

Berrick Hall (Historic Building of the City of Yokohama)

A residence designed by J. H. Morgan for British trader B.R. Berrick, built in 1930.

British House Yokohama (Cultural Property Designated by the City of Yokohama)

The former official residence for British Consul General, built in 1937, has a dignified beauty of its modern shape based on modernism coupled with conventional elements representing the stately character of the Britain Empire of the day.

Bluff No.234 (Historic Building of the City of Yokohama)

The housing complex consists of four same-style flats for foreigners, built about 1927 and designed by Kichizo Asaka.

The Home of a Diplomat (National Important Cultural Property)

Designed by American architect J. M. Gardiner, it was built for Sadatsuchi Uchida, a diplomat of Meiji Government (1868-1912). Moved to this place from Nanpeidai, Shibuya ward of Tokyo in 1997.

Ehrismann Residents (Historic Building of the City of Yokohama)

Built in 1926, designed by A. Raymond, who is recognized as “the father of modern architecture in Japan” as a private residence for Mr. Ehrismann, manager of Siber & Hegner Co., a large silk trading company in Yokohama. Moved to the current Motomachi Park location and restored in 1990.

Bluff No.18 (Historic Building of the City of Yokohama)

Built as a residence for foreigners at the end of Taisho period (1912-1926) and has been used as a parish house of The Catholic Yamate Church until 1991. Moved to Yamate Italian Garden and restored in 1993.

Bluff No.111 (Cultural Property Designated by the City of Yokohama)

Designed by J.H. Morgan in 1926 and built as a residence for an American named J.E. Laffin.

Bluff No.68

Built in Yamate No.68 after Great Kanto Earthquake as one of rental houses for foreigners. Moved to Yamate Parke in 1986.

Yamate Museum of Tennis

A unique museum located in Yamate Park, the birthplace of tennis in Japan where life in Yamate settlement and history of tennis in Japan are exhibited inside.

Yokohama Foreign Cemetery Museum

Panels, which explain achievements made by the people sleeping in the Cemetery, are exhibited inside.

Yamate Museum (Historic Building of the City of Yokohama)

A residence for Kanekichi Nakazawa, which has both Japanese and Western style was built in 1909. Its Western- style part was moved to the current location and used to exhibit documents related with Yokohama and Yamate in the days of the port opening until the Great Kanto Earthquake.

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Bluff Story (Historical strolling of Bluff)

<Bluff settlement seen in old photos and postcards at the end of Edo and Meiji era>

Opening of Yokohama port

In 1854, the Treaty between the United States of America and the Empire of Japan was concluded, and this made an end of the period of the national isolation. In 1858, Japan signed commercial treaties with the USA, Holland, Russia, Great Britain and France successively, and opened the 5 ports in the country, Yokohama, Nagasaki, Hakodate, Kobe and Niigata. These ports are authorized for free trades and in the limited districts nearby, settlements were developed for residence and business. In Yokohama, Kannai area to start with, and then Bluff were selected as the places of settlements. At the time of Yokohama port opening, on July 1, 1859, countries with which Japan concluded commercial treaties did not accepted these places since the place of port opening mentioned in the treaties were "Kanagawa", not "Yokohama". Therefore, development of settlements was delayed and started in spring of 1860. Settlements system continued until 1899, when the revision of treaties had become effective.

Residents in the settlement felt fear for their lives because several murders of and attack on foreigners happened in those days. To protect settlements, Great Britain and France put their forces to station in Bluff.

Print Japan, View of the city and Yokohama harbor.

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Residence of French Minister

French navy delegations and officials, 1864, by Levas, war photographer.

In 1862, Overview of Honmura, Yokohama settlement and Port of Yokohama
(Illustrated London News, September 12, 1863)

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Landing of British Marine Force

A building on the right side seems to be a warehouse of British Navy.

