Warriors Who Surrendered during the Battle of Hakodate and the Shizuoka Feudal Domain

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After the restoration of Emperor Meiji, vassals of the former Bakufu were faced with the option of moving to Shizuoka with the Tokugawa family, becoming court nobles who entered the service of the new government, or returning to farming or commerce. There were also those who chose the fourth option of escaping and taking part in the resistance. Many of the vassals who fought at the Goryokaku in Hakodate until they surrendered to the government forces had undertaken Western studies. With the exception of Enomoto Takeaki and several other high-ranking officials, most of the men who surrendered during the Battle of Hakodate were able to avoid confinement and returned to the Shizuoka feudal domain before 1870. Some of the competent among them were employed by domain schools in Shizuoka and Numazu. However, the situation inside the Shizuoka domain was such that they were forced to "reduce numbers" as the domain was finding it difficult enough to guarantee a minimum rice allowance so that in most cases the status of warrior was restricted to one generation and the allowance covered just three persons.

Katsu Kaishu sought to make use of vassals outside of the domain and adopted a method whereby he selected the most talented among those who had surrendered at Hakodate and either sent them to serve under the Meiji government or dispatched them to other feudal domains. Examples of these men who were dispatched to other domains to provide instruction in education and military affairs are to be found in the well-known "Okashinin", or "loaned persons" who went to work in the various domains, including Wakayama, Tsuyama, Nagoya and Fukui. These Okashinin took up their new roles by either one of two methods: they were either sent to domains directly by the Shizuoka domain upon their return home, or they had been sent to the various domains to serve their period of confinement and were subsequently employed locally.

Some of the vassals who surrendered that were skilled at sword fighting and very patriotic were the first to be sent to study under the Kagoshima domain, who had been their enemy in battle, where they came under the influence of the Kagoshima domain's simple and robust warrior spirit. This also motivated the establishment of new educational institutions
within the Shizuoka feudal domain. One of these was the Shugakujo established in Shizuoka by Hitomi Yasushi, which aimed to enforce discipline among warriors and to provide education based on learning and martial arts, and also attached great importance to conducting exchanges with warriors from other domains. The intention behind sending these vassals to study in the Kagoshima domain and the Shugakujo that were established as a result, was the promotion of horizontal interaction within the domain and between the domain and outside, as well as self-cultivation. As such, their significance is totally different from that of the Shizuoka Gakumonjo and the Numazu Military Academy, which were established for the purpose of raising people through the ranks to serve the domain or the state by means of Western studies.