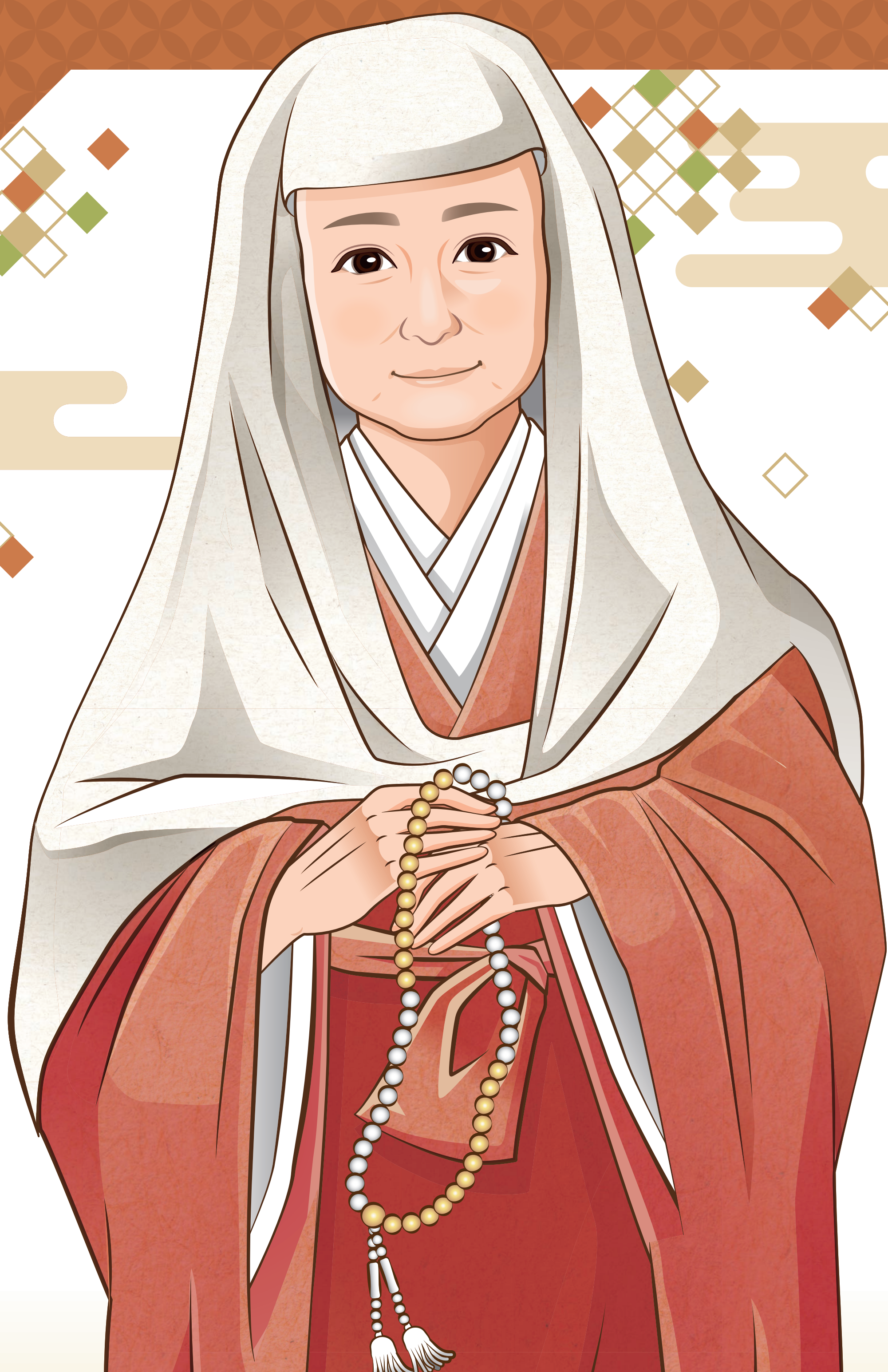


People
Connected
to Ashimori

The Toyotomi Great Matron: Her Legacy Lives On in Ashimori



The Toyotomi Family: Remaining in Okayama

Items that reflect the glory of the Toyotomi family—such as Hideyoshi's official letter of appointment as emperor regent and furnishings said to have belonged to Nene—have been carefully preserved in Ashimori.



Lacquered bath barrel with chrysanthemum and paulownia crests, said to have been a beloved possession of Nene – Owned by Takahiro Kinoshita / On deposit at Okayama City Museum

Nene was the lawful wife of Toyotomi Hideyoshi, who unified Japan. Her biological elder brother Kinoshita Iesada's decisions created the connection to Ashimori.

The turning point came after Hideyoshi's death in 1598. The relationship between Nene, who had long upheld the Toyotomi household, and Yodo-dono, who bore Hideyori, Hideyoshi's heir, grew strained. Also, favored Toyotomi generals split off, and Tokugawa Ieyasu seized the chance to aim for power.

This led to the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600.

In the Kinoshita family, the sons were divided—some siding with Tokugawa, others against—echoing the dilemma of the Sanada family. In the end, Iesada himself chose neutrality.

As a result, the Kinoshita family was granted lordship over Ashimori.

The Toyotomi clan perished in the summer campaign of the Siege of Osaka (1615), but the Kinoshita family survived until the late Edo period (1867).

The pride of the Toyotomi family built by Nene and Hideyoshi was passed down in Ashimori through the generations.

ねね
高台院
(1549–1624)

Learn More! Nene and the Kinoshita Family

1

Kinoshita Toshifusa and the Loyal Retainers of Ukita Hideie

After the Battle of Sekigahara (1600), Nene took the name Kodai-in and founded Kodai-ji Temple in Higashiyama, Kyoto. The subtemple Entoku-in Temple, located within Kodai-ji Temple, is named after the posthumous Buddhist title of the third Ashimori domain lord, Kinoshita Toshifusa. Toshifusa's wife was the daughter of Shindo Masatsugu. Masatsugu was a loyal retainer of Ukita Hideie, remembered for rescuing his lord after defeat at the Battle of Sekigahara. Masatsugu's son, Masakatsu, served the Kinoshita family and governed Ashimori in place of the domain lord, who resided in the capital.

2

Why Did Hideyoshi Marry His Beloved Daughter Go-hime to Ukita Hideie?

With no biological children, Nene and Hideyoshi adopted many instead. One of them, Go-hime—biological daughter of Maeda Toshiie—was married to Ukita Hideie. The Ukita clan had supported Hideyoshi's campaign in the Chugoku region of Japan (1577–1582) and his unification of the country. Hideie was likely seen as a promising leader for the next generation of the Toyotomi clan.

3

Another Kinoshita Family: Hiji Domain (Hiji Town, Oita Prefecture)

Nobutoshi, Nene's nephew and Iesada's third son, sided with Tokugawa Ieyasu in the Battle of Sekigahara (1600), alongside his brother-in-law Hosokawa Tadaoki, and became the first lord of Hiji Domain (rice production amount of 30,000 *koku*). The stone walls of Hiji Castle, built by Nobutoshi, still stand tall today, reflecting in Beppu Bay.