

九鬼神流

KUKISHIN RYU

Kuki Moritaka

九鬼長門守守隆

10th Soke 十宗家: Kuki Nagato no kami Moritaka (1573 – 1632)
九鬼長門守守隆 Moritaka commanded one of the armies in the Eastern armies for Tokugawa Ieyasu at the battle of Sekigahara.

Just like his father Yoshitaka, Kuki Moritaka also governed Shima (1599) and served under Tokugawa Ieyasu.

At Toda Fukushima in 1614. The Tokugawa guards ships under the overall command of Kuki Moritaka, took advantage of the fact there had been some exceptionally heavy rain when they attacked Ono Harunaga. Kuki lead 1600 men by ship against Ono's ships which had only 800 men. The Ono were easily beaten by the Kuki

Yoshitaka and Moritaka were form the senior branch of the family and they resided in Shima, with the clan later residing in Settsu. The junior part of the clan which includes Kuki Takasue, Kuki Takatsune, Kuki Takanao. They resided at Tamba from 1633-1868. This branch were also Samurai of the Ayabe clan.

With the death of Moritaka an internal family dispute emerged for control of the Kuki family. Moritaka had five sons. Yoshitaka (later called Taro Goro) was the eldest, but was bedridden, then came Sadataka (changed his name later to Nagasuke), Takasue, and the youngest Hisataka. Because Yoshitaka was too sick to take control the head of family was to pass to Sadataka, but he died before he could take control. The heirship should then have passed to Takasue, but he had problems with his father, and as such he was bypassed. The fifth son was then chosen, but he was a priest taking the name Juryo at the Kongoshoji temple. He was made to leave the temple and the priesthood, and return to the Kuki clan..

Trouble then erupted between the two bothers Takasue and Hisataka. Both parties had to present to the Shogunate their petition to take over the family. In the mean time trouble broke out between supporters of the two sides with some parties involved being injured in the fighting.

This was all taking place while Moritaka was still alive, but became much worse he finally died on 15th September 1632. Family records show that as many as 50 people left the clan.

The Kuki clan at Toba was valued at 56,000 koku per year. The shogunate's Hyojosho (council of state) decided to break up the family. Kuki Takasue was give

27 villages in Tanba Ikaruga and Amada. This was valued at 20,000 Koku in 1633, and the other half is known as Sesshu Mita clan given to Yoshitaka. Regardless of being bedridden Yoshitaka was named the successor to Moritaka, becoming the 11th head of family. His fiefdom was valued at 36,000 Koku.

Connection to the Bujinkan

Takamatsu sensei was a senior teacher at the Kuki families Kukishin Ryu Sendokoyokai. Takamatsu then went on to teach Hatsumi sensei the many different arts of the Kukshin Ryu including the Amatsu tatara.