command.

About eight hundred years ago the power and fortune of the Emperor began to decline, and it became impossible to rule over the domain effectively. The Emperor's power weakened and the Imperial edict did not reach the far ends of the empire.

It so happened at this time that Minamoto Yoritomo rose to power as the head of the Genji clan. He fought courageously against the influential nobles who rose against the Imperial Family. Yoritomo successfully overran the insurgents and returned the ruling power back to the Emperor. Once again, peace and tranquility returned under Minamoto Yoritomo.

Minamoto Yoritomo set up a feudal government in Kamakura (now known as Kamakura City) and called it Kamakura 'Bakufu' (Kamakura Shogunate).

I suppose you could have called this the capital

of the Shogunal Regime. The feudal regime governed the people in lieu of the Imperial Family. I think this is the beginning of the Shogunal Regime.

Just at the time the Genji's were taking command, Takasaki Uji was amassing power and land in and around Shinshu (Nagano Prefecture). He occupied all of the Nakano great plains. There was a feudal lord <sup>(samurai chief)</sup> who presided over the entire area. (~~Samurai Chief~~).

The family of Takasaki belonged to the same family as Minamoto Yoritomo and was a special close blood-related kin. Another very close kin allied with Minamoto Yoritomo and commanded a castle (Nagano Prefecture) at the site known as Shinshu Kiso. He was Kiso Yoshinaka. He put forth all of his effort along with Minamoto Yoritomo to unify Japan. This fact is recorded in the unofficial history 'Nihon Gaiishi'.

The family of Takasaki had its stronghold on the eastern end of the Nakano great plains. They constructed a castle on a ledge of Iwayama, known as Hakoyama. It commanded a vast view extending from Nakano town to the Nakano plains. As history goes, this happened more than eight hundred years ago.

After Minamoto Yoritomo established a feudal government in Kamakura, he at once went to pay

homage to the oldest Imperial Temple, Zenkōji, located in Nagano City (in Nagano Prefecture).

While he was in the area, he also visited Takanaishi Uji's castle. As the legend goes, he went fishing in a lake which was in the middle of the great Nakano plains. Later on they had a drinking bout and had a merry time at a place called Sarashina. There is a ~~temple~~<sup>shrine</sup> called Funatube, which was dedicated to Yoritomo. The shrine now is known as Hirano. Heiya (plain)

About four hundred years after Takanaishi Uji built his castle on Hakoyama, Japan experienced another ~~troubled~~<sup>turbulent</sup> era throughout the land. Great leaders began to jealously defend sectional authority and began warring with one another. They exerted their power to hold onto each one's own sphere of influence.

The age of civil war (age of turbulence) began. Just at this time, war lord Takeda Shingen appeared from 'Kai no kuni' (Yamanashi Prefecture). He headed one of the clans of Minamoto Yoritomo and gradually rose to power and subjugated many powerful lords.

At that time Takanaishi Uji, who also was under the jurisdiction of Minamoto Uji was attacked by Shingen. Takanaishi fled and took refuge with his northern neighbor, bordering the Japan Sea. He sought safety in the then

powerful Uesugi Kenshin's castle. His castle was located in Echigo nation (now Niigata Prefecture). He was received warmly as an honorary guest by Uesugi.

Thus Takeda Shingen expelled Takanashi Uji. After Takeda Shingen's death, his son Takeda Katsuyori took over the lordship. He was later attacked and overthrown by both Oda Nobunaga and <sup>Tokugawa</sup> Toyotomi Hideyoshi. Later Oda Nobunaga was attacked and killed by his own subordinate, Akechi Mitsuhide.

<sup>Toyotomi</sup> After many civil unrests and desperate conflicts, Hideyoshi once again unified the entire island nation. Soon after, Hideyoshi died of illness. Once again the nation was thrust into turmoil and unrest. Then war lord Tokugawa Ieyasu rose to power and established the Tokugawa Shogunate in Edo. (now Tokyo metropolis). Tokugawa continued to rule the nation under the feudal system for nearly three hundred years. In time the Tokugawa Shogunate began to weaken and finally it was forced to relinquish its governing power back to the Emperor. Thus the Meiji government was established. Emperor Meiji is the Grandfather of the present Emperor Showa.

Supplement for Page 2.

Author - Ikenami Shotaro published by Asahi Shinbun  
Sanada Taiheiki Excerpts from Vol. Eight p. 124.

