

Help from across the seas

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The European and colonial-style architecture that remains in many places around Hokkaido reflects the influence overseas pioneers, academics and traders have had on the region's past, particularly in the late 1860s and early '70s, when the landscape of Hokkaido had a distinctively Western feel. It was during this period that the Meiji government invited numerous overseas experts to Hokkaido in a bid to develop Japan's frontier region.

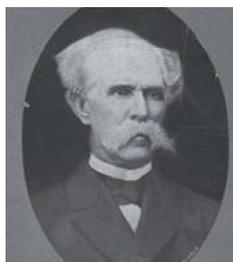


In 1869, the Meiji government established the Colonial Commission and began to develop Hokkaido in earnest. The following year, Kiyotaka Kuroda was appointed vice-director of the commission and it was soon decided to proactively introduce the latest Western technologies to help with the region's development. As a result, numerous overseas technicians were invited to Hokkaido, where development soon progressed under their guidance. Kuroda was promoted to director of the Colonial Commission in 1871.

By inviting such foreign specialists, Kuroda placed the emphasis on employing experts from overseas regions with similar climates to Hokkaido, especially the United States, where the pioneers had achieved success. Kuroda welcomed the former United States Commissioner of Agriculture, Horace Capron as an advisor to the Colonial Commission, a position Capron held for four years. During these four years a total of 29 Americans worked as advisors to the commission, and a further 19 helped with Hokkaido's development after Capron returned to the States.

The legacies of these people remain in Hokkaido in the form of Western-style agriculture; coalmines discovered as a result of geological and mineral resource surveys that were carried out; roads and railways that were constructed; and also in various fields of education at the Sapporo Agricultural College (currently Hokkaido University). Here are just some of the achievements of some of the more influential overseas advisors invited to help develop Hokkaido.

Horace Capron



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With four years' experience as US Commissioner of Agriculture under his belt, Capron was invited to become a Colonial Commission advisor, and arrived in Japan in 1871. Capron proposed the framework for Hokkaido's development and set about procuring the technology and personnel to provide the guidance necessary for the task. This framework included a wide range of proposals, from surveying Hokkaido's climate, topography and underground

resources, to establishing transportation systems and promoting agriculture and industry. With regard to the specific methods of development, Capron demanded "scientific," "practical" and "economical" solutions, requesting the establishment of government operated experimental agriculture and related educational institutions.

In 1884, after he had returned home to the States, Capron was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun (2nd class) in recognition of his services. Statues of Capron and Kiyotaka Kuroda, who together were responsible for Hokkaido's initial development, now stand in the West-10 block of Odori Park in Sapporo.

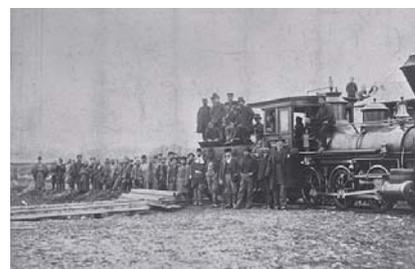
Odori Park, Sapporo

The West-10 and 11 blocks of Sapporo's Odori Park is a "historical and cultural" zone, with statues of Horace Capron and Kiyotaka Kuroda.

- Address: Odori Nishi 10-chome, Chuo-ku, Sapporo
- Access: 1-min. walk from Nishi 11-chome Station on the Tozai Subway Line

Joseph U. Crawford

Crawford arrived in Japan in 1878 to carry out surveys on the Horonai Railway as a civil engineer for the Hokkaido Colonial Commission. This was the freight railway line planned to transport coal that had been discovered in Horonai, to the port, and was extremely important to the Hokkaido Colonial Commission. Crawford also produced the proposal for a rail link between Otaru and Sapporo, which was adopted by the Commission. Crawford's skills were highly acclaimed, particularly the engineering involved in constructing the railway line amid the difficult cliff section between Otaru and Zenibako, and the steel



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bridge that spanned the Toyohira River. The railway construction work began in January 1880 and the route between Temiya and Sapporo opened in

November the same year. The route between Sapporo and Horonai was fully opened in November 1882, and Crawford's achievements earned him the Order of the Rising Sun (2nd Class), which was awarded in February 1881.

These achievements are also recognized at the Otaru City Museum (formerly the Otaru Transportation Museum), where a statue of Crawford standing by some surveying instruments is displayed. A railway facility park in the city of Mikasa also bears Crawford's name.

Otaru City Museum (former Otaru Transportation Museum)

The first steam locomotive to operate in Hokkaido is displayed at the Otaru City Museum (former Otaru Transportation Museum), along with the statue marking Crawford's achievements.

