

ROOTS SNAPSHOT

The Ando families of Nagaiwaya 長岩屋の安東一族

Where the Ando name is found, and the village of Nagaiwaya in brief

Registered domicile (honseki)	Nagaiwaya, Bungo-Takada City, Oita Prefecture Formerly: Nagaiwaya, Nishi-Tomiku Village, Nishi-Kunisaki District · Edo period (1603–1868): Nagaiwaya Village, Kunisaki District, Bungo Province (now Oita Prefecture)
Prepared for	[client name withheld]
Date	October 5, 2026

Sample. The family name and registered domicile are fictional; the places, records and research are real.



Koseki Roots

Dates. We write dates month first, as in the US, with the Japanese era year in parentheses: March 4, 1882 (Meiji 15). Dates before 1873 follow Japan's old lunar calendar and are given as in the source ("the 17th day of the 3rd month, 1580"). Lunar months ran 3–7 weeks behind Western months, so the "1st month" began in late January or February. About every three years an extra "intercalary" (leap) month was inserted: an "intercalary 3rd month" is a second 3rd month that followed the ordinary one. Terms are explained at the end of this Snapshot and in our glossary.

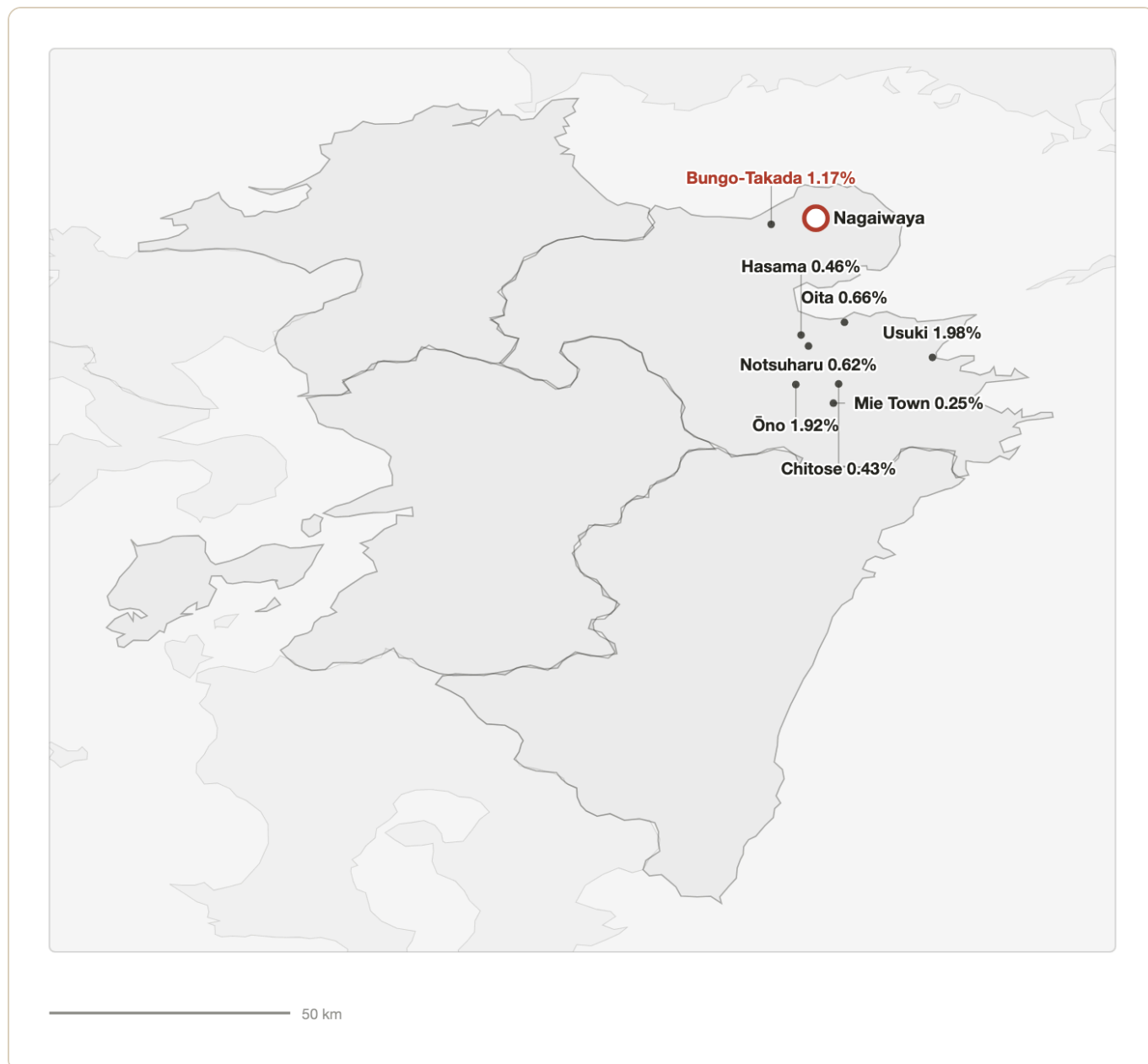
Heian 794–1185	Kamakura 1185–1333	Muromachi & Warring States 1336–1600	Edo 1603–1868	Meiji 1868–1912	Taishō · Shōwa 1912–1989
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AT A GLANCE

