

History of Seito Muso Jikiden Eishin Ryu



Oe Masamichi

Born 1852, Died 1927
17th GENERATION SOKE
MUSO JIKIDEN RYU FOUNDER

Oe Sensei (born 1852, died 1927) was the 15th Generation Soke of the Shimomura-ha, which was formed together with the Tanimura-ha after the 11th Generation Soke Oguro Kiyokatsu Sensei, died in 1790. Oe Sensei brought together the Hasegawa Eishin Ryu and the Omori Ryu and combined it with the Tanimura-ha into the 43 kata that we now know as *Muso Jikiden Eishin Ryu*. Oe Sensei was of strong character and clearly defined the requirements for training in the Ryu. His methods were greatly influenced by actual combat based on his experiences in one of the last sword based wars in Japan called the Hamaguri Gomon no Ikusa (The Clam Gate War) fought at the very end of the great Tokugawa Era between 1865 and 1867 at the Imperial Palace in Kyoto. This political war greatly influenced Oe Sensei in developing meaningful Iai techniques. As well as a great swordsman, he was a great teacher and produced many students who went on to distinguish themselves as swordsmen in their own right. He also attracted many Deshi (followers, or disciples) who may have been "masters" in their own right in other styles and Ryu. These notable students and Deshi include:

- MORI SHIGEKI
- SUZUI YOSHIAGE
- KODA MORIO (SHIBATA HYAKUREN)
- MATSUDA EIMA
- NISHIKAWA BAISUI
- MORISHI KANEKICHI
- HOKIYAMA NAMIO
- NAKANISHI YUWAKI
- YAMAMOTO HARUSUKE
- YAMAMOTO TAKUJI (TAKAHARU)
- FUKUI HARUMASA
- NAGAU KAGEFUSA
- MASAOKA KAZUMI (IKKAN)
- YAMANOUCHI HOKEN
- TAKEMURA SHIZUO
- TAOKA DEN (OKADEN)
- YAMASAKI YASUKICHI

It is not uncommon in Japan for people to change their name, sometimes more than once. This was usually done at a turning point or important juncture in their life. Some of the people listed above may be known by other names. Where these are known they are included in brackets. Some of the above went on to become Soke of the Ryu, others developed their own style and interpretation of the techniques and thus created ha or branches deviating in varying degrees from Oe Sensei's teaching. You will see below those who became Soke in the chronology of the Ryu. It is because of this that there is much confusion and variation within what is called Muso Jikiden Eishin Ryu. The lineage after Oe Sensei is disputed and many claim to follow the true lineage. Under these circumstances it is therefore prudent to return to the founder's style and methods to ensure the preservation of the true techniques of the Ryu. Many of Oe Sensei's students and Deshi did adhere to his teachings. Some of these men are important to us because of their influence on Iwata Sensei notably Hokiya Namio 18th Generation Soke, Fukui Harumasa 19th Generation Soke, Kono Hyakuren 20th Generation Soke by their teaching and writings and more importantly Mori Shigeki and Yamamoto Takuji both Deshi and regarded as ones who were most assiduous in following Oe Sensei's style and teaching. Iwata Sensei trained directly under both of these men for many years.

Prior to Oe Sensei's time the sword art of this Ryu was known as Kochi Iaijutsu and Tosa Eishin Ryu. The two names are linked in as much as the Tosa refers to the Tosa Warrior Clan and Kochi being the area in Japan where the Tosa Samurai were based. It is from these two collections of techniques that Oe Sensei developed what we know as Muso Jikiden Eishin Ryu.

GENEALOGY OF THE RYU

Those in red italic had a key role in the ryu.

Hayashizaki Jinsuke Shigenobu (1542-1621)

Regarded as the founder of Iaido because of his overwhelming influence on the art. He was a religious man and while praying to Hayashi Myojin in the village of Haynshizaki he claims to have had a revelation concerning the sword arts. He named his school the Shinmei Muso Ryu reflecting the divine nature of the school. Despite this the school is known by many different names, many of which are variations on his name.

Tamiya Heibei Shigemasa (c. late 1500's)

2nd Generation Soke

A student of Jinsuke and others. He was the sword teacher to the first three Tokugawa Shoguns. He founded the Tamiya Ryu.

Nagano Muraku Myudo Kinrosai (dates uncertain)

3rd Generation Soke

A military man and student of first Jinsuke and then Tamiya

Momo Gumbei Mitsushige (dates uncertain)

4th Generation Soke

Little is known of the man.

Arikawa Shozaemon Munetsugu (dates uncertain)

5th Generation Soke

Little is known of the man.

Banno Danemon no ju Nobusada (dates uncertain)

6th Generation Soke

Regarded as an important influence on subsequent headmasters.

