

Suwa Shrine Honden Tsuketari Munafuda (wooden ridge plaque attached to the main hall), 1 piece

Suwa Shrine stands amid shrine woods in Habashita, in the Ogiso district.

In addition to enshrining Suwa Daimyojin, Kumano Daigongen, and Hachiman Daijin for worship, also enshrined within the grounds are a shrine dedicated to a smallpox demon and Hachimangu Shrine.

The main hall is built in the *Sangensha Nagare-zukuri* style with a roof covered with wood shingles.

The inscription on the wooden ridge plaque "The second year of Jokyo (1685) Ushimaru Zen-emon" makes this **the oldest shrine structure in Kiso Village.**

It is worshipped as *Ubusunagami* (guardian deity of one's birthplace) of the Ogiso district.

According to folklore, a villager gathered seedlings for rice planting that was to take place the following day and kept them in a small pond. The next morning, the bunch of seedlings had *heisoku* (branches with strips of paper used in Shinto rituals) sticking out.

The farmer who found this was very happy to see this intervention by the deities.

This good omen was deemed to be the work of the deity for good harvests, who was enshrined together with Hachiman Shrine, was named Torinae Daimyojin, and May 15th has been the festival day, although the year is not known.

Although the year the name was changed to Suwa Shrine is unknown, the following appears in the *Kiso Shiryaku* ("Brief History of Kiso (Ogiso)") of 1757.

"The Okutani family dedicated the shrine Yabuhara Hokoramiya, along with the Shrine of Suwa Daimyojin and Hachiman Shrine."

The shrine festival used to be held over two days, September 14th and 15th, but is now held on the second Sunday of September.

Source: Kiso-mura no Bunkazai Meguri ("A Tour of Cultural Properties in Kiso Village")

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