(Illustrated London News, August 27, 1864)

British Navy Warehouses, 117, Bluff (stereo picture)

In 1864, "Memorandum for the foreign settlement at Yokohama" was concluded between Japan's feudal government and foreign administration officials. In 1866, Yokohama settlement was devastated by Yokohama Grate Fire. Right after the fire, "Convention of improvement of settlement, race course, cemetery, &c of Yokohama" was signed, which included a reconstruction plan of the settlement. On 25th July 1867, Yamate area was newly incorporated into the settlement. The right of self-government was returned from the residents in the settlement to Japan's feudal government and "Arrangement for the control and management of the municipal affairs of the foreign settlement at Yokohama" was put in effect.

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Formation of Bluff Settlement

In 1866, Japan's feudal government added the following sentences to the Article 10 in the "Convention of improvement of settlement, race course, cemetery, &c of Yokohama" replying to the requests from the residents in the settlement.

"After three months from the date of this agreement, ground on the hills on the Eastern side of the settlement may be leased by foreigners from the Japanese Government at a rental of \$12 per hundred tsubos per Annum and the Japanese Government may dispose of the leases of the said ground at public Auction and will use the premia thus obtained for the improvement of the side locality."

Messrs. Bourne & Co., assigned by Japan's feudal government, put approximately 225,000 tsubos (1 tsubo = 3.3m²) land in auction for rent. The bidding price was 12 dollars per 100 tsubos per annum, or 12 cents per 1 tsubo, which was expensive at that time. The first auction was for Lot No.1 to 100 and another one for Lot No.101 to 200. By 1870, land leasing rights for 158 lots out of 230 excluding those for public uses were established. (Most of the lot numbers in Bluff settlement at that time are carried over up until today)

British legation, 120, Bluff (The English Minister's Residence on the Bluff, Yokohama / The Far East, August 1st, 1870.)

In front of the dining room for officials, British barracks (Officer's Mess Room, British Camp, Yokohama / The Far East, June 13th, 1870.)

From left, W. W. Cargill, at 120, Bluff, F. Abegg, at 108, Bluff, J. P. von Hemert, at 109, Bluff, and Admiral Keppel (Houses on the Bluff, Yokohama The Far East, March 1874.)

Yokohama settlement as commercial and industrial district, while Bluff settlement as residential one, each settlement was going to form characteristic townscapes. In 1875, British and French forces have completely withdrawn from Bluff.

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Land Features of Bluff

Yamate area is situated on a hilly zone at the height of 10 to 40 meters above sea level. Two ridgeways, Yamate-Hon-dori and Yato-zaka-dori are the backbones of Bluff. Yato-zaka-dori was alongside on the coast in an east-west direction and its north side, which was on a harbor side, was a steep, vertical cliff. Residents in the settlements named this place as “Bluff” for this cliff.

Vertical cliff on the east side of Bluff (The eastern Bluff / The Far East, May 1st, 1871.)

After Bluff settlement was disengaged in 1868, the first year of Meiji era, streets and land compartments were developed. Former sites of British and French forces were divided, new streets were built, and Bluff settlement was expanded. The area was further developed by sewer system and stone retaining walls. Foreign cemetery and several parks were planed at the early stage, public and private Western-style houses were constructed and then hospitals and schools.

Foreign General Cemetery (The Military Cemetery, Yokohama. / The Far East, August 16th, 1871.)

Yamate Park just before opening (Public Garden, Yokohama. June 1870.)

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In 1884, following 26 names of towns were found in Bluff settlement.

Yato-zasa-dori, Yamate-Honcho-dori, Fujimi-cho, Uchidai-zaka, Nishizaka-machi, Jizo-zaka, Kosaka-cho, Omaru-saka, Shumoku-cho, Tamaki-cho, Koyen-saka, Nishino-saka, Shiwokumi-zaka, Takada-zaka, Minowa-zaka, Inari-cho, Minami-zaka, Kaigara-zaka, Miyawaki-zaka, Jinya-machi, Suwacho-dori, Yumi-cho, Hata-cho, Yanone-cho, Izumi-cho, Hayashi-cho.

