Study on the Nakajo Family in the Yonezawa Domain: Their Genealogical Understanding and Document Management

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This article studies the views of the Nakajo family in the Yonezawa domain from the mid-17th century to the early 18th century regarding the genealogy of their heads from the end of the Sengoku period to the beginning of the early modern period (from the late 16th century to the early 17th century). Approaching this subject from the viewpoints of family trees and other genealogical records descended through the Nakajo family and their ways to organize and manage documents, the article indicates the following two points. First, from the middle to the latter half of the 17th century, the Nakajo family did not recognize some of their heads of the late Sengoku period, including Nakajo Kageyasu. In the early 18th century, the family came to recognize his name as the changed name of Kagesuke. Then, they came to distinguish Kageyasu from Kagesuke, according to their family trees and other records drawn up by the later generations. Secondly, after the mid-17th century, the Nakajo family collected and inventoried relevant documents to recover their genealogy. It seems that they collected records related to Kageyasu in particular from 1691 to 1694 and then came to recognize his name. After the late 17th century, the family continued to organize their documents based on the same policy as before. Judging from this, they seem to have kept a keen interest in their family trees and genealogical documents. As a result, they continued to change their views on their family heads of the late Sengoku period.

Key words: Nakajo family, Nakajo Kageyasu, family tree, genealogical documents, document management