

戦国時代の英傑、文武兼備の名將

# 上杉景勝

弘治元年〜元和9年(1555〜1623)

# 直江兼続

永禄3年〜元和5年(1560〜1619)

上杉景勝は長尾政景の次男として生まれ、上杉謙信の養子となりました。謙信の死後、御館の乱にて同養子の景虎を倒して上杉家を相続し、豊臣秀吉の五丈原の戦いで石田三成と結んで敗れ、米沢30万石に減封されました。

一方、魚沼郡上田荘の樋口家に生まれた直江兼続は、上杉景勝の命により、上杉氏の重臣直江家の名跡を継ぐとともに、景勝政権の内政・外交の全権をつかさどる執政となりました。越後では約5万石を領し、上杉氏が会津へ移封後は、豊臣秀吉の命によって米沢30万石を与えられ、諸侯並の待遇を受けたと伝えられています。



景勝 兼続 生誕の地碑  
Monument of the Birthplace of Kagekatsu and Kanetsugu

# 偉人

Great Men  
This land had great men who endeavored in developing this region.

A Great Commander in the Sengoku era, who was both a good warrior and a good scholar

Kagekatsu Uesugi was born as the second son of Masakage Nagao and was adopted by Kenshin Uesugi. After Kenshin's death, Kagekatsu defeated Kagekatsu, who was also an adopted son of Kenshin, in the Otate War and became the head of the Uesugi family. Being appointed as one of the five great stewards by Hideyoshi Toyotomi, Kagekatsu ruled the fief of Aizu, which yielded 1.2 million koku of rice. However, Kagekatsu allied with Mitsunari Ishida in the Sekigahara War and lost. As a result, his fief was transferred to Yonezawa, which yielded 0.3 million koku of rice.

Kanetsugu Naoe, who was born in the Higuchi family in Ueda-so in Uonuma County, was appointed by Kagekatsu Uesugi to become the head of the renowned Naoe family, a senior vassal family of the Uesugi family. Kanetsugu also became a regent of the Kagekatsu regime and in charge of all domestic administration and diplomacy. He ruled the fief of Echigo, which yielded about 50 thousand koku of rice. When Kagekatsu Uesugi was transferred to Aizu, Hideyoshi Toyotomi appointed Kanetsugu to rule the fief of Yonezawa, which yielded 0.3 million koku of rice. It is recorded that Kanetsugu received the same treatment as feudal lords enjoyed.



上越線開通当時  
When the Joetsu railway opened to traffic

The father of the Joetsu railway  
Mitsugi Okamura

Mitsugi Okamura was born in 1836. His father was the mayor of the village of Shimohitokaichi. His family ran a sake brewery and a pawnshop. Okamura devoted his life to establishing primary schools, hospitals, and financial institutions, repairing roads, and maintaining river ways as a chief of a ward and a county during the series of reforms in the Meiji Restoration. Above all, the construction of the Joetsu railway was his lifework. He became a member of the House of Representatives and proposed the construction of the Joetsu railway. However, his proposal was turned down. Then, he himself established the Joetsu railway corporation instead. However, after the Sino-Japanese War, prices soared. He had to break up his company before achieving his goal. Later, his efforts and those who followed in his footsteps made the government decide to nationalize the Joetsu railway. Okamura died in 1922 before seeing the entire Joetsu railway opened to traffic.

かつてこの地で尽力を惜しまなかつた人がいた。

雪の学者・民俗学者・文学者として高く評価されている鈴木牧之は、明和7年(1770)、縮仲買と質屋を営む塩沢の商家に生まれました。幼い頃から学問や文芸に優れ、家業を継いだ後も俳諧や書画に親しんでいたそうです。滝沢馬琴、十返舎九、市川団十郎など、そうそうたる文人と親交を結んでいた牧之は、寛政7年(1795)に雪国越後の風俗を記した本の出版を決意。その後、40年の歳月を費やし完成した『北越雪譜』は、当時の江戸でベストセラーとなりました。その他、秘境・秋山郷の風俗や風景を画と文でつづた『秋山紀行』も好評を博し、これらの著作は民俗学的にも高い評価を受けています。



