

= Nanbu clan =

The Nanbu clan (南部氏 , Nanbu @-@ shi) was a Japanese samurai clan originating in northern Japan , specifically Mutsu Province (the northeast coast of Honshu) . The Nanbu claimed descent from the Minamoto clan , and its members first enter the historical record as residents of Kai Province during the Kamakura period . The clan later moved to Mutsu . In the Sengoku period , the clan frequently clashed with its neighbors , including the Tsugaru clan , one of its branches which declared independence . The Nanbu clan was on the winning side of the Battle of Sekigahara , and entered the Edo period as the lordly (daimyo) family of the Morioka Domain . Over the course of the Edo period , several branch families were established , each of which received its own fief .

During the Boshin War of 1868 @-@ 69 , the Nanbu clan and its branches fought on the side of the Ouetsu Reppan Domei , the northern alliance of domains . After the collapse of the alliance , the Nanbu clan had much of its land confiscated , and in 1871 , the heads of its branches were relieved of office . In the Meiji era , they became part of the new nobility . The main Nanbu line survives to the present day ; Toshiaki Nanbu was the chief priest of Yasukuni Shrine .

= = Origins = =

The Nanbu clan claimed descent from the Seiwa Genji , via the Takeda clan of Kai Province . Minamoto no Mitsuyuki , the great @-@ great grandson of Minamoto no Yoshimitsu , was the first to take the Nanbu name , after the area in Kai where he resided . The earliest written reference to the Nanbu region of Kai is in the late @-@ 13th @-@ century writings of the Buddhist monk Nichiren . It was in the Nanbokuchō period that the Nanbu left Kai and moved to Mutsu Province , where they would remain until 1871 .

= = Sengoku and Azuchi @-@ Momoyama era = =

In the Sengoku period , the Nanbu clan reached the zenith of its power under the headship of Nanbu Harumasa . Harumasa was very politically active , and corresponded with Oda Nobunaga .

A major point of conflict for the Nanbu clan during these years was its relationship with the Ōura clan . The Ōura were a cadet branch of the Nanbu . They declared their independence from the Nanbu in 1571 , during the headship of Ōura Tamenobu . Tamenobu had been vice @-@ district magistrate (郡代 , gundai hōsa) under the Nanbu clan 's local magistrate Ishikawa Takanobu ; however , he attacked and killed Ishikawa and began taking the Nanbu clan 's castles . Tamenobu also attacked Kitabatake Akimura (another local power figure) and took his castle at Namioka . The Ōura clan 's fight against the Nanbu clan , under Nanbu Nobunao , would continue in the ensuing years . In 1590 , Tamenobu pledged fealty to Toyotomi Hideyoshi ; Hideyoshi confirmed Tamenobu in his holdings , effectively putting him out of the Nanbu clan 's grasp . As the Ōura fief had been in the Tsugaru region on the northern tip of Honshu , the family then changed its name to Tsugaru .

Nanbu Harumasa 's heir Nobunao pledged allegiance to Toyotomi Hideyoshi in 1590 . Hideyoshi confirmed Nobunao 's lordship over the Nanbu fief , and helped suppress an uprising by Nobunao 's relative Kunohe Masazane . Nobunao thus helped to secure northern Honshu for Toyotomi Hideyoshi .

= = Edo era = =

The Nanbu clan sided with Tokugawa Ieyasu 's Eastern Army during the Battle of Sekigahara . In the wake of Ieyasu 's victory , the Nanbu clan was confirmed in its lordship of the Morioka Domain (盛岡藩 , Morioka @-@ han) (also known as the Nanbu Domain (南部藩 , Nanbu @-@ han)) . The income rating was placed at 100 @,@ 000 koku , but later in the Edo era , Morioka was given the political ranking of a domain twice its size . The Nanbu clan remained here for the entirety of the Edo Period , surviving until the Meiji Restoration . Over the course of the Edo period , two new branches of the Nanbu clan were founded . One of them was granted the fief of Hachinohe , and the other one

was granted the fief of Shichinohe . In 1821 , the old tensions between the Nanbu and Tsugaru flared once more , in the wake of the S?ma Daisaku Incident (?????? , S?ma Daisaku jiken) , a foiled plot by S?ma Daisaku , a former retainer of the Nanbu clan , to assassinate the Tsugaru lord . The Nanbu clan 's territories were also among those effected by the Tenpo famine of the mid @-@ 1830s .

Though no Nanbu lord ever held shogunate office , the Nanbu of Morioka (together with many of the other domains of northern Honsh?) assisted the shogunate in policing the frontier region of Ezochi (now Hokkaido) . The clan 's first direct encounter with foreigners came in the late 16th century , when a Dutch ship , the Breskens , arrived in Nanbu territory . A shore party from the ship was captured by local authorities and taken to Edo .

Over the course of its history particularly in the Edo period , there were several retainers of the Nanbu clan who became famous on a national scale . Narayama Sado , a clan elder (kar?) who was active during the Boshin War , was one of them ; he was responsible for leading the Nanbu clan 's political activity and interaction with neighboring domains . Hara Takashi , who later became Prime Minister of Japan , was another . Some 20th @-@ century figures in Japanese politics also came from families of former Nanbu retainers ; perhaps the most well known ones were Seishir? Itagaki and Hideki T?j? .

= = Boshin War = =

During the Boshin War of 1868 @-@ 69 , the Nanbu clan was initially neutral . However , under the leadership of Nanbu Toshihisa and the clan elder (?? , kar?) Narayama Sado , the Nanbu clan later sided with the northern alliance (the ?uetsu Reppan D?mei) . On September 23 , 1868 , the Nanbu clan 's troops joined in the attack on the Akita Domain , which had seceded from the alliance and sided with the imperial government . By October 7 , Nanbu troops took ?date , one of the Akita domain 's castles . However , due to the collapse of the alliance , the Nanbu clan surrendered to the imperial army on October 29 , 1868 . After the war , the Nanbu clan 's holdings were drastically reduced by the imperial government as punishment for siding with the northern domains . The Nanbu of Morioka were then briefly moved to Shiroishi before being returned to Morioka . Two years after the war , as with all other daimyo , the heads of all three Nanbu branches were relieved of their offices by the abolition of the han system .

= = Meiji era and beyond = =

In the early years of the Meiji era , the main Nanbu line was ennobled with the title of count (hakushaku) in the new nobility system . The Nanbu of Hachinohe and Shichinohe were also ennobled with the title of viscount (shishaku) . Count Toshinaga Nanbu , the 42nd generation Nanbu family head , was an officer of the Imperial Japanese Army , he died in battle during the Russo @-@ Japanese War . He was succeeded by his brother Toshiatsu ; Toshiatsu was a proponent of the arts and studied painting under Kuroda Seiki . As Toshiatsu 's presumptive heir Toshisada died at age 18 , Toshiatsu adopted Toshihide Ichij? , his son @-@ in @-@ law , as his heir . Toshihide was the son of Duke Ichij? Saneteru , who was a former court noble . Upon adoption , Toshihide assumed the Nanbu name , and after Toshiatsu 's death , became 44th generation Nanbu family head . After Toshihide 's death in 1980 , his son Toshiaki became 45th generation head . From 2004 through 2009 , Toshiaki was the chief priest of Yasukuni Shrine .

= = Family heads = =

Main line (Sannohe , later Morioka)

Branch line (Hachinohe)

Branch line (Shichinohe)

= = = English = = =

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== Popular Culture ==

The Nanbu are a playable nation in the grand strategy game Europa Universalis IV .