

A 桧原湖北岸エリア2

A The Northern Shore Area of Lake Hibara, geosite No.2

やま じん じゃ

山神社 (大山祇神社)

おおやまつみじんじゃ

The Yamajinja Shrine (Ohyamatsumi Shrine)



山(やま)神社は『新編会津風土記』によると、「村北山麓ニアリ、鎮座ノ始詳ナラズ、1488(長享2)年穴澤越中俊家再興セリト云、祭禮四月十七日」と書かれています。この神社は桧原地区の総鎮守であり、山の神、桧原金銀山の神も祀っています。

現在祭礼は、桧原では5月17日、金山では5月18日に行われています。

桧原には会津三大金山の一つ、桧原金銀山がありました。『檜原覚書』には、トゲのある生垣に囲まれた「金堀町」に1520人が暮らし、小屋数56軒、商売小屋31軒、湯屋2軒、水車6台、御金蔵などがあったといえます。甲賀衆の忍者2人を含め常に4人が、御金蔵を監視していました。

1888(明治21)年7月15日、磐梯山大爆発で桧原宿は水没し、現在の桧原や金山、早稲沢へ移転しました。ただし、この山神社は高台にあったため、水没を免れ当時のまま残っています。

社殿内には、1689(元禄2)年に作られた会津最古の絵馬が奉納されていました。

社殿の南には、湖水の水が引くと参道にあった杉の根株や旧鳥居が見られます。その先、約100メートルの湖底約15メートルに桧原宿がありました。



山神社の鳥居▲
Torii(gateway to the shrine)

According to the Shinpen Aizu Fudoki (the ancient records of culture and geography for Aizu), the Yamajinja Shrine is "located at the foot of the mountain to the north side of Hibara village. Details of when its construction started are unknown. It is reported that in 1488 (Chōkyō 2), Anazawa Etchū Toshiie (Toshiie Anazawa from Etchū Province) had rebuilt the shrine. The shrine's festival is held on April 17 in the old calendar." this local shrine is for the entire Hibara village and is sacred to god of mountains as well as the gold and silver mine in Hibara. The temple's festival is currently held on May 17 in Hibara and on May 18 in Kaneyama. The gold and silver mine in Hibara was one of the three biggest gold mines in Aizu region. The Hibara Oboegaki (the memorandum of Hibara) says that in Kanehori-machi, a town surrounded by a thorny hedge, 1,520 people lived, and there were 56 cottages, 31 stores, 2 public baths, 6 water wheels, what's more, a treasury which was always guarded by four watches including 2 Koga-Ninjas.

On July 15, 1888 (Meiji 21), Hibara village was submerged in water as a result of the eruption of Mt. Bandai. The villagers were forced to settle separated in the current Hibara-, the Kaneyama- and the Wasezawa-village. However, the Yamajinja Shrine was spared the same fate because it stood on the perch, on which it still remains the same as then. The oldest known "ema" in Aizu was dedicated to this shrine in 1689 (Genroku 2). (Ema:Small wooden plaque on which Shinto worshippers write their wishes or prayers). When the lake water recedes, on the south side of the shrine, you can see the old torii gateway and the stubs of the cedar trees that lined the entrance path to the shrine. 100 meters beyond the torii, located underneath 15 meters of water on the floor of the lake, there used to be the Hibara village.



▲山神社の絵馬
Ema (wooden plaque)



▲山神社の古図
Old Map of the Yamajinja Shrine

磐梯山ジオパーク協議会
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