It has been told that Emperor Shomu issued an Imperial Edict to construct a temple known as Shinano Kokubuji. This was in the thirteenth year of Tempyo (741 A.D.). It was built in the surrounding suburb of the now Nagano Prefecture, Ueda City.

The Emperor not only issued the edict in Shinano, but also in other various parts of the nation in order to restore peace and tranquility. Todaiji in Nara is the main state-established provincial temple.

When the three storied pagoda was repaired in the early years of Showa (1912 - ) (I think this means the ridge pole) they found a sumi ink written scroll which seems to have been written in the eighth year of Kenkyu. As temple legend goes, in the eighth year of Kenkyu when Minamoto Yoritomo was on his way to pay homage to the Zenko temple, he lamented the extreme deterioration of the Kokubu temple. The scroll has an account of his concern for the temple's repair and restoration, as expressed

in page two. The account confirms the visit of Minamoto Yoritomo's fishing escapade to the lake when he visited Zankō Temple. He also visited Takanashi Uji and had a joyful saké merriment.

Takanashi Uji was a guest of honor in the House of Uesugi until the Meiji Restoration. When the nation stabilized again in the Meiji era, Takanashi came back to his old place in Nakano, Hakoyama and re-established himself in the ancient castle site and resumed a peaceful life.

Although three hundred years elapsed since Takanashi fled Nakano, it seems that he had continued communicating with the retainers and vassals he had left behind.

When Emperor Meiji resumed the power of governing his subjects, he at once acknowledged Takanashi Uji's respectable family lineage and bestowed the title of viscount and thus maintained the privileges of daimyo descent.

When Takanashi Uji was overpowered by Takeda Shingen and took refuge in Echigo, where Uesugi Kenshin held his castle, the chief retainer of the House of Hosono and many other followers chose to remain in Nakano and returned to agricultural pursuits.

The Hosono's were called Karō or chief retainers which was the highest position of the retainer class, in other words, they were the feudal lord's assistants. This House of Hosono is the direct lineage of your family.

As I recall nearly four hundred years had passed since war lord Takanashi Uji built his residential castle in Hakoyama and held fast his holdings until he was forced to flee from Takeda Shingen's attack. Takanashi Uji and the House of Hosono are inter-related, in that, Hosono, being a very old family of distinction of that area. Therefore it can be said that Takanashi Uji and the House of Hosono are blood related. Later on you will find that Hosono and our Takeda have some connections, so I will also narrate about the Takeda family. When Takanashi Uji settled in Hakoyama and built his castle, land was being developed in the north side and western portions of Hakoyama. This area was called Takewara (now this is part of Nakano city). The developers of Takewara are our ancestors, the Takeda clan.

When Takewara was being developed, the Yamase River was flowing behind Hakoyama on the eastern side of the precipitous cliff on

Tokugawa Shogunate. At the site of the castle of Takashi Uji, a manor house called 'jin'ya' was built, which housed the magistrate.

During the Meiji era, the site of the manor house or 'jin'ya' became the seat of Nakano prefecture. Since then the name has changed to Nagano Prefecture. The prefectural office has been moved to Nagano City where Zenkoji is located.

The episode of the Shimoda family will begin from here. This story happened long after the Takeda clan developed the Takewara area. There happened to be an area known as Nitta in the Takewara region. Here we will introduce the family known as Shimoda. They came from the southern part of the region - shimo means down under - or southern end. It was also said that they came from the south end of the Chikuma River, which flows to the west of Takewara. After many years, this Shimoda family became one of the most prominent and wealthiest families in and around Takewara settlement.

In the Meiji era, this Shimoda family was not blessed with an heir. On the other hand, the Takeda family, where my father was born and raised was blessed with six sons and a daughter. Arrangements were

made for this only daughter of the main Taketa family to be adopted by the wealthy Shimoda family. She happened to be my father, Tomijū's, older sister, Kii.

Now, the second son of the Hosono family of Nakano town, Hosono Hansuke was arranged to become the adopted husband of my aunt Kii. They were married and took the name of Shimoda. I think Shimoda Hansuke and Aunt Kii were blessed with two sons and two daughters.

