

Shimonaramto-toyoshina line of Nagano Prefectural Road 181 Houfukuji-toge (Matsumoto)

Houfukuji-toge is located between Matsumoto city and Ueda city on Shimonaramoto-toyoshina line of Nagano prefectural road. The river flowing nearby the mountain path is called Hofukuji-gawa, however the mountain path is called Ho"u"fukuji-toge.

Houfukuji-toge was a part of Tosando(Tosando is the one of the ancient thoroughfare running through Japanese ancient countries.). The adjacent towns had been prospered as post station¹⁾.

The daimyo(daimyo were powerful Japanese feudal lords.) of Matsumoto went to Edo over Houfukuji-toge in the event of Sankin-kotai (Sankin-kotai was a policy that daimyo had to live Edo at every other year in Edo era).

In meiji era, Nagano prefecture lined up the road through Houfukuji-toge as one of the candidates for "New road Construction Plan of seven routes" of Nagano prefecture. But finally, the second road was selected as the road through Aoki-toge²⁾. The second road was registered as prefectural road. Currently, the second road is National highway of route 143. And thus traffic volume of Houfukuji-toge gradually fell into decline.

We can find the grand sight where Walter Weston who gave universal currency to the term

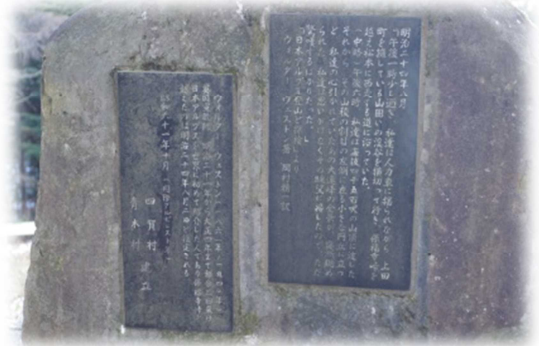


^{1/2} Taken from the place where Walter Weston acclaimed Japanese Alps landscape

Japanese Alps. There is a handwritten autograph of Weston and a part of “Mountaineering and Exploration in the Japanese Alps” written by Weston on the stone monument.



The stone monument written what Walter Weston acclaimed Japanese Alps Landscape.



A part of “Mountaineering and Exploration in the Japanese Alps” and establishment of “Shiga village” “Aoki village” are engraved

Presently Shimonaramoto-toyoshina line of Nagano Prefectural road has been closed due to winter season (Nov.30.2017-Apr.12.2018). Why don't you go to Houfukuji-toge to see the grand sight of Japanese Alps which Weston saw too.



You can see a part of the Japanese Alps from a birds-eye view taken by a drone. URL https://youtu.be/_sPiqJovDc4



REFERENCES

- 1) Ichikawa, T: *Shinsyu no Toge*, pp.134-137, Daiichi houki, 1972
- 2) Yamaura, N and Konishi, J: Road administration of Nagano Prefecture in the Meiji Era-About road technology examined for new road construction of seven routes-, *Journal of Historical Studies in Civil Engineering* Vol.26, pp.19-33, 2007.