In the middle of Meiji period (1868-1912), first full-blown Western style houses utilizing bricks were built and gas and water supply system were established. From Yokohama settlement area, Gaiety Theatre was moved to Bluff (from 68, Yokohama to 256 & 257, Bluff) and so did Catholic Church (from 80, Yokohama to 44, Bluff). General Hospital was newly constructed for foreign residents in the settlement. Settlement system was abolished in 1899, and 26 town names were went out and Bluff settlement was changed to Yamate-cho. Bluff's heyday continued until the Great Kanto Earthquake.

[Infrastructure Development and Expansion of Bluff settlement](#)

By the first year of Meiji (1868), lot numbers in Bluff were specified up to 230, (Public Garden).

Entire picture of Bluff has been almost completed around 1886 after the division of former sites of British force and British legation, and incorporation of its backside land, South Yato (private properties of Kitagata villagers) to Bluff settlement.

According to "Rental summary table for foreigners" issued in September 1874, total land of 240 lots of Bluff settlement was 210,305 tsubos (about 694,000 m²), the average of lots for housing excluding those for public use was, 675 tsubos (2,228m²), the largest was Lot No.27 of 1825 tsubos (6,023m²) and the smallest Lot No.228 of 85 tsubos(281m²).

Construction of New Roads and a Canal (Hori-kawa)

The oldest road from Yokohama settlement to Bluff settlement was Yamate-Hon-dori, which connected British force (camp hill) and top of Yato-zaka, and then top of Jizou-zaka. It seemed to be originated from a horse trail.

Construction of Hori-kawa Canal and its expansion

Around August 1860, a canal was constructed between the planned extended area of Yokohama settlement and Bluff. A checking station was built at the foot of the bridge over the canal. R. H. Brunton, who is known as the “father of Japanese lighthouses and urban development”, made its construction plan.

It was a part of the reconstruction project of the settlement.

Yato-bashi Bridge before expansion (The First Bridge, Yokohama. / The Far East, July 1st, 1870.)

Expansion works of a canal (The Widening of the Canal, Honmura. / The Far East, June 1st, 1871.)

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A Road to Bluff at the time of the settlement

1.Climbing up Yato-zaka

Grand Hotel => Hori-kawa Canal => Going over Yato-Bashi Bridge => French Consulate =>Climbing up Yato-zaka => Top of Yato-zaka

Going over Yato-Bashi Bridge

Yato-Bashi Bridge, Yokohama Ice Works on the left

French Consulate was found going over Yato-Bashi Bridge

Climbing up Yato-zaka

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On the halfway in Yato-zaka

Overview from top of Yato-zaka

Top of Yato-zaka, Entrance of British Naval Hospital at the front
United States Naval Hospital on the left, Gaiety theatre on the right

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United States Naval Hospital on the left

Yamate-Hon-Dori Top of Daikan-zaka

Yamate-Hon-Dori

Daikan-zaka

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2.Climbing up Jizou-zaka

Beginning of Jizou-zaka Tsuru-ya (Kimono-shop) on the right front

Temple Court (Nikkou-yashiki) in the back, getting closer

On the halfway in Jizou-zaka

At the top of Jizou-zaka

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At the top of Jizou-zaka Temple Court (Nikkou-yashiki), 9, Bluff

Inside of Temple Court

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Residential Environment & Facilities in Bluff

●Hotels

As a residential district for foreigners, various facilities were constructed to support their lives.

Few written documents related to the hotels in the settlement are left. There were many monthly rest houses and boarding houses. In September 1868, Belle Vue House, which provided foods, billiards as well as accommodation, opened at 68, Bluff. Later in July 1880 in this same place, a full-fledged hotel called Tivoli Gardens Hotel-Restaurant was opened.