- Your family's registered domicile (*honseki*) is Nagaiwaya, a valley in the Kunisaki Peninsula, Oita Prefecture.
- Oita has more people named Ando (安東) than any other prefecture, about 4,600.
- The village temple is Tennenji, about 0.6 km (0.4 mi) from the registered domicile.
- At Sano, about 9 km (6 mi) away, an Ando fought in 1580 for the Ōtomo, the warlords who ruled Bungo. An Ando family there served as village headmen in the Edo period (1603–1868).
- This Snapshot covers the surname and its village; it does not prove your own line. Your koseki traces your line back to the 1870s–80s; the link to these older families usually rests on where the name is found, so our charts draw it as a dotted line.

Where the Ando name is found

About 16,700 people in Japan bear the surname Ando (安東). Oita Prefecture has the most of any prefecture, about 4,600. Some 300 live in Bungo-Takada City, and Ando families still live in the Tomiku valley, where Nagaiwaya lies. Within the prefecture the name is densest in Usuki City and Ōno Town in the south. Bungo-Takada City, about 9 km (6 mi) in a straight line from the ancestral village, comes next.



Distribution of the Ando surname in Oita and neighboring prefectures. Red marks Bungo-Takada City, home of the ancestral village. Surnames do not stop at prefectural borders, so neighboring prefectures are shown on one map.

Towns near the ancestral village with the most Ando households (municipalities as of 2000). Share = Ando households as a percentage of all households in the town.

Town	Households	Share	From the village
Usuki City	192	1.98%	~55 km (~34 mi)
Ōno Town, Ōno District	34	1.92%	~60 km (~37 mi)
Bungo-Takada City	60	1.17%	~9 km (~6 mi)
Oita City	512	0.66%	~38 km (~24 mi)
Notsuharu Town, Oita District	9	0.62%	~46 km (~29 mi)
Hasama Town, Oita District	15	0.46%	~42 km (~26 mi)

The place called Nagaiwaya

Nagaiwaya is a valley in the center of the Kunisaki Peninsula in Oita Prefecture, on the upper reaches of the Tomiku River, which flows west from Mount Futago. The local gazetteer *Nishi-Kunisaki Gunshi* (a local encyclopedia of the district, compiled 1923) describes it as a gorge about 4 km (2.5 mi) long lined with sheer cliffs hundreds of feet high. The gorge was once known as "Tomiku-yaba" (*yaba*: a gorge of towering rock formations). A land register of Bungo Province from 1285 lists the Tomiku estate (*shōen*, a medieval landholding worked by local families), including Nagaiwaya, as a holding of Usa Mirokuji, the Buddhist temple attached to the great Usa Shrine. The estate covered seventy *chō* of fields (about 70 hectares, or 170 acres).

In the Edo period (1603–1868) the area belonged to the Shimabara domain (the Matsudaira clan), one of some 260 domains ruled by hereditary lords under the shogun (Japan's military ruler). Shimabara's castle was in today's Nagasaki Prefecture, and this corner of Kunisaki was one of its detached holdings. In 1875 ten villages of the old estate were combined as Tomiku Village. In 1889 it became an area within Nishi-Tomiku Village, in 1951 part of Takada Town, and in 1954 part of Bungo-Takada City.