鈴木牧之記念館 Bokushi Suzuki Memorial Hall



彫刻にひたむきな情熱を捧げた  
井口喜夫  
いぐちよしお

昭和初期から太平洋戦争へと移行行く時代に、東京を舞台にした彫刻家・井口喜夫(本名義雄)。南魚沼郡浦佐に生まれ、幼少のころから遊び場だった普光寺の御堂に施されていた左甚五郎、地元の名工北川岸次らの彫刻を食いこむように見つめる少年だったそうです。小学生時代にはすでに小刀や鑿を使いこなし、木端や竹、机などに精巧な細工を施し、周囲の大人を驚かせました。また、海自由大学では喜夫の晩年の作風を一新させる動機となった、農民芸術、自由画運動を学びます。大正15年(1926)、25歳で東京、澤田政廣に師事。3年後の第9回帝展において初入選。その後も連続入選を成し遂げ、数々の仏像や神像を手掛けました。あまりにも早い48歳での急逝は惜しまれてなりません。身近に感じられる氏の作品のひとつに、鈴木牧之記念館の牧之座像(同ページ左上写真)があります。



鈴木牧之

# 鈴木牧之

明和7年〜天保13年(1770〜1842)



A cultured person who introduced life in the heavy snowfall areas  
Bokushi Suzuki

Bokushi Suzuki, a prominent researcher of snow, folklore, and literature, was born in 1770. His merchant family ran a cotton crepe brokerage and a pawnshop in Shiozawa. He showed his talents in studying art and literature since he was a little child. Even after he took over his family business, he continued to study haiku (Japanese poems of seventeen syllables), painting, and calligraphy. He established friendly relations with renowned cultured people such as Bakin Takizawa, Ikku Jippensha, and Danjuro Ishikawa. He decided to publish a book introducing the customs of the Echigo region with heavy snow in 1795. It took him 40 years to complete the book, titled as "Hokuetsu-setsufu". His book was a best seller in Edo. He also published "Akiyama-kiko", introducing the customs and landscapes of the Akiyama region, which was not yet widely known, with pictures and compositions. The book enjoyed a favorable reception. His books have been valued highly also as a collection of folk material.



世界平和を願って制作  
「日滿支婦人像」  
サンフランシスコ万国博覧会に出品 作者と父  
Art produced hoping for world peace  
"A Statue of Manchurian Ladies"  
This statue was sent to the International Exposition in San Francisco.  
The artist and his father

An artist who devoted himself to carving  
Yoshio Iguchi

Carver Yoshio Iguchi created many works of art living in Tokyo in the transition period between the beginning of the Showa era and the beginning of World War II. He was born in Urasa in Minamiuonuma County. As a little boy, he was fascinated by carvings in the main hall of Fuko temple created by Jingoro Hidari and Ganji Kitagawa, who was a renowned local carver. When he was a primary school student, he already handled knives and chisels skillfully, working exquisitely on pieces of wood, bamboo, desks, and more, surprising the people around him. He studied the arts by farmers and the liberal painting movement at Hakkai Liberal University, which later led him to change his art style completely. He came to Tokyo in 1926, when he was 25 years old, to study under Masahiro Sawada. Three years later, his work was selected for the 9th Teiten Exhibition. Since then, his works were selected for many exhibitions and honors. He created a number of statues of Buddha and the gods. It was a pity that he passed away suddenly when he was only 48 years old. Among his works, the seated statue of Bokushi Suzuki situated in Bokushi Suzuki Memorial Hall is well-known as people feel attached to it. (See photo at the top left of this page.)



上越線開通の父

# 岡村 貢

おかもらみつぐ

天保7年〜大正11年(1836〜1922)

天保7年(1836)、下二日市の酒造業・質屋を営む総代庄屋の家に生まれました。岡村は明治維新後の諸改革において、区長・郡長として小学校や病院、金融機関の設立、道路・河川の改修などに尽力しました。中でも終生の大事業となったのが上越線の敷設です。明治27年(1894)、衆議院議員となり上越鉄道敷設を議案に提案するも否決されたため、自らが上越鉄道株式会社を設立。しかし日清戦争後、物価の高騰により志半ばで会社解散を余儀なくされました。志を引き継いだ人々とともにその尽力が実を結び、上越線を政府が国有鉄道とする方針を決定したのはその後のことです。大正11年(1922)、上越線の全線開通を待たずに逝去しました。