Oldest son (Shimoda Shinji) → Mary's father  
Second son (Hosono Kōzō) → Minoru's father  
Now, the main household of Hosono, where Hansuke was born - his older brother who continued the name of Hosono had no children. Shimoda Hansuke in turn had his second son Shimoda Kōzō take the name of the main household of Hosono and thus he became Hosono Kōzō.

An unhappy event occurred in the meantime in the Shimoda family. As the story unfolds, Aunt Kii and Hosono Hansuke, now known as Shimoda Hansuke were both from old illustrious families. Naturally they grew up in surroundings of extremely magnificent circumstances. They both lacked experience in

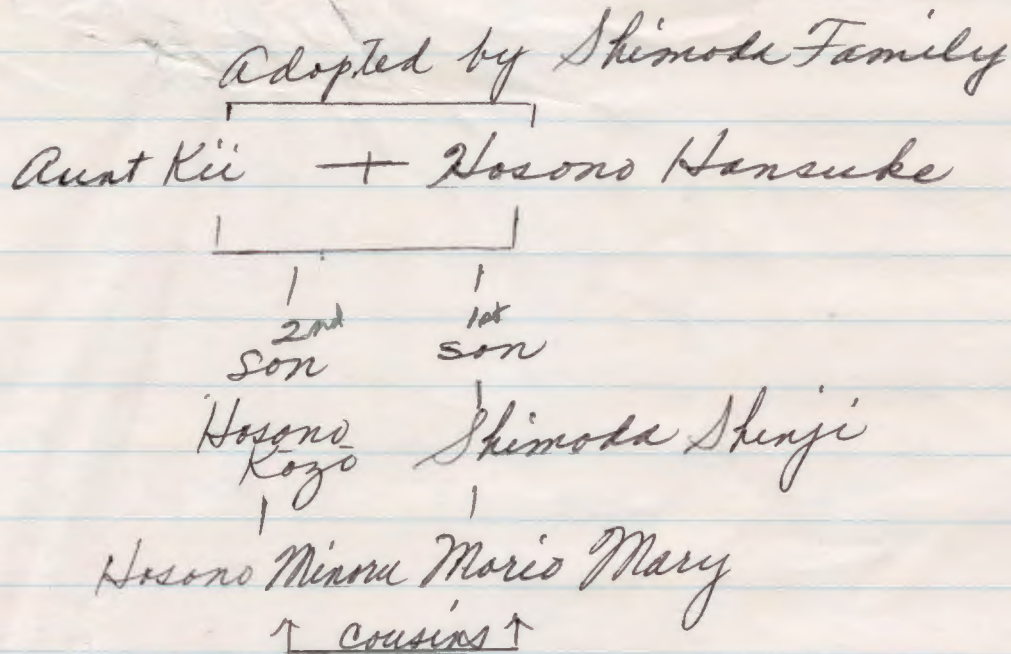
financial affairs. Soon there after the vast fortunes of the Shimodas began to be depleted. The adoptive parents became concerned and after consultation, Aunt Kii and Hansuke had to relinquish the headship of the family and they were forced to move to Nakano town. The Shimoda family chose for the second time an heir. This time from relatives who lived in the lower end of the river — as you recall Shimoda originally came from this area — this is where they lived before they came to Takewara. This time the new heir took over the dwindling estate, and so the story goes, he restored the state of family affairs again to its former flourishing status.

Poor aunt Kii and Hansuke had no power over the Shimoda family anymore. Of course they were not blood related, because both were adopted into the family.