The village temples and festivals

The village temple is Tennenji (mountain name Nagaiwaya-san; the ending *-ji* means "temple"), a Tendai temple about 0.6 km (0.4 mi) from the registered domicile (*honseki*). It is counted among the temples of Rokugō Manzan, a network of Tendai Buddhist mountain temples unique to the Kunisaki Peninsula and recorded since the 8th century. Tendai is one of Japan's major Buddhist schools. Tennenji's New Year fire festival, the *Shujō Onie*, with dancers dressed as demons, was designated an

Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property of Japan in 1977, as part of the Kunisaki Shujō Onie. About 0.9 km (0.6 mi) away stands Chōanji (Kongō-san), also of the Tendai sect.

The families of the name, in one paragraph

This paragraph is about the families of the name, not yet about your own line. The Ando of Nagaiwaya made their home in the Tomiku valley, a place recorded since the Kamakura period (1185–1333), whose temple Tennenji belongs to Rokugō Manzan. In the Warring States period (Sengoku, c. 1467–1600), a man of the same surname fought on the side of the Ōtomo, the warlords who ruled Bungo, at the Battle of Kurakake Castle (1580) at Sano, about 9 km (6 mi) away.

Through the Edo period an Ando family is also recorded as village headmen (hereditary local officials) at Sano. The Ando of Nagaiwaya may connect to one or more of these lines. The koseki reaches back only to the 1870s–80s; before that, temple records may help, if they survive.

Background in brief

Ages. Old records give ages in "counted years": one at birth and another every New Year. We give Western years everywhere and note the original where it matters; dates follow the note at the top of this Snapshot.

The records. From 1886 onward, the koseki records every birth, marriage, adoption and death in a household — but registers before that date are sealed by law. For the time before that we turn to sources from the Edo period. These are the temple's death register and memorial tablets, the village's religious census, the domain's land surveys, and, for a few families, letters and land deeds handed down for centuries. Local histories compiled in the 1910s–30s (the "gazetteers" we cite) collected many of these. A Roots Report tells you which of them exist for your village; a Family Chronicle (our book-length family history) works through what they say. They record the families of the name in the village; whether they are your own ancestors can seldom be shown.

The emigration years. Government-sponsored emigration to Hawaii began in 1885, mostly from Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Kumamoto, Fukuoka and later Okinawa. The mainland US and Canada followed in the 1890s, Brazil from 1908. Emigrants stayed on their village register. That is why the koseki of a family that left in 1905 still sits in a city office in Japan, and why its registered domicile (honseki) is the key to everything.

Terms used

Kamakura period (1185–1333)

The first warrior government; land registers and estate records begin naming local families.

Warring States period (Sengoku, c. 1467–1600)

Central power collapses and regional warlords fight for territory; local land-holding families fight for them in return for land.

Edo period (1603–1868)

Two and a half centuries of peace under the Tokugawa shoguns. Villages are taxed in rice and run by hereditary headmen.

Domain (han)

One of about 260 fiefs ruled by hereditary lords (daimyo) under the shogun. A village "belonged" to a domain, which taxed it.

Village headman (shōya)

The hereditary local official who ran a village for the domain: taxes, disputes, records. The post went to a leading farming family of the village.

Ōtomo clan

The warlords who ruled Bungo (today's Oita) and much of northern Kyushu (Japan's southwestern main island) for 400 years until 1593.

Estate (shōen) · chō

A medieval landholding owned by a temple, shrine or noble family. 1 *chō* ≈ 1 hectare (2.5 acres).

Gazetteer

A local encyclopedia of a district or prefecture, compiled from older documents and local tradition.

More in our glossary.

About the Roots Snapshot

This Snapshot summarizes what published records alone show, before any koseki is examined. The Roots Report takes it much further. It maps the surname down to the hamlet, names the likely family temples, and searches records of the name from the Edo-period village back to the medieval and Warring States periods.

For the Ando name, letters addressed to Ando Kunai-no-jō (安東宮内丞) survive in two families of Takada. He fought for the Ōtomo at the Battle of Kurakake Castle in 1580. (Kunai-no-jō is an honorary court-style title, treated as part of the name.) At Sano, about 9 km (6 mi) from the ancestral village, an Ando family is recorded as village headmen through the Edo period. A Roots Report would examine these letters (nine survive), the headman family's records, and the medieval records of the Tomiku estate.