

Email Newsletter from Mayor of Okayama (54) August 21st Issue

【A local hero Senoo Taro Kaneyasu】

Hello. I'm Omori, the mayor of Okayama.

This time, I'm telling you a story about this local hero.

The other day, I went to a study group at Minami District and got a book called "Compare Senoo Taro Kaneyasu by reading various books of Heike Monogatari".

The author Mr. Senoo Tsugio had made notes by carefully reading of 30 kinds of Heike Monogatari for writing since his late fifties and it took over nearly 10 years. He wrote in minute detail about Senoo Taro Kaneyasu depicted in "Heike Monogatari".

According to Mr. Senoo, Kaneyasu was a military commander of Taira whose base was in Bichu Province Senoo Township. At beginning of "Heike Monogatari", he was depicted as a lowly "Bichu Province resident" and his image was just a country Samurai and extremely negative because people took him for a performer of numerous misbehaviors of Heike. However, after that, his image had changed among the frequently appearing in the story. In the end, he got a whole chapter called "Seo's last moment (it is said that Senoo has changed to Seo for some reason)" and the author showed an eagerness to solve a mystery of this change in the future.

Moreover, there's a folklore that Kaneyasu built a base of "Tatai

Junikago irrigation canal※”. The local has Kaneyasu shrine where people worship him as an enshrined deity and events to admire his outstanding achievements are taken place there.

Certainly Kaneyasu is not a well-known person when we talk about Japanese, and Okayama history.

However, in addition to leave his name to “Heike Monogatari” which is a classic literary work representing our country, it is a highly reliable story that he is one of those who laid the foundation of today’s development of Okayama. It is really great that steady examining the local heroes who rarely are in the spotlight and widely introducing to everyone like the author Mr. Senoo.

While thinking of numerous outstanding achievements by many our predecessors, I’d also like to enhance the identity toward my hometown.

※Tatai Junikago irrigation canal

It is a large scale irrigation canal that pours in Kojimawan.

It takes water from Takahashi river which is one of the Okayama three major rivers and moisten Junikago in the Southeast direction from Soja city. It’s still essential as agricultural water for Okayama plains.