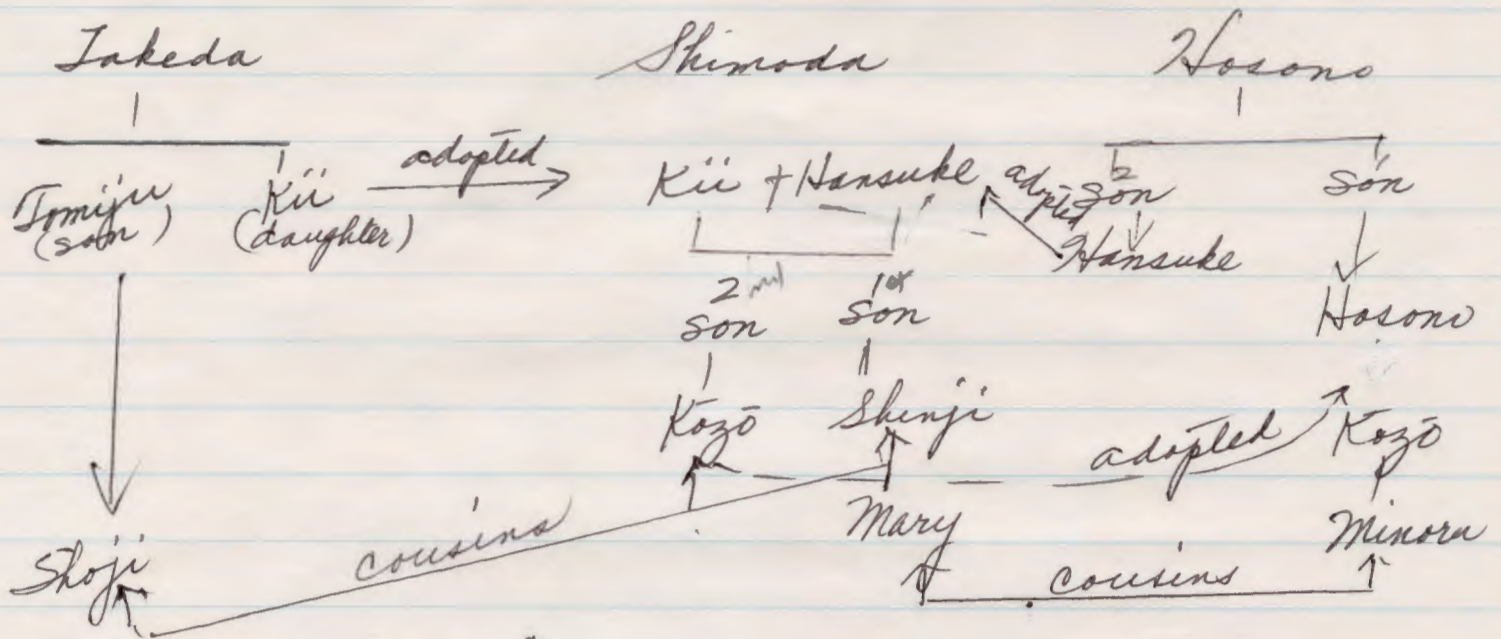
After aunt Kii and Hansuke moved to Nakano, they became devout Christians. No matter how miserable conditions became, Hansuke was always contented and showed no apprehension. His manners were decent and respectable. This matter was told to me through a letter I received from my older brother,

Kanji, who lives in Mexico.

Therefore Shimoda Shinji is blood related to Hosono and Takeda families. So you may call him. Hosono, Takeda, Shimoda Shinji, then your lineage will become clear. Mario Mary and Hosono Minoru are cousins.



My father, Takeda Tomijū, is Shimoda Shinji's uncle. He is also Hosono Kōzō's uncle. Shimoda Shinji and second son Hosono Kōzō and I (Takeda Shōjū) are cousins.



As I have retold the story of our family, I had to go back a few generations to begin the relationship of Hosono and Takeda families.

I would like to add another episode as it concerns our ancestor Takeda, who developed the land known as Takewara Village, more than eight hundred years ago.

The founder of the Jōdo Sect of Buddhism, Saint Shinran's mother is the cousin of Minamoto Yoritomo. This fact is revealed in the history books. She married a member of the Fujiwara family that was not of renown position. Saint Shinran was born and he entered priesthood at an early age.

During those years the powerful class that surrounded the Emperor caused St. Shinran and his teacher Saint Honen to be banished because of their religious beliefs. Saint Shinran was banished to Takada of Echigo Province (Niigata Prefecture).

Shinran's favorite follower became his disciple when he was in exile in Takada.

Saint Shinran was later pardoned. He spent his later years quietly in Kyoto. He died in Kyoto under the tender care of his disciple.

His ashes were divided and his disciple took one half and buried it in Takada in Echigo where Shinran spent many years in banishment.

The story goes that on his way to Takada the disciple stayed over in our main family home and spent the winter there. Then he went on to Takada of Echigo. He built a temple there. The people urged him to be their supporter, so he became their parish member. Shinran was born about eight hundred years ago and died at the age of ninety, so it has been exactly 710 years ago.