Haswagawa Chikaransuke Eishin (aka. Hidenobu)

7th Generation Soke

A very important influence on the style being responsible for devising the Eishin Ryu set of forms. The performance of his forms was said to be "muso" (without equal). This word now forms part of the name of our Ryu. Do not confuse the "muso" in Muso Shinden Ryu, which is different kanji and means "by divine inspiration" as in the name given by Jinsuke to his original school.

Arai Seitetsu Kiyonobu (dates uncertain)

8th Generation Soke

This man taught in Edo (modern Tokyo) after the departure of Eishin. He was thought to be a one time Ronin (lit. wave man or masterless Samurai).

Hayashi Rokudays Morimasa (1661-1732)

9th Generation Soke

This was an important man of high rank who served the Tosa Daimyo. He studied under Omori Rokurazaemon Masamitsu. Omori introduced him to a set of forms beginning from seiza (kneeling). At a later date after returning to Tosa these forms were incorporated into what was then known as Tosa Iaijutsu.

Hayashi Yasudaya Masanobu [Seisho] (died 1776)

10th Generation Soke

He was the adopted son of Rokudaya.

Oguro Motoemon Kivokatsu (died 1740)

11th Generation Soke

This man is notable in as much he that he had two highly skilled students who developed their own particular styles. After his death the Ryu split into two ha or branches named after these two students. The first man was known as Tanimura and his style was more closely associated with the Tosa Iaijutsu. The other man was known as Shimamura who introduced considerable changes.

THE TANIMURA-HA

Hayashi Masu no ju Masamori (died c. 1818)

12th Generation Soke

A family member being the grandson of Rokudayu's son.

Yoda Manzai Yorikatsu (died 1809)

13th Generation Soke.

Not much is known of this man.

Hayashi Yadayu Seiki Masayori [Matsutaka] (died 1823)

14th Generation Soke

Not much is known of this man.

Tanimura Kame no jo Yorikatsu [Sugio] (died 1862)

15th Generation Soke

Developed the Tanimura-ha.

Goto Mogobei Masasuke [Seiryō] (died 1898)

16th Generation Soke

Not much is known of this man.

Oe Massamichi [Shikei] (1852-1927)

Oe received instruction in both the Tanimura-ha and the Shimomura-ha (he was in fact the 15th Generation Soke for a time of the Shimomura-ha but there were many disputes at this time particularly with Nakayama Hakudo who disagreed with Oe sensei's methods, as a consequence another person is listed in the genealogy of the Shimomura-ha as 15th Soke. Oe sensei officially named the school Muso Jikiden Eishin Ryu and incorporated the Omori Ryu and Eishin ryu into the forms along with the existing forms. Great innovations were made in training methods at this time and composite techniques in the form of Haya-nuki and the Bangui forms were included as part of the set. He trained many excellent swordsmen many of whom had their own ideas about the techniques and developed their own Kai-waza (alternatives). After his death there was a dispute about who should become the next Soke. This dispute has led to much confusion and variation in the practice of Muso Jikiden Eishin Ryu with other ha or branches being formed.

Hogiyama Namio (dates uncertain)

18th Generation Soke

Deshi (follower) of Oe Sensei. Considered to be one who followed the teachings of Oe closely.

Fukui Harumasa (dates uncertain)

19th Generation Soke

Also a Deshi of Oe but developed many new interpretations.

Kohno Hyakuren (dates uncertain)

20th Generation

Also a Deshi of Oe but he did not follow Harumasa and collaborated with Hogiyama Namio in trying to ensure the teachings of Oe Sensei were adhered to. He was also responsible for spreading the style beyond the realms of the Tosa and Kochi.

Fukui Torao

21st Generation Headmaster

Followed along with the teachings of Fukui Harumasa

THE SHIMOMURA-HA

Matsuyoshi (dates uncertain)

12th Generation Soke

Yamakawa (dates uncertain)

13th Generation Soke

Developed Eishin Ryu Shimomura-ha and passed it on to the 15th Sub-master Mune Sadayoshi who became the 16th Generation Soke.

Shimomura Sadamass [Moichi] (dates uncertain)

14th Generation Soke

Developed Eishin Ryu Shimomura-ha and passed it on to the 15th Sub-master Mune Sadayoshi who became the 16th Generation Soke.

Nakayama Hakudo (died 1958)

He changed many things in the Shimomura-ha to the point where it became a different school, which he named the Muso Shinden Ryu. His own style varied considerably during his lifetime. Since his death this school characterised by its flamboyant movements has become very popular all over the world but it lacks the directness of the original Shimomura-ha and most certainly that of the Tanimura ha. In more recent years without the leadership of a Soke the style has changed even more.