## Editor's Note

I researched my local area.
West Yamagata is home to many historical sites and structures—such as the sites associated with the Battle of Dewa (part of the Battle of Sekigahara) near Mt. Tokami and the dainokosi Kofun burial mound.

I wanted to share information about these historical landmarks in the West Yamagata district with as many people as possible.

I hope you will take a look at my pamphlet. and come visit these sites yourself.



# The History of Nishiyamagata



The statue above is that of Mogami Yoshiaki.

6th graders Yamagata City Nishiyamagata Elementary School(2026)

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Please scan the QR code for Nishiyamagata Elementary School, located right next door.

# The Origin of Mt. Tokami

Around the time of the Battle of Sekigahara, Naoe Kanetsugu of the Uesugi army (allied with Ishida Mitsunari) attempted to scout Yamagata Castle—a stronghold held by Mogami Yoshiaki of the Tokugawa faction—but thick fog prevented them from seeing it at all.

The clouds failed to clear for ten days, and the Uesugi army eventually withdrew.

Because of this event, the mountain came to be known as "Tokamiyama" (Ten-Day-View Mountain); today, it is called Mt. Tokami.

There is also a local hiking group that climbs the mountain on the tenth of every month and maintains the hiking trails.



# Omintsama

Although the deity of Mt. Togami is enshrined here, absolutely nothing is known about the site's origins.

However, a Jomon-period archaeological site was discovered by chance during land development work.

Investigations revealed a stone circle, 40 meters in diameter, encircling the shrine of the deity.

This suggests that the location may well have served as a place for worshipping the mountain deity as far back as the Jomon period.





# The Battle of Dewa (Sekigahara Campaign)

The Battle of Dewa, fought in the vicinity of Mount Fugami, was essential a "second Battle of Sekigahara" that took place in the Tohoku region.

The area around Mount Fugami became a battlefield between September and October of the year 1600 (Keicho 5).

The attacking force was led by Naoe Kanetsugu of the Uesugi clan—allies of Ishida Mitsunari—while the defending force was led by Mogami Yoshiaki, an ally of Tokugawa Ieyasu.

A battle ensued at the foot of Mount Fugami as the Mogami forces pursued the retreating Uesugi troops, resulting in heavy casualties for both sides.

Kanetsugu’s army, which had been attempting to capture Hasedo Castle, began to retreat upon learning of Ishida Mitsunari’s defeat at the Battle of Sekigahara.

# Kashiwakura Hachiman Shrine

A stone axe dating back to the Paleolithic era (approximately 12,000 years ago) was unearthed here;
this site is said to be the oldest settlement in Yamagata City.

Historical records indicate that the shrine was founded by Minamoto no Yoshiie in 1063. Although it was destroyed by fire during the conflicts of the Keicho era, it was subsequently rebuilt by Mogami Yoshiaki, who also endowed it with shrine lands yielding an annual rice revenue of 360 *koku*—testament to its status as one of the prefecture's most venerable shrines.





# Dainokoshi Kofun

This is a burial mound belonging to a powerful local clan, constructed in the late 5th century.

Forty-four items, including weapons, were excavated from the ainokoshi Kofun.

Examples of these finds include a ring-pommel swords and blades, iron fragments, tools, earthenware, and horse trappings.