- Address: Temiya 1-chome 3-6, Otaru
- Opening hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Closed: Tuesdays (or the following day if Tuesday is a public holiday), as well as the year-end/New Year period (Dec. 29 to Jan. 3)
- Admission fees: Junior high school students and under, free; adults ¥400 (¥300 in winter season); high-school students, and Otaru residents aged 70 and over, ¥200 (¥150 in winter season)
- Access: Approx. 10 min. on the No.10 bus bound for Otaru Aquarium via Takashima 3-chome, from No.3 bus stop at Otaru Station Bus Terminal. Alight at the "Sogo Hakubutsukan" bus stop.
- Parking: Space for 100 vehicles at the main entrance
- Inquiries: Otaru City Museum Tel: +81-134-33-2523

Edwin Dun

Dun first arrived in Japan in 1873, and for the first few years was stationed at the No.3 Agricultural Experiment Station in Azabu, Tokyo. After the Nanae Agricultural Experiment Station was completed near Hakodate in Hokkaido, Dun was transferred there, where he introduced the technique of castrating horses for the purpose of improving them for both military and agricultural use. In 1876, Dun began work on the construction of a new agricultural experiment station at Makomanai in the south of Sapporo, and the resulting Makomanai Cattle Ranch was completed the following year. From then until 1882, this site provided the base for the experiments, research and instruction required to develop Hokkaido's agriculture and stockbreeding as an industry. Dun left behind legacies in Hokkaido, encompassing a broad range of agricultural fields, from stockbreeding and general upland farming to land improvement. In 1883, Dun left for the States, only to return the following year as an official of the U.S. government, and was subsequently made the United States' Ambassador to Japan. Despite completing his term in 1897, Dun remained in Japan for the rest of his life.



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Edwin Dun Museum

Exhibiting records of Hokkaido's development along with aspects of the life and achievements of the man who built the foundations of dairy farming in Hokkaido, the Edwin Dun Museum stands in Edward Dun Memorial Park, which was once the site of Dun's first farm building.



- Address: Izumi-machi 1-chome 6-1, Makomanai, Minami-ku, Sapporo (Edwin Dun Museum)
- Opening hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- Closed: Summer season (Apr. 5 to Nov. 3) Wednesdays / Winter season (Nov. 4 to Mar. 28) Mon. to Thurs. and year-end/New Year period (open Fri. Sat., Sun. and public holidays)
- Admission free
- Access: 10-min. walk from Makomanai Station on the Namboku Subway Line
- No parking available ■ Tel: +81-11-581-5064

Benjamin Smith Lyman

Lyman arrived in Japan in 1873, and first taught surveying methods, cartography, mathematics and mineral studies at the newly established Colonial Commission Tentative School (later became the Sapporo Agricultural College) in Shiba, Tokyo, before bringing his pupils to Hokkaido, where they spent 3 years surveying the different regions. Their work included geological research combined with topographical surveys, as well as the actual creation of maps. The surveys led Lyman to the discovery of coal in the Horonai coalfields of the Ishikari plains, which played a vital role in the development of Japan. It also led to the publication of the Japan's first-ever broad-area geological report, which was issued in 1876. In honor of his achievements, in 2007 the Geological Society of Japan and geology-related organizations established May 10th – the day the report was published – as "Geology Day" in Japan.



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William S. Clark

Clark was hired by the Japanese government and arrived in Japan along with two other educators, W. M. Wheeler and D. P. Penhallow, in 1876. He subsequently claimed that the aim of the education at the Sapporo Agricultural College was not to simply learn agricultural techniques, but also a wide range of subjects such as English literature, economics and psychology, and therefore all lessons were taught in English. Unlike the Colonial Commission's demands for the establishment of detailed and strict school regulations, Clark demanded only that his students "be gentlemen." Sapporo Agricultural College went on to produce many of Japan's contemporary leaders, including Kanzo Uchimura, Inazo Nitobe and Kingo Miyabe. Despite Clark spending only eight months at Sapporo Agricultural College, his sincerity and enthusiasm remained in the hearts of his students, eventually contributing to the spirit of both the agricultural college and Hokkaido University, which the school went on to become. Even now, Clark's parting words to his students, "Boys, be ambitious!" remain in the hearts of the people of Hokkaido.



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Former Shimamatsu Relay Station

Shimamatsu Relay Station was established in 1873 to coincide with the opening of the main route in and out of Sapporo (currently National Route 36). It was here that, on his way back to the States, Dr. Clark parted with the students who had come to see him off, leaving behind the famous words "Boys, be ambitious." The relay station was designated as a historic site of Japan in 1984, and remains preserved in its original state.

- Address: Shimamatsu 1, Kitahiroshima
- Open: Apr. 28 to Nov. 3 ■ Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Closed: Mondays and the day after a public holiday
- Admission: Elementary/junior high school pupils ¥100; adults ¥200