▶ Bluff Hotel, 2, Bluff

Opened in 1902

Sticker of the hotel

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▶ Fairmont Hotel, 16, Bluff

● Hospitals

According to the article 2 in “Memorandum for the foreign settlement at Yokohama”, hospitals in Bluff were obliged to build a temporary building for the patients of Armies and Navies of all the nations with which Japan concluded the Treaties and those who were suffering from small pox.

▶ French Naval Hospital

In 1864, French Naval Hospital was built at 9, Yokohama settlement that was originally purchased as a site for a consular office. It was closed in 1874.

French Naval Hospital 1864 by Levas, war photographer

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▶ Dutch Naval Hospital

It was established on June 10, 1866 within a property of Dutch Naval warehouse located in 82-B, Bluff.

▶ German Hospital

It was started as Prussian Hospital in 1874 at 40, Bluff. In 1877 and later completed as German Hospital by French engineer J. Lescasse. On December 31, 1911, it was closed. (Today Motomachi Primary School is in this place)

▶ British Naval Hospital

It was established in November 1868 at 161, Bluff. After the withdrawal of the base in 1879, it was moved to 114, 115, and 189, Bluff (6,873 tsubos 22,681m²) which were old British armed camp site. (Today British House Yokohama, Jiro Osaragi Memorial Museum and Harbor View Park are situated.)

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▶United States Naval Hospital

In 1871, Lot No.99 (1,715 tsubos 5,660m²) was rent to US Government as a site for a naval hospital. Kikutaro Shimoda renovated it in 1908. (Currently Bluff 99 Garden, Yokohama Local Meteorological Observatory and Customs dormitory are located)

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▶ Small Pox Hospital

It was constructed at 76, Bluff as an affiliate hospital of British Naval Hospital. This was the first isolation hospital in Japan for infectious disease prevention. Diplomats asked Japan's feudal government to bear the cost for medical facilities for the patients and those who were suffering from small pox. This is written in Article 2 in "Memorandum for the foreign settlement at Yokohama" signed in November 1864.

In May 1865, UK Minister Mr. Parks applied this hospital to be used also by other armed forces under the provisions "Memorandum for the foreign settlement at Yokohama".

▶ General Hospital

Dutch Navy Hospital was reformed to be a public hospital for the residents in the settlement and became to be operated by a committee consisting of foreigners living there.

● Yokohama Foreign General Cemetery

In 1860, Lot No.96 (1,000 tsubos, 3300m²) was demarcated as a foreign cemetery, and in 1864 Lot No.94(1,087 tsubos, 3,587 m²) according to Article 3 in "Memorandum for the foreign settlement at Yokohama"* , and then in 1866 its neighboring area of Lot No.91, 92, 93 and 95 in total 3,627 tsubos (11,969 m²) were added to form the site for Yokohama Foreign General Cemetery of 6,314 tsubos 20,836 m²). Among these lots, Lot No.91 (1,097 tsubos 3,620 m²) was kept as a reserve but was rent in 1878 as a residential section. This was to exchange with some intricate private lands and Japanese cemetery within Lot No.92 to 96 and to have the present area surrounded by Kaigara-zaka, Mishiri-zaka and Yamate-Hon-Dori. About 5,000 foreigners from more than 40 counties are laid to rest.

*Article 3, Memorandum for the foreign settlement at Yokohama

"A further extension within the limits already defined of the ground for a Cemetery for all nations, to be granted, contiguous with that already so appropriated on the joint application of the Consuls."

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● Yamate Park (Public Garden)

According to the Article 10 in "Convention of Improvement of settlement, Race Course, Cemetery, &c. of Yokohama" signed in 1866, the land of 12,770 tsubos (42,141m²) on the east side of Yato-zaka-Dori was reserved, but park construction was not done during Edo Period.

In Meiji era (1868-1912), Lot No. 230 was newly rent to construct a park only for the foreign residents and Public Garden opened in June 1870. It was the birth of the first Western-style park in Japan.

