

The area around Mitarashi Pond is believed to have been the living quarters for the ladies-in-waiting who attended the wife of the lord of Gifu Castle. When the castle came under attack in August of 1600, power in Japan was split into two factions: the Western forces under the command of Oda Nobunaga's grandson, Hidenobu (1580–1605) and the Eastern forces lead by Fukushima Masanori (1561–1624) and Ikeda Terumasa (1565–1613). At the time, the pond was much bigger than it is today, and according to local legend when the castle came under siege many of the ladies-in-waiting chose to drown themselves rather than be captured by the enemy.