



Frontier Spirit

近代郡山発展の礎

安積開拓・安積疏水 開削事業

The Foundation of the Development of Modern Koriyama
The Asaka Land Development and Asaka Canal Project



明治政府による国営事業が 今日の郡山の礎となる

明治初期、福島県は土族救済のため大槻原開墾を計画。旧二本松藩士の移住に加え、地元の富商に働きかけて結社された「開成社」による商人出資も行われ、県と民間の二体制での開拓により人口は増加し、桑野村が誕生しました。

土族授産と殖産興業に取り組んできた内務卿大久保利通は、明治天皇巡幸の先発として視察したこの新村の成功に着目。開拓の下地のあったこの地に「国営安積開墾」を計画し、この開墾を進める上での水不足を解消するため、明治政府初の国営農業水利事業

として、猪苗代湖から安積平野へ引水する「安積疏水開削」が行われました。

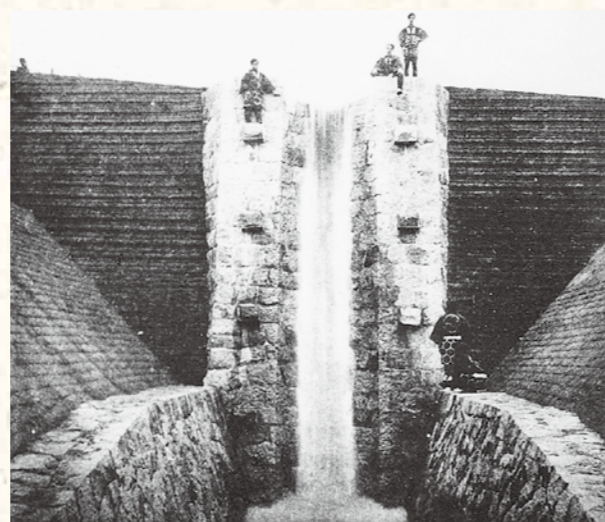
明治11年、九州の旧久留米藩士を皮切りに全国から主に9藩の士族500戸、2,000人が入植。明治12年に始まった安積疏水開削工事は、水を通すために山を切り拓くトンネル工事等難所を乗り越え、約3年の月日と延べ85万人の労力を費やし、明治15年に完成しました。

明治後期には、標高の高い猪苗代湖からの引水の落差を活用し、水力発電所を建設。国内初の長距離高圧送電に成功し、この電力が工業化の推進に繋がり、商業・農業・工業がバランスよく発展した近代郡山の礎となりました。

これら一連の物語は平成28年、日本遺産に認定され、人々の暮らしの中に生き続けています。



明治15年安積疏水全図 (安積疏水土地改良区所蔵)
1882 map of the entire Asaka Canal (Asaka Canal Land Improvement District Library)



明治時代の麓山の滝
Hayama Waterfall in the Meiji period

日本遺産とは

地域の歴史的魅力や特色を通じて文化や伝統を語る「ストーリー」を、文化庁が認定するもの。認定されたストーリーを語る上で欠かせない、魅力あふれる様々な文化財を、地域が主体となって国内外に発信し地域活性化を図ることを目的としています。



日本遺産

What is Japan Heritage ?

The stories that tell of an area's culture and tradition through its historic appeal and characteristics are being certified by the Agency for Cultural Affairs. The purpose of this project is to revitalize regions by communicating the allure of various cultural properties, without which these certified stories could not be told, both domestically and internationally in an effort led by the local region.



三穂田の水路橋
Mihota Aqueduct

The Meiji Government's nationally-funded project becomes the foundation for the Koriyama of today

In the early Meiji period (late 19th century), Fukushima Prefecture planned the Otsukibara Development Project to provide economic relief to the *shizoku* (the warrior-class that had been abolished). Along with the migration of the retainers of the former Nihonmatsu-clan, wealthy local merchants formed the Kaiseisha company and invested in the project. As a result of this two-pronged development from both the prefecture and the private sector, the population increased and Kuwano Village was born. Secretary of the Interior, Toshimichi Okubo, who had worked on the job-creation policy for former samurai and the promotion of new industry, took special notice of the success of this new village, as it was the first stop he made on the Meiji Emperor's regional tour. On this land which had the groundwork for development, the Asaka Canal project - the Meiji Government's first nationally-funded farming irrigation project - began, drawing water from Lake Inawashiro to the Asaka Plains in order to solve the issue of the lack of water needed for the Asaka Land Development

Project.

In 1878, 2000 people from 500 samurai families from nine different domains across the country from as far as the former Kurume domain on the island of Kyushu, settled in the Koriyama area. Construction of the Asaka Canal Project began in 1879 and overcame many difficulties, such as digging tunnels through mountains to allow water to pass. The project took approximately three years and the cumulative labor of 850,000 people until it was finally completed in 1882. In the latter half of the Meiji period, the difference in elevation of the water being drawn from Lake Inawashiro, located at a high altitude, was used to construct a hydroelectric power plant.

The success of the country's first long-distance high-voltage transmission led to the propulsion of industrialization with this electric power and became the cornerstone of modern Koriyama, with a well-balanced development of business, agriculture, and industry. This series of historical events was certified as 'Japan Heritage' in 2016, and its spirit is carried on in the lives of the people in the area today.



現在の麓山の滝
(日本遺産構成文化財・国登録有形文化財)
Hayama Waterfall today
(Japan Heritage' Cultural Heritage Property / Registered National Tangible Cultural Property)



開成館
(日本遺産構成文化財・県指定重要文化財)
Kaiseikan Museum
(Japan cultural heritage property / Prefectural-designated important cultural property)



開成山の桜
(日本遺産構成文化財)
The cherry blossoms in Kaiseizan
(Japan cultural heritage property)



開成社員25名
25 Employees of Kaiseisha

今に息づく開拓者の想い

安積開拓・安積疏水開削事業は、国内外から人・モノ・技術、さらには文化といった多様性を受け入れ、調和し、共に生きるという、この地の風土が活かされ成し遂げられました。

かつて、福島県の開拓に呼応した地元商人たちは「開成社」を結成し、本格的な開拓に乗り出しました。

その社則には、堤の土手などに花木を植えることが定められており、彼岸桜や山桜などが植栽され、開成山公園となった現在、桜の名所として人々に親しまれています。

中でも、公園内にある染井吉野は樹齢調査の結果、開拓当時に植えられた日本最古のものとなり、開拓者の未来を想う心が新しい時代を切り拓き、植えられた桜とともに今なおこの地に息づいています。

The Pioneers' Hopes Still Alive Today

The 'Asaka Land Development and Asaka Canal Project' was achieved by making the most of the local culture: to accept diversity of people, things, and technology from all over Japan and the world, and to harmonize and live alongside one another.

In the past, local merchants who responded to the call for the land development of Fukushima Prefecture formed the Kaiseisha company and began full-scale development. The company regulations stipulated that flowers and trees be planted along the embankment of the river and cherry blossom trees such as Higanzakura and Yamazakura trees were planted. That area is now Kaiseizan Park and a well-known place for enjoying cherry blossoms in the spring.

The results of a tree aging survey taken of the trees here proved that one of the Someiyoshino trees in the park was planted by the original pioneers and has been determined to be among the oldest Someiyoshino trees in Japan. The pioneers' hope for the future paved the way for a new era and is still present here today, along with the cherry blossom trees they planted.

開成山公園内にある日本最古の染井吉野
Japan's oldest Someiyoshino cherry tree in Kaiseizan Park