Historically it is about the same time that our ancestors began developing

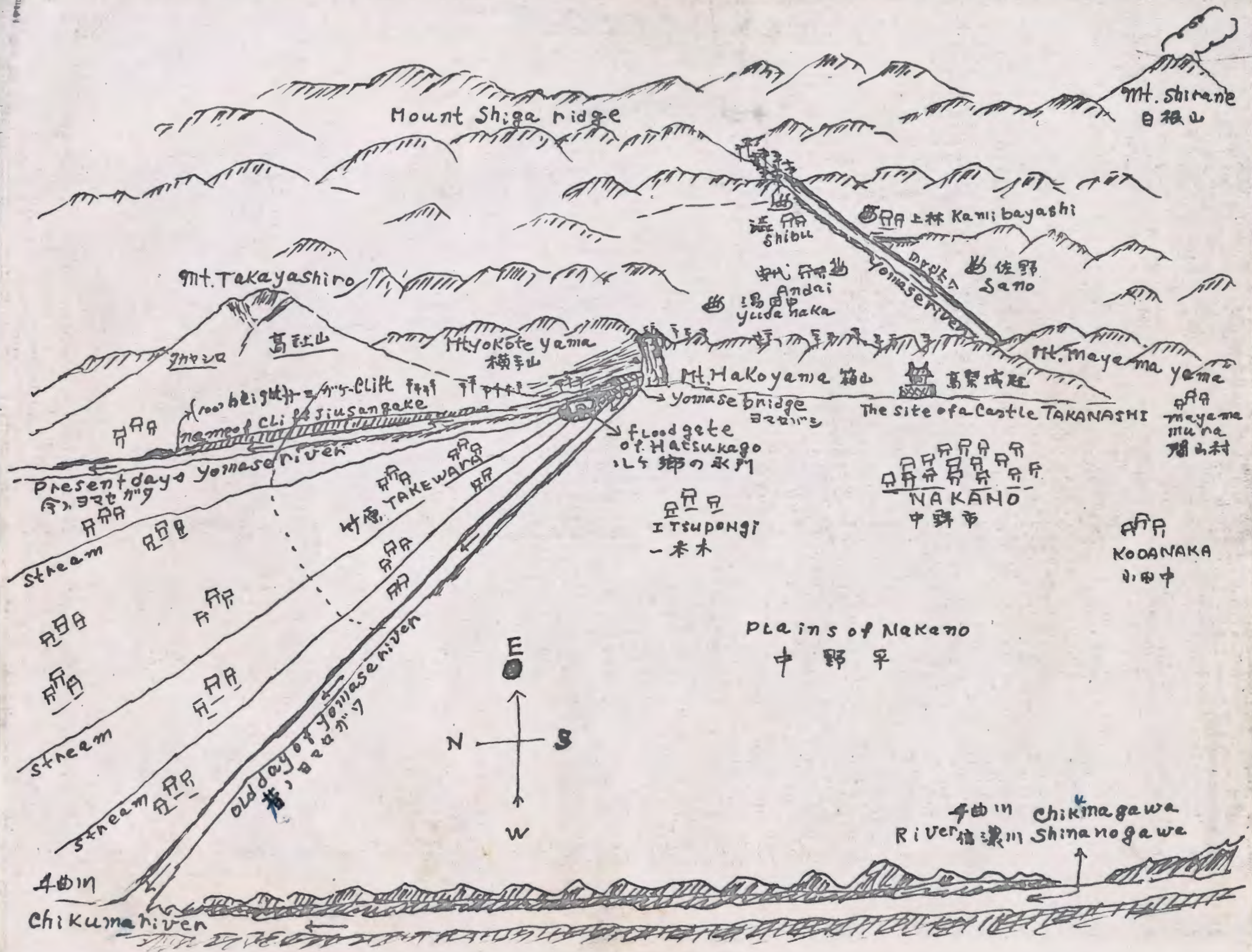
Takewara to start a new life as farmers instead of retainers of samurais.

(Saint Shūnan was born on May 21, 1173 and died on January 16, 1262 at the ripe old age of ninety.)

This document that I have just chronicled was passed down by word of mouth from my ancestors, generations after generations. I was very fortunate to hear the story directly from my father in detail as accurately as he could remember, as it was told to him by his father. I have tried to retell the incidents just as they were told to me. Since some incidents occurred in the distant past stretching over hundreds of years, some dates may not be so accurate. I like to think the story itself is just as real and fascinating to you as it was for me.