It is also the birthplace of Tennis in Japan, and at the same time, the first place where cedars were planted in Japan.

* On March 1, 2004, Yamate Park was designated by the national government as a place of special scenic beauty under the Cultural Assets Preservation Act.

The First Western-style garden in Japan (The Public Gardens, Yokohama. / The Far East, July 1st, 1871.)

Tennis Court A gardener maintaining a tennis court.

Place for the foreigners living in the settlement

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● History of Mission Schools in Bluff

Many schools were established in Bluff for the education of foreign residents in the settlement and for Christian missionary work.

▶ Yokohama Kyoritsu Junior & Senior High School

Three Missionarys of WUMS (The Woman's Union Missionary Society of America for Heathen Lands), Mrs. Pruyn, Miss Crosby and Mrs. Pierson opened American Mission Home in August 1871 at 48, Bluff. They put efforts especially to keep children of mixed parentage in safe hands and to educate Japanese girls. In October next year, the school was moved to 212, Bluff and renamed as "English School for Japanese Ladies". In April 1875, it renamed again as "Kyoritsu Jo Gakko" and in 1881 as "Bible Training School". A school building having three floors named as "Doremus Hall" was build and in 1907 it became to be Bible Training School of the Women's Union Missionary Society. "Crosby Chapel" was built in 1921 commemorating the 50th anniversary of the school but was burnt down by the Great Kanto Earthquake.

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► Ferris Girl's Junior & Senior High School

A female missionary Ms. Kidder came to Japan in 1869 and became to be an instructor in Hepburn's Private School. She started to build a school in 1874 renting the land of Lot No.178, and on June 1 of the next year, after the completion of the buildings and a boarding house, school opening ceremony was done. The school was named as Isaac Ferris Seminary. In 1884, the school buildings were further expanded and renovated. A windmill, which was symbol of the school, was destroyed by a typhoon on September 28, 1900. They built a gymnastic hall in 1921. The Great Kanto Earthquake destructed and burnt all the school premises.

Ferris was called as a school of a windmill (partial enlargement of a hand-painted photograph)

Graduation photograph, April 1911、 Preparatory school

Center: Mr. and Mrs. Booth, school head,

In the back, second from the left Miss J. M. Kuyper, third Miss J. Moulton

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▶ Yokohama Futaba Gakuen

French female missionary Rev. Mathilde established Saint Maur women's school in 1872 at 83, Bluff. On October 2, 1899, it was moved to 88, Bluff and named as Yokohama Koran Jo Gakko and opened next year. After the World War II, it has become as Yokohama Futaba Junior & Senior High School.

▶ Saint Joseph Collage

In 1901, a Catholic monastery called The Society of Mary established an educational facility for the children of foreign residents in Yokohama. In 1904 at 85, Bluff, it became the first boy's international school in Japan.

▶ Rev. S. R. Brown's Private School

S.R. Brown established a private school at 211, Bluff on December 5, 1873. Later this school became a seminary, which is the first seminary in Japan.

House of S. R. Brown, at 211, Bluff (New Year's Day, 1874. / The Far East, January 1st, 1874.)

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▶Yokohama Eiwa Gakko

At 48, Bluff, where a mission home was located, missionary Miss. Brittan opened Brittan Jo Gakko in October 1880. In 1881, it moved to 68, Bluff and then to 120-A, Bluff in 1883 when the school had become coeducational. In 1886, the boy's section became Yokohama Eiwa Gakko and remained at same place and the girl's section moved to 84, Yokohama settlement, which was temporary loaned, and became Yokohama Eiwa Jo Gakko.

In 1889, school buildings of girl's section were newly built in 244, Bluff of 800 tsubos (about 2,640 m²). In 1908, The McCaslin Chapel was constructed. The school was moved to Maita in 1916.

