

み ね おお いし
見 衾 の 大 石
MINE BOULDER



▲図1 (diagram 1)
「1888 磐梯山噴火報告書」(中央防災会議)

1888(明治21)年に磐梯山が水蒸気爆発した時、輝石安山岩の巨岩が山体崩壊により生じた岩なだれに乗って、琵琶沢を通りこの見衾地区まで運ばれたものです(図1)。

噴火直後、巨岩の周りで人々が作業をしている様子を、岩田善平(当時喜多方在住)が撮影しています。(写真1)。写真の巨岩が、現在ここにある「見衾の大石」です。

この石は、長さ8.2m、高さ3.1m余りの巨大なものです。自らの重量で年々沈下し、現在露出している部分は当時の3分の2ほどになっています。見衾の大石は、岩なだれが予想外の遠距離までこれほどの巨岩を運ぶという事実を示すことから、学術的に貴重なものとされ、1941(昭和16)年に国の天然記念物に指定されました。

このような巨石は見衾の大石だけではなく、上流の琵琶沢地域に今でもいくつか点在しています。



▲写真1 (picture 1) 見衾村大石 岩田善平撮影

When Mt. Bandai erupted* in 1888 (Meiji 21), large pyroxene andesite stones were carried along in the subsequent landslide and carried past Biwasawa to the Mine area (see diagram 1.). Mine Boulder was one of these stones. Zenbei Iwata, who lived in Kitakata at the time, took the picture of people working around the giant boulder right after the eruption (see picture 1.). The boulder captured in the photograph and the boulder located at this site presently, are one and the same. This giant boulder has a height of over 3.1 meters and a length of 8.2 meters. As it sinks into the ground each year as a result of its weight, the part of the boulder face presently exposed is only two thirds the size of the boulder when it was photographed in 1888. As its location is evidence to the fact that it was carried a much farther distance than expected, it was deemed important for scientific studies, and designated as a National Historic Natural Phenomena in 1941 (Shōwa 16). Other boulders such as this one are found farther inland dotting the landscape along the Biwasawa area.

*This was a phreatic (explosive) eruption.

