

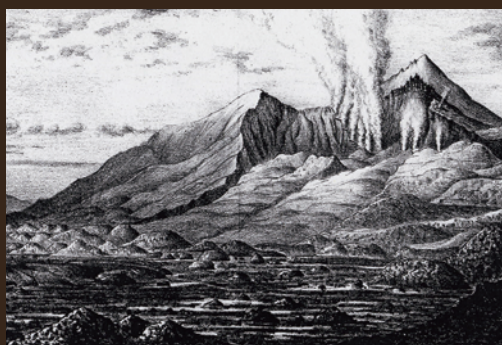


# 五色沼と遠藤現夢

The Goshikinuma Ponds and Endō Genmu

五色沼湖沼群は、1888(明治21)年の噴火で小磐梯が山体崩壊をし、その時生じた岩なだれが磐梯山の北麓を埋めた際に、川をせき止めてできたものです。噴火2週間後に描かれた図(図1)を見ると、この北麓に短期間に緑が戻るとは考えられなかったことでしょう。この地は国有地でしたが、明治政府は、荒廃した土地に植林を成功させた者に土地を安く払い下げるという方策を打ち出しました。佐藤栄次郎や白井徳次、矢部長吉親子などが試みましたが、成功しませんでした。最後に1910(明治43)年頃から挑戦したのが、会津若松市出身の遠藤十次郎(現夢)でした(写真1)。彼は林学博士の中村弥六の指導の下、アカマツを中心に10万本以上を植林しました。必ず根付くようにと、一ヶ所にまとめて2本や3本を植えました。五色沼を散策するとその2本や3本で成長しているアカマツを見ることができます(写真2)。

遠藤現夢は、五色沼の青沼の北西にある大きな岩を墓石として、今ではそこに眠っています(写真3)。また、裏磐梯高原ホテルの南側にある弥六沼という名称は、お世話になった中村弥六の名前から取ったものです。



▲図1 噴火2週間後の北側から見た磐梯山  
Figure 1 Mt. Bandai as seen from the north side, two weeks after the eruption.



▲写真1 遠藤現夢  
Photo 1 Endō Genmu



▲写真2 植林の痕跡  
Photo 2 Evidence of the Reforestation Work



▲写真3 遠藤現夢の墓(岩なだれで運ばれた奥の巨石)  
Photo 3 The Grave of Endō Genmu  
(the boulder in the back of the photo that was carried down in the debris avalanche)

The Goshikinuma lakes and marshes were formed when the body of Kobandai ("Little Bandai") collapsed in an eruption in 1888 (Meiji 21). The resulting debris avalanche covered the north foot of Mt. Bandai and dammed up rivers, leaving behind these lakes and ponds. Judging from an illustration of the mountain drawn two weeks after the eruption (Figure 1), it is likely that vegetation was not expected to return to the north foot of the mountain for some time. Although the land was state-owned, the Meiji Government announced a policy to sell it cheaply to anyone who could successfully reforest the devastated area. Although a number of people, including men like Satō Ejirō, Shirai Tokuji, and Yabe Chōkichi and his son, attempted to reforest the area, they were unsuccessful. The final person to undertake reforestation was Endō Jūirō (or Genmu) from Aizu Wakamatsu City, who began his attempt in 1910 (Meiji 43) (Photo 1). Under the guidance of Professor of Silviculture Nakamura Yaroku, Endō planted over 100,000 trees, most of which were Japanese red pines. Certain that the trees would take root, he planted two to three trees in each location. If you take a stroll through the Goshikinuma Ponds now, you can see the groups of two to three Japanese red pines that were planted together and have since matured (Photo 2).

Both Endō and Nakamura are memorialized in the area. Endō Genmu is entombed under a boulder on the northwest of Aonuma Pond, one of the Goshikinuma Ponds (Photo 3). The Yarokunuma Pond on the south side of the Urabandai Kōgen Hotel was named after Nakamura Yaroku for his contributions to the reforestation of the area.