▶So-Shin Jo Gakko

In November 1875, Miss Sands was living in 75, Bluff and started a private school. In 1886, Mrs. Brown, a Baptist missionary established a private school at 67, Bluff, which was opened as Eiwa Jo Gakko on October 1, 1887. It moved to 34, Bluff in 1891 when new school buildings were completed. "Mary L. Colby Home" was established. Since April 1, 1892, Japanese name of So-Shin Jo Gakko has become to officially be used. In 1910, the school moved to Nakamaru, Kanagawa-ku, Yokohama.

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◎Baptist Church / Yokohama Theological Baptist Seminary School

N. Brown and J. Goble established a Baptist church at 203, Bluff. Miss Sands moved to 75, Bluff and opened a private school for women. Later in October 1884, Yokohama Theological Baptist Seminary School was opened at 64, Bluff.

Moving to 75, Bluff in 1887, the church was newly built and a theological seminary school was also established. In 1894, Rev. Dearing, head of the seminary enhanced its facilities, contents and professors. After the Seminary moved to Tokyo in 1911, "The Bluff English Night School" (Dearing school) was opened utilizing the hall of the Seminary, but closed due to the Great Kanto Earthquake.

●Churches

▶ Yokohama Mission Catholique

On January 12, 1862, Paris Foreign Missions Society built a church at 80, Yokohama settlement. It moved to 44, Bluff in 1906, and a catholic church in gothic style having two towers was constructed but the Great Kanto Earthquake destroyed it. Current Church of the Sacred Heart was designed by Czech architect J.J. Švagr and reconstructed in 1933.

Mission Catholique, 80, Yokohama

Mission Catholique, 44, Bluff

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► Christ Church

A holy shrine of Anglican Church constructed at 101 & 105, Yokohama in 1863 was the first Protestant church in Yokohama. After moving to 235, Bluff in 1901, the church was newly built with bricks designed by British architect Josiah Conder. J. H. Morgan designed the current church in 1931.

Christ Church at 101 & 105, Yokohama settlement (partial enlargement of a hand-painted photograph)

Brick-made Christ Church at 235, Bluff designed by Conder

► Deutsche Haus

On December 7, 1907, the cornerstone was laid. The building was designed by German architect, Georg de Lalande and constructed at 25, Bluff, but burnt down on March 4, 1913.

Invitation to the cornerstone laying ceremony of the Deutsche Haus

Sakura-michi Tunnel of Yokohama Municipal Tramway (View from the direction of Mugita)

Left end: Deutsche Haus, 25, Bluff

Right end: Mission Catholique, 44, Bluff

Sakura-michi in Bluff Sloping road from the top of Jizou-zaka and Mugita

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▶ Union Church

At 49, Bluff, the church designed by a British architect B. M. Ward was constructed in 1910. It was destroyed by the Great Kanto Earthquake, but reconstructed.

● Entertainment Facilities

▶ Public Hall

The theatre was transferred from 68, Yokohama Settlement to 256 & 257, Bluff on April 18, 1885. A French architect P. Sarda designed it using roof tiled by Gerard's Tiles. The hall served as a social meeting place in Bluff.

In 1870, The First Gaiety Theatre designed by Heft, at 68, Yokohama settlement. (The Gaiety Theatre, Yokohama. / The Far East, December 16th, 1870.)

At the top of Yato-zaka, the new Gaiety Theatre designed by Salda on the right side. There was a wooden telephone box in front of British Naval Hospital.

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Life in Bluff No.69, A house of a foreign resident in late Meiji

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[Life in Bluff No.265, The house of Marshall Martin](#)

Martin, a Scottish, came to Japan in 1873 at the age of 11 with his father, a coal importer and his elder brother. On May 31, 1888, he got married with the second daughter of Ralph Chandler who was a Rear Admiral of the United States Navy, and set up a new home at 265, Bluff.

The picture of new house of Marshall Martin at 265, Bluff

It is recorded in Japan Directory in 1889

The picture of the house of Marshall Martin was taken by photographer, Kazuma Ogawa, in August 19. 1895.

