

The Takamatsu Matsudaira Family and Takamatsu Castle

●Brief History of the Takamatsu Matsudaira Family

Territory: Eastern Sanuki (rated at 120,000 koku) *at the time of receiving the fief

Representative Family Crest: mitsuba aoi [three-leaf hollyhock]

Lordship Period: 1642 (Kan'ei 19) - 1868 (Keio 4)

●Background of the Takamatsu Matsudaira Family's Placement in Sanuki

The first lord of Takamatsu Matsudaira, Yorishige, was the eldest son of the lord of Mito, Tokugawa Yorifusa, and the brother of Tokugawa Mitsukuni, famous as Mito Komon. The Mito Tokugawa family had a very close relationship with the Shogun's family as one of the Gosanke, the three great collateral branches of the Tokugawa family. The Takamatsu Matsudaira family was highly regarded as being listed in the seating arrangement at Edo Castle's Kuro Shoin Tamarimazume, indicating that it was a household deemed important by the Shogunate.

Looking at the surrounding area of Takamatsu, it is known that when the Edo Shogunate was established, all of Shikoku was ruled by tozama daimyo, outside feudal lords, but gradually the relatives of the Tokugawa Shogun took over. At roughly the same time as the Takamatsu Matsudaira family, the relatives were also placed in Matsuyama and Imabari in Ehime prefecture, Shikoku.

It is said that when Matsudaira Yorishige was assigned to Takamatsu, he was entrusted by the Shogun with the role of supervisor for the Saigoku and Chugoku areas in western Japan. He was expected to take control of the Seto Inland Sea and play a key role in overseeing the western Japan.