September 1982

Respectfully submitted,  
Second son of Takeda Tomijū,  
Takeda Shōzō  
at the age of 80  
San Jose, California



Mount Shiga ridge

Mt. Shirane  
白根山

Mt. Takayashiro  
高尾山

Mt. Yokote yama  
横手山

Mt. Makoyama 箱

Mt. Mayama yama  
真山

上林 Kani bayashi

Shibu

Andai  
yude haka

佐野  
Sano

(no height) = 45-cliff top  
name of cliff is Jiusangake

Yomase bridge  
沼津橋

The site of a Castle TAKANASHI

mayama  
muna  
真山村

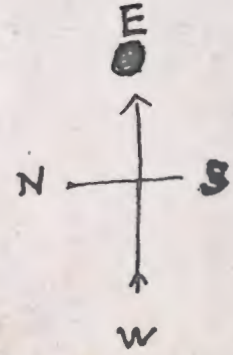
flood gate  
of Hacsukago  
ハス子川の水門

NAKANO  
中野市

ITSUPONGI  
一本木

KODANAKA  
小田中

Plains of Nakano  
中野平



Chikimogawa  
River 信濃川 Shinanogawa

Chikuma river

old day of Yomase river  
昔の沼津川

Present days Yomase river  
今の沼津川

stream

stream

stream

stream

## Supplement

In order to complete the chronicle of your family I had much outside help. Yuri Oyama compiled the family tree so it would be easily understood. She is a member of the Oyama family, which is the house of my wife, Chizu's parents.

I wish to add a few lines about the Shimoda household of Nakano. Shimoda Shinji's younger brother, Hosono Kozo, served as a private secretary to Count Futaarai (a member of the Imperial family). The Count was the first president of the Boy Scouts of Japan. When the Boy Scout were organized in Taiwan (Formosa), Kozo was selected to go there and help with the organization. While rendering service for the Boy Scout cause in Taiwan, World War II broke out, so he had to return to Nakano.

One of Shimoda Shinji's younger sisters graduated from a normal school (teacher training) and was employed at the Nakano Higher Elementary School. The other sister graduated from a nursing school and was employed at the Red Cross Hospital in the City of Nagano. During her service at the Red Cross Hospital she suddenly died at a very young age.

Morio Mary's mother, Mitsuko's older sister, married into the Yoshitani family of Nakano town. After the war the surrounding small villages were all annexed into one and became the City of Nakano. Then a member of the Yoshitani household was selected to become its first mayor. The Yoshitanis are related to the Hosonos and the Takedas main family. The Yoshitani household is where our mother was born. They are also related to the Tsuchiya family. Grandmother Tsuchiya was born in the Takeda family (from an offshoot of the Takeda family from the main Takeda family). Two of our uncles from the Tsuchiya family served as the mayor of Nakano.

Rihachi from the main Takeda family was the last head master of the village of Hiraoka before it was annexed to the City of Nakano.

As I record this documentary now in 1983, in all probability, the heads of families have changed.

At the present, the closest relative to you, Mary, is the eldest son of Hosono Kozo, Hosono Minoru. He studied mining engineering at a university. After the war, he was employed by the Nittetsu Mining Consulting Corporation, Ltd. Thereafter, he was circling the world as a mining consultant.

The above mentioned is a summary of the Shimoda Shinji family tree. and its relatives that you have asked for.