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The picture was taken by photographer, Kozaburo Tamamura, at Tomioka-Hachimangu, Kanazawa-Hakkei, in May 31. 1888.

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin at children's room was taken a commemorative photo, photographer Kazuma Ogawa.

The Asian style living room, photographer Kazuma Ogawa.

A unicycle

Mr. Martin liked a palanquin by two people.

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The Japan Diary owned by Mr. Martin at 51, Bluff

The rebuild house of Martin, Mr. & Mrs. Martin were relaxing on garden-chairs.

The postcard by Mr. Martin in 1910.

We can see "Bluff No.265 Yokohama" and "Yours M.M." in the postcard.

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Beer Brewery in Bluff

Rosenfeld's Japan Yokohama Brewery (46, Bluff), established in 1869 was the first beer brewery in Yokohama. Wiegand was an engineer working there.

* Brewery opening advertisement was put in The Daily Japan Herald dated August 27, 1869 in the name of Rosenfeld.

In 1870, Copeland opened Spring Valley Brewery in Amanuma. Wiegand was working as a brewing engineer there and also at Hegt. Brewery, but when Hrgt Brewery was closed in 1875, he restarted beer brewery using the facilities there as Bavaria Brewery. He soon closed this brewery to avoid competition with Spring Valley Brewery located nearby, and established Copeland & Wiegand Cooperation.

(Kitagata No Amanuma. / The Far East, March 16th, 1871.)

Copeland was the head manager and Wiegand was the head of the brewery section to run Spring Valley Brewery but the business was discontinued in 1884.

The Beer label of Bavarian Beer (Copeland&Wiegand) in 1876.

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In 1885, a British named Talbot and others established Japan Brewery at the site where Spring Brewery was located. MEIDI-YA was nominated as the sole distributor in Japan and beers produced by Japan Brewery was sold throughout Japan. They also exported their beer. In 1907, the management rights were handed over to Japanese and the company was renamed as The Kirin Beer Kabushiki Kaisha.

The label for exports The label for domestic market
The first Beer label in May 1888.

The Beer label in 1889.

At 123, Bluff, Japan Brewery.

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Part of Cellars. (Left)

Part of Fermenting Rooms. (Right)

Kirin Beer, the building layout drawing.

In the days in 1888, glass bottles were imported but from 1889 the glass bottles of Kirin Beer were produced by Shinagawa glass factory. Production of glass bottles in Japan was started in Shinagawa. Since 1912, cork stoppers were changed to a bottle cap as we use today.

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Alfred Gerard, a French Businessman and French Roof Tile

Alfred Gerard came to Japan in 1863. At the beginning, he was in charge of food supply to French Army and Navy bases and then in 1870 opened a meat shop in 169, Yokohama settlement. He expanded his business and established Gerard Co. to supply food and daily commodities not only to French Army and Navy base but to cruise ships from abroad. Gerard took particular note of waters from Bluff and started to produce drinking water for cruise ships. Gerard named spring water of Bluff as “THE SOFTEST SPRING WATER IN YOKOHAMA”. After making success in drinking water business, he became to focus on tiles. In 1873, he established a factory at 77 and 78, Bluff the place of Motomachi Park is located today, to produce pipes and tiles. He is the first person to produce French tile in Japan. Not only within the settlement in Yokohama, his tile was used in Tokyo area. Evidences are found from excavation researches in the cities. Gerard went back to France in 1878 soon after the start of operation of the factory. A French named Deveze took over his plant and run until 1907.

Gerard 1B type, unglazed roof tile

Gerard II type, smoked roof tile

A new building, Grand Hotel, in 1890

Gerard's roof tiles were in this picture (partially expanded).

The roof of the new Gaiety Theatre made of Gerard's roof tiles.

(Translated by Yoriko KAMEYAMA and Yoko SHIRAKAWA)