MINAMOTO no Yoshitomo’s Regional Foundations and Bases of Samurai: 
In the Case of KAMATA Masakiyo, Who was the Number One Vassal for 
Yoshitomo and Tokai Region

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This paper examines the formation process and characteristics of the regional foundations that supported MINAMOTO no Yoshitomo’s authority, by describing the case of KAMATA Masakiyo who was the number one vassal for Yoshitomo. It is clarified by examining his activities, basement in Tokai region and relationship with local lords. The conclusion is roughly as follows.

The KAMATA clan who was from Kyoto was based in Kamata-go Village of Suruga Province, and gradually established additional bases in Kanuki-go Village in the lower area of the Kano-gawa River basin. And he began to interact with the HOJO clan in the middle area of the Kano-gawa River basin. The cooperation with the OSADA clan, who was based in Osada-no-sho Manor in Suruga Province as a local lord, was needed for the KAMATA clan’s regional activities. The OSADA clan was based in the lower area of the Abe-gawa River basin in Suruga Province, encompassing the main post town of Tokaido in the medieval within its sphere of influence, the OSADA clan expanded its communication network to Noma-Utsumi-no-sho Manor in Owari Province of Chita Peninsula and the Kai and Izu regions. MINAMOTO no Yoshitomo planned to commit to Tokaido traffic through the KAMATA clan by forming a kin relationship between the OSADA clan, who was a wealthy clan, and the KAMATA clan, who was the head of the clan.

However, the relationship that Yoshitomo formed in the Tokai region through the hubs of regional transportation bases and cooperation with various authorities was not very reliable. Relations that depended on local lords always had the possibility to collapse easily due to conflicts of interest between them. Yoshitomo’s seemingly wide-ranging relationship was actually a superficial relationship that relied on the power of local lords. On the other hand, the relationship between the next-generation Kamakura Shogunate and Tokaido traffic was different from that of the Yoshitomo’s case, so developments by the Kamakura Shogunate authority, such as the establishment of post town and the elimination of local lords, progressed.

Key words: MINAMOTO no Yoshitomo, KAMATA Masakiyo, OSADA Tadamune, Tokaido traffic, Kanuki