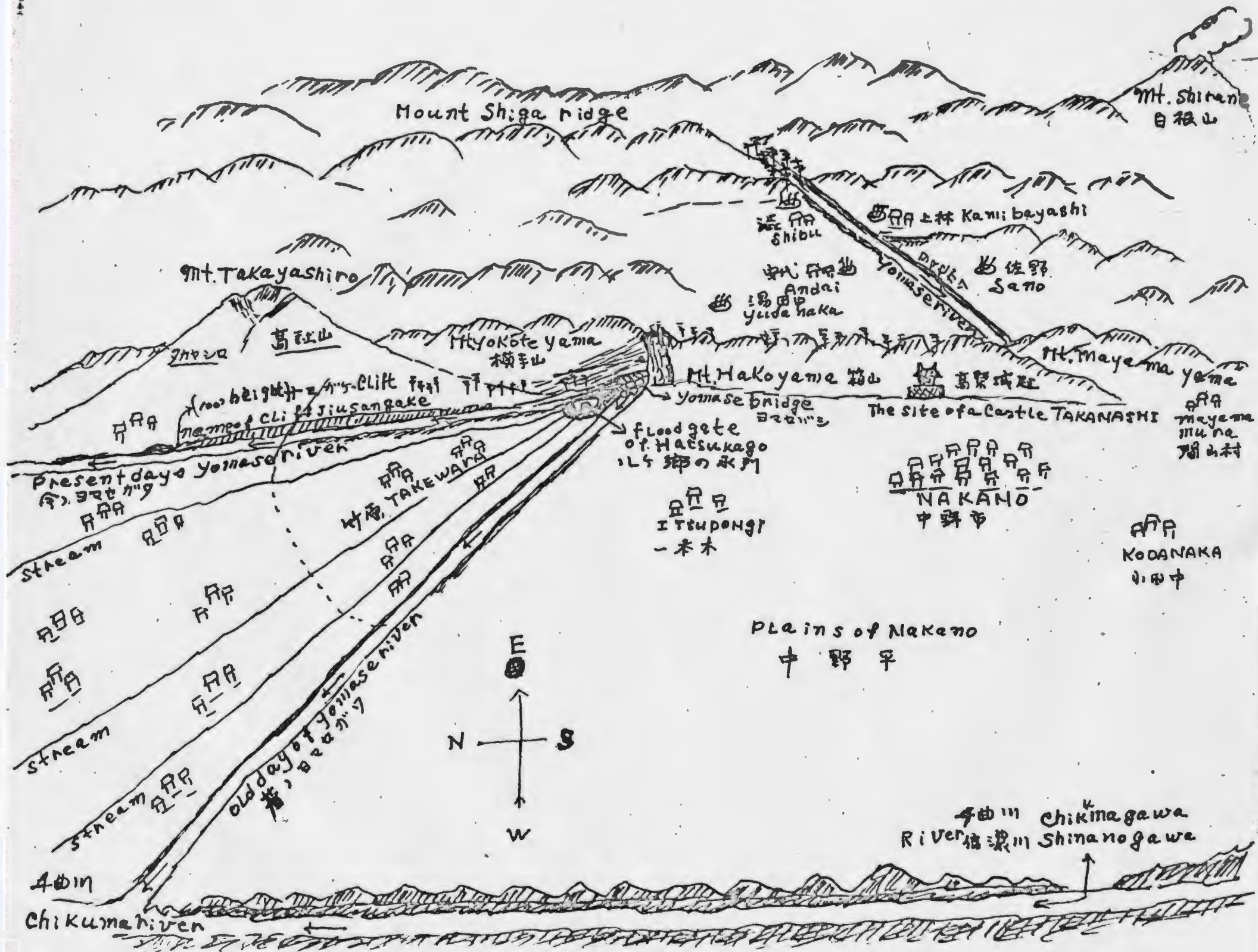
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Diagraming the family tree, typing and the decoration of the cover was through the laborious efforts of one of my wife, Chizu's family member, Miss Yuri Oyama. Miss Yuri is a longtime member of the teaching staff of one of the local San Jose High Schools.

I respectfully submit my heartfelt gratitude for their combined efforts in making this documentary possible.

September 1983

Shoji Takeda



Mount Shiga ridge

Mt. Shiren  
目根山

Mt. Takayashiro  
高尾山

上林 Kami bayashi

Shibu

Andai  
yude haka

佐野 Sano

Mt. Yokote yama  
横手山

Mt. Makoyama 箱山

Mt. Mayama yama

(no height) 崖 Clift 崖  
name of Clift 崖  
Jiusangake

Yomase bridge

The site of a Castle TAKANASHI

mayama  
muna  
山村

Present days Yomase river  
今、ヨマセ川

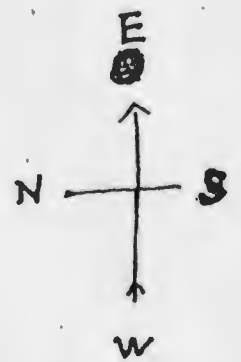
Flood gate  
of Haesukago  
ハエスガゴの水門

NAKANO  
中野市

ITSUPONGI  
一本木

KODANAKA  
甲中

PLAINS of NAKANO  
中野平



Chikuma River  
Chikuma gawa  
信濃川 Shinanogawa

Chikuma river

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