

Karate Today —Strolling through Karate History—

Article 6

August 15, 2023 → August 15, 1878

Back to 145 Years Ago

The 6th of “Karate Today” will take you back to August 15, 1878, which is 145 years before today.

N Akandakari’s birth !

Not many people, even among the readers of this series, are familiar with the name Teiichi Nakandakari. He is the uncle of Shigeru Nakamura, the founder of the so-called Okinawa-kenpo. Some of you may be familiar with the name Nakamura Teiichi after he changed his family name, or his alias, Nakamura Koji. Teiichi was born in Nago 145 years ago today, on August 15, 1878, the second son of his father Teiichi.

Teiichi was born at the end of the Ryukyu Kingdom period, but he became familiar with the martial arts from early on in his life. In his youth, he learned karate under the Tanme Matayoshi, an old samurai family, and by the time he was 18 years old, he was well known for his skills. On the other hand, his elder brother Koji, or Shigeru Nakamura's father, was academically excellent and graduated from the Imperial University of Tokyo's College of Agriculture (the predecessor of today's University of Tokyo's School of Agriculture) (Graduated on July 1899), achieving the highest degree of excellence in his field.

Unfortunately, the activities of Teiichi after his migration to Mexico have not been well documented at this time. However, by 1920 at the latest, he had relocated to the U.S. and was working as a farmer in Westmoreland, Imperial County, California.

There is an episode related by one of Teiichi's relatives. When the two men met at a banquet where people from Okinawa Prefecture gathered, Teiichi demonstrated karate at the banquet, and Kentsu Yabe praised him highly for his demonstration. This anecdote suggests that Teiichi had mastered the art of karate.

Teiichi died very suddenly in 1922 and was buried in the same place. After the war, his remains returned to his hometown and were laid to rest in the same cemetery as his nephews from whom he had been separated in his youth.

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