

Historical backdrop

About 200 years or more, the Edo Shogunate was continuing the national isolation policy. Therefore, Japan was shut from the trend in the world. In addition, those who criticize the Edo Shogunate were ruled to be major crime. In such a period, Choei Takano devoted his life to "modernization of Japan."

Choei Takano is the pioneer of an end of Edo Period whom Iwate produced. In the Narutaki private school in Nagasaki, Siebold taught Choei. Choei utilized the preeminent language ability and translated many Dutch writings. Moreover, Choei played an active part as a doctor, and was an excellent intellectual. He is well-informed in the foreign situation, was anxious about the future of Japan, and wrote "Yume-Monogatari" (tale in a dream). By that, he received severe oppression from the Edo Shogunate. But Choei escaped from prison, he did the life as a fugitive, the unprecedented life greeted the terrible climax, and he killed himself.

Going-underground age

The jail became a fire on the night of June 30 six years after Choei goes into a jail. Using the fire, Choei (41 years old) escapes from a jail. Then, many friends and the Uwajima daimio sheltered Choei. Choei changed the name and went underground. During going underground, Choei made translation of astronomy or military science.

Bannsyano-Goku (oppression to a Western learning person)

Choei who heard the Morrison ship incident wrote "Yume-Monogatari" (tale in a dream), and criticized the diplomatic policy of the Edo Shogunate. However, he (36 years old) was accused of Edo Shogunate criticism by that, and he was sent to the jail. Choei insisted that it was innocence and asked for pardon. But the Edo Shogunate did not accept that.

The sublime last moment and a revivification of honor

Choei (46 years old) burned the face with the aquafortis, used the assumed name, and opened the general practitioner in Edo Aoyama. Choei was attacked by the official on October 30, 1850. Then, he (47 years old) killed himself. After Choei died, "Syousii" (high status which contributed to development of Japan) was sent to him.

The private school in Edo, the Shousi meeting age

He (27 years old) opened the private school and the hospital. That was named "Daikanndou." He also translated there. Furthermore, he participated in the "Shousi meeting" (meeting of those who get interested in Western learning), and he did the deliberation of a severe famine or a diplomatic policy.

Boyhood

Choei was born in Mizusawa. When he was 9 years old, the father died and he became an adopted child of the Takano family. Then, he learned scholarship from the grandfather and the adoptive father.



The portrait which the Takano family made (By Kobayasi Photo Studio in Tokyo).

Edo studying-abroad age

He (17 years old) was eager to learn, and he traveled toward Edo. Although distress continued, he became a pupil of Yoshida-Tyousyuku and studied Western internal medicine.

Nagasaki studying-abroad age

He went to Nagasaki from Edo. Then, he (22 years old) entered Siebold's Narutaki private school. He demonstrated the outstanding language power and got Doctor's degree. The notice of an adoptive father's death arrived there and Choei worried about whether he goes home.

Transference Lecture age

After the Siebold incident, Choei (26 years old) did an intensive course and medical examination in various places, and also expressed the paper. In addition, Choei made a decision not to return to Mizusawa.

Morrison ship incident

The Morrison ship of Britain (in fact United States of America) arrived at Japan. It was the purpose to return seven Japanese who were adrift to Japan. But the Edo Shogunate drove away the Morrison ship with the cannon by the national isolation policy. Choei Takano who heard this incident wrote "Yume-Monogatari" (tale in a dream). In it, he wrote that the policy of the Edo Shogunate was not humane, and criticized the diplomatic policy of the government.