

Fujii Family Documents

These documents are records kept by the Fujii family, who are thought to have moved to Shirakawa-go in the early 1700s from the village of Akao in what is now the city of Nanto in Toyama Prefecture, just north of the present-day municipality of Shirakawa. Sometime around the 1820s, the head of the family was awarded the hereditary position of village headman (*nanushi*) with authority over the three villages of Hatogaya, Uchigato, and Kazura. The Fujii records have enabled historians to better understand the position and duties of a village headman in the mid-to-late 1800s, when the long period of stability and peace under the rule of the Tokugawa shogunate